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PROTECTING THE EU'S FINANCIAL INTERESTS: ADDRESSING EVOLVING FRAUD SCHEMES, REGULATORY GAPS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES

October 27th, 2025

European Anti-Fraud Office – OLAF
Brussels

9:00 – 9:15 *Registrations*

9:15 – 9:45 *Welcome speeches*

- Amira Szonyi – Head of Unit OLAF.A.3 - Shared Management and Recovery and Resilience Facility I - Operations and Investigations
- Prof. Aldo Sandulli – Luiss University; Principal Investigator, BETKONEXT project

9:45 – 16:00 *Talks*

SESSION 1

(09:45-11:15)

EMERGING FRAUD SCHEMES AND THE EU BUDGET: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Introductory remarks and moderation – Prof. Maurizia De Bellis (Tor Vergata University, Rome)





- **TALK 1. Oversight of NRRP Funds**

- **Francesco Albore – Head of Unit OLAF.A.5 - Shared Management and Recovery and Resilience Facility III - Operations and Investigations**

Beyond NRRP performance-driven model: OLAF's critical role in verifying costs and detecting fraud, double funding, and conflicts of interest.

- **TALK 2. Strengthening administrative sanctions as deterrent to fraud and serious irregularities against the EU budget**

- **Massimiliano Vincenti – Investigator at OLAF.A.5 - Shared Management and Recovery and Resilience Facility III - Operations and Investigations**

The deterrent effect of administrative sanctions: ensuring proportionality and effectiveness

- **TALK 3. Interoperable Databases for Fraud Risk Detection**

- **Bogdan Necula – Deputy Head of Unit at OLAF C.2 - Intelligence and Operational Analysis**

Leveraging interoperable databases for proactive fraud detection: the role of ARACHNE and other Risk-Mapping tools at EU Level.

Discussants – **BETKONEXT research group** (Dr Krystyna Bakhtina, Camilla Ramotti, Valerio Bontempi)

Questions ad Discussion



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11:15 – 11:45

Coffee Break

SESSION 2

(11:45-12:30)

INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION: A SHORT CONVERSATION

Introductory remarks and moderation – Prof. Cristina Fasone (Luiss University, Rome)

- **Testimonial 1: Enhancing synergies between EPPO and OLAF**
 - **Francesco Lo Gerfo – Magistrate, Seconded National Expert, OLAF**

Operational coordination between EPPO and OLAF: bridging administrative and criminal investigations to protect the EU's financial interests.

- **Testimonial 2: Italian AFCOS and Guardia di Finanza**
 - **Col. Cruciano Cruciani – Presidency of the Council of Ministers**

Working method and coordination with OLAF

Discussants – **BETKONEXT research group** (Prof. Maciej Serowaniec, Dr. Elisabetta Tati)

Questions ad Discussion





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12:30 – 13:30

Lunch

SESSION 3

(13:45-15:30)

ADMINISTRATIVE AND CRIMINAL TOOLS AND PROCEDURES: CHALLENGES

Introductory remarks and moderation – Prof. Maurizio Bellacosa (Luiss University, Rome)

- **TALK 4. EU-Wide Definition of Conflict of Interest**

- **Iole Di Muccio – Investigator at Unit OLAF.A.5 - Shared Management and Recovery and Resilience Facility III - Operations and Investigations**

Harmonising the definition of conflict of interest: a prerequisite for consistent application across Member States

- **TALK 5. Cross-Border Effectiveness of Anti-Mafia measures to prevent infiltration of organised crime in the EU funding schemes**

- **Francesco Lo Gerfo - Magistrate, Seconded National Expert, OLAF**

Ensuring cross-border effect of preventive measures: The challenge of mutual recognition and the path to EU-Wide rules.



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- **TALK 6. Legal frameworks for the recovery of misused EU funds**

- **Giovanni Bancale - Head of Sector at Unit OLAF.A.5 - Shared Management and Recovery and Resilience Facility III - Operations and Investigations**

Addressing legal obstacles in the enforcement of administrative recovery procedures of EU funding, unduly spent

Discussants – **BETKONEXT research group** (Dr Emanuele Birritteri, Rossella Sabia, Natalia Dasko, Prof. Oscar Capdeferro Villagrasa)

Questions ad Discussion

15:30 – 16:00

Concluding remarks – Prof. Alessandro Nato (University of Teramo)