

Seminar hosted by the Central Statistical Office, Poland Warsaw, 28 April 2017









#### About EPEC

- Established in 2008
- Part of EIB's Advisory Services, EPEC services also accessible through the European Investment Advisory Hub
- A unique cooperative initiative of the EIB, the European Commission and EU Member and Candidate States
- Team of 14 professionals
- Membership: now over 40 Members (e.g. PPP Units, Ministries of Finance)
- Mission: "to help the public sector deliver better PPPs in Europe"







## Agenda

- An overview of the Eurostat rules
- PPP stakeholders perception of the Eurostat rules & motivation for producing the Guide
- An introduction to the Guide
- A closer look at the Guide
- Discussion / Q&A







## An overview of the Eurostat rules







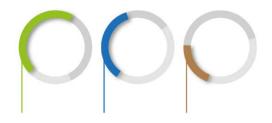


## Why are the Eurostat rules important?

- EU controls on levels of government deficit and debt: Maastricht criteria
- Who should record PPPs (and concessions) and how?
- Issue becomes more critical in an era of fiscal constraints
- Eurostat rules relate to statistical treatment not to be confused with accounting rules/practices and budgeting

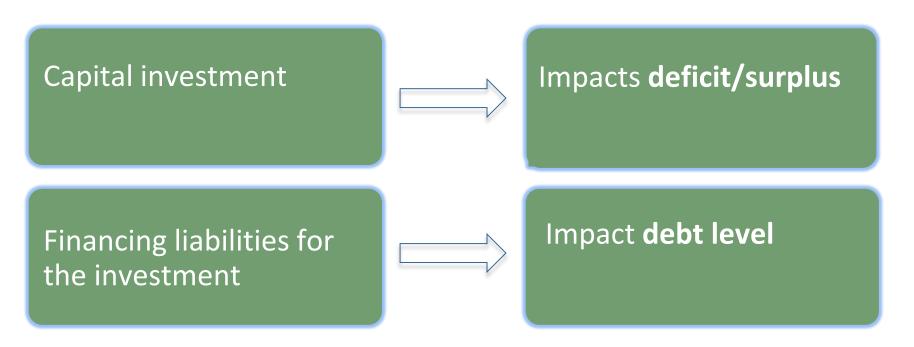






## What do the Eurostat rules imply?

If the asset is "on balance sheet" for government:



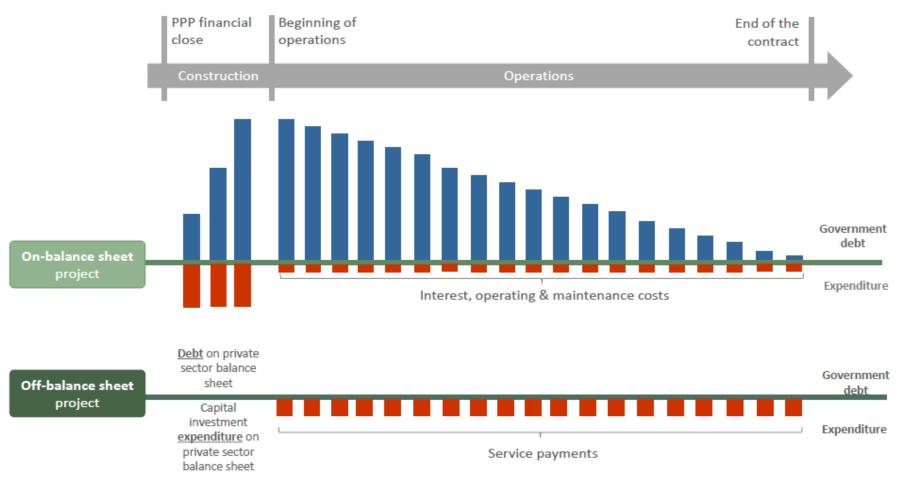
If the asset is "off balance sheet" for government then government only records regular payments for services over the long-term





## Impact on government deficit and debt











#### Where are the Eurostat rules?

- Overarching methodology for EU economic statistics European
   System of Accounts (ESA10) of September 2014, replacing ESA95
- Revised Eurostat Manual on Government Deficit and Debt (latest edition dated March 2016)
- Eurostat advice on individual cases PPP projects in Member States
- And now also in A Guide to the Statistical Treatment of PPPs...







#### What do the rules look at?

The "economic ownership" of the asset, involving analysis of:

- the parties involved
- the structure of the project
- how the contract allocates risks and rewards between the parties





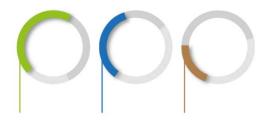


## Timing of the statistical treatment assessment

- Assessment is based on the PPP arrangements at financial close and the rules in force at that time
- If the PPP contract arrangements change: assess the change against the rules in force at the time of the change







# PPP stakeholders perceptions of the Eurostat rules & motivation for producing the Guide







## Why produce the Guide?

- Concerns about "Eurostat rules" being an obstacle to PPP deal flow
- Calls for more clarity and stability around the rules
- Acknowledgement that the statistical treatment often plays a key role in decision to procure PPPs
- EPEC/Eurostat response collaboration to produce a detailed and practical guide







# An introduction to the Guide





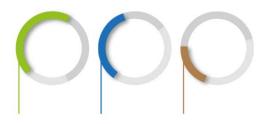


#### About the Guide

- Aimed (mainly) at public sector PPP stakeholders
- Explains Eurostat's interpretation of the rules and approach to assessing statistical treatment
- Based on existing rules (ESA 2010, MGDD 2016)
- Clarifies (but does not change) the existing rules







#### About the Guide

- Applies to PPPs only
  - not concessions
  - not energy performance contracts
- Applies to projects that reach financial close after 29
   September 2016







#### About the Guide

- Constitutes official Eurostat guidance and is the reference point for Eurostat advice and decisions on PPPs
- Comprehensive coverage of PPP contract issues will bring clarity and stability
- A useful tool for PPP practitioners and national statistical authorities



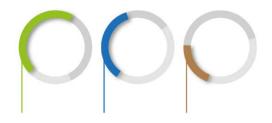




# Using the Guide





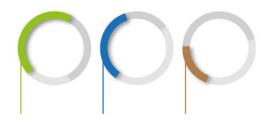


#### What is the Guide?

- A practical and user-friendly guide on the statistical treatment of PPPs
  - A "contract-feel"
  - Covers typical PPP contract provisions and structures
  - Captures EU-wide market practice
  - As clear and precise as possible on how specific contract provisions affect the statistical treatment







## Before you start

- It is detailed and technical and assumes a good working knowledge of PPPs
- It is comprehensive but will not address every detail of every transaction
- Consider substance / commercial impact rather than form
- It should be used as a whole and not in discrete sections
- It does not deal with "value for money" or "bankability"
- On or off balance sheet fiscal risk needs to be managed





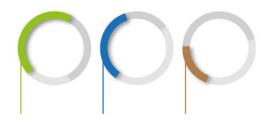


## Chapter 2: Is the project a PPP?

- Who are the parties involved?
- What is the nature of the asset and of the works?
- How long is the contract for?
- What services are included?
- Where do revenues flow?







## Chapter 3: The influence of PPP contract provisions

Theme 1 – The project site Theme 9 – Insurance

Theme 3 - Operation and maintenance of the asset Theme 11 - Early termination of the PPP contract

Theme 4 – The payment mechanism Theme 12 – Compensation on early termination of the PPP contract

Theme 5 – Other payment arrangements Theme 13 – Expiry of the PPP contract

Theme 6 - Compensation, relief and force majeure events Theme 14 - Financing arrangements

Theme 7 - Changes to the PPP contract Theme 15 - Government influence

Theme 8 - Changes in law Theme 16 - Miscellaneous provisions









## Chapter 3: The influence of PPP contract provisions

#### Eurostat's comment:

- does not influence
- does influence
  - MODERATE
  - HIGH
  - VERY HIGH
  - ON BALANCE SHEET FOR GOVERNMENT







Step 1: identify issues that have an influence on the statistical treatment

- No influential issues OFF BALANCE SHEET
- Influential (ON BALANCE SHEET) issues ON BALANCE SHEET
- Influential (VERY HIGH/HIGH/MODERATE) issues MOVE
   TO STEP 2







Step 2: analyse the significance of the issues identified (and recategorise if appropriate)

- Project-specific analysis
- In some cases, might lead to re-categorising (e.g. a MODERATE importance issue as a HIGH importance issue)
- In extreme cases may lead to re-categorising as ON BALANCE SHEET
- No re-categorising where specific thresholds have been specified (e.g. 20% equity is always MODERATE)







#### Step 2 example

- The contract applies no deductions for the first 5 years of the operational phase
- The Guide categorises this "grace period" as a MODERATE importance issue (Theme 4.7.2)
- The Guide's reference point for a reasonable grace period is 6 months
- At step 2, given the degree to which this specific project departs from the Guide's reference point, the issue is re-categorised as HIGH importance







Step 3: reaching a conclusion

Strong presumption of OFF BALANCE SHEET treatment if:

	VERY HIGH	HIGH	MODERATE
Issues identified	≤ 1	0	≤ 2
Issues identified	0	≤ 2	≤ 1
Issues identified	0	≤ 1	≤ 4
Issues identified	0	0	≤ 7

 If thresholds are not met, further analysis may be undertaken and will include assessing the Authority's control of the asset







#### Step 3 example

- Authority contributes 35% of financing (e.g. capital contribution) –
   VERY HIGH (Theme 14.4)
- Authority takes 20% equity share with profits MODERATE (Theme 15.1)
- Authority third party revenue forecast is 6% of payments to Partner – MODERATE (Theme 5.5)

Project is OFF BALANCE SHEET for government







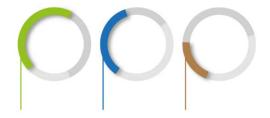
#### Step 3 example

- Authority contributes 35% of financing (e.g. capital contribution) –
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- Authority takes 25% equity share with profits HIGH (Theme 15.1)
- Authority third party revenue forecast is 6% of payments to Partner – MODERATE (Theme 5.5)

Project is ON BALANCE SHEET for government







## A closer look at the Guide









# Chapter 2: The Features of a PPP









#### Sector classification of the contracting parties

- Authority must be public (government) and Partner must be private (non-government)
- General rules (not PPP-specific) apply
- Watch for government control of the Partner (e.g. through equity, direct government investment instructions to national public banks)
- Different tests for SPVs and other entities







#### Source of Partner revenue

- Majority Partner revenue from government = PPP
- Majority Partner revenue from users = concession







#### The asset

- Clearly identifiable
- An element of specific design
- Examples may include accommodation, roads, bridges, IT systems
- PPP asset may have interfaces with other projects/infrastructure
- Value of works relevant on refurbishment, renovation or upgrade of existing assets (50% rule)







#### Economic life of asset / contract duration

- Short-term contracts (< 10 years) unlikely to be PPPs
- Asset life should be longer than the contract
- But contract should include major maintenance/ replacement of the asset
- As an indication, operational period > 10 years likely to be a PPP (e.g. roads, accommodation projects)







#### Scope of services provided by the Partner

- Maintenance is the core service for a PPP
- Inclusion / exclusion of secondary services (e.g. cleaning, catering) does not affect whether a project is defined as a PPP







#### Government revenues from the project

- Government revenues > 50% government payments, the project is not a PPP
- Test applied at financial close (use best estimates) AND reviewed throughout the contract life
- Applies to all types of third party revenue (e.g. road user charges, out of hours use of schools)
- Does not catch purely internal government funding arrangements (e.g. central government funding for school pupils received by local government)







# Chapter 3: The PPP Contract (some examples)







#### Theme 2 – Design and construction of the asset

- Completion criteria → objective and robust
- Phased completion → "useable" phases linked to proportional Operational Payments
- Snagging → minor issues only (not availability-related)
- Links to Theme 5 (Payments) and Theme 6 (Compensation, Relief and Force Majeure Events)







# **Theme 3** – Operation and maintenance of the asset

- Core maintenance service (Partner) vs "secondary services" (Partner or Authority)
- Operation and maintenance standards → genuinely linked to the asset being useable; monitored/applied through the contract
- Maintenance costs → risk/reward must sit with the Partner







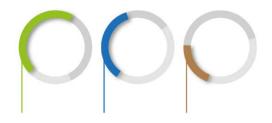
#### Theme 4 – The payment mechanism

#### Availability-based

- An effective availability regime  $\rightarrow$  genuine availability standards and appropriate levels of deductions
- Deductions → calculated objectively and not open to negotiation
- Proportionality →
  - full availability = full payment
  - zero availability = zero payment
  - in between = broad proportionality







#### Theme 4 – The payment mechanism

#### **Demand-based**

- Banding mechanisms affect the principle of proportionality
- Minimum revenue/use guarantees (any amount) → ON BALANCE SHEET







#### Theme 5 – Other payment arrangements

- Payment commencement → asset is available for use
- Third party revenues received by the Authority/government
  - > 50% of payments to Partner = on balance sheet (Ch. 2)
  - ≥ 20% of payments to Partner = HIGH importance
  - < 20% of payments to Partner = MODERATE importance
  - < 5% of payments to Partner = no influence







### **Theme 6** – Compensation, relief and force majeure

- The list of events → finite and events well-defined (no "or similar" catch-all provisions)
- Some due diligence is expected (the occurrence of the event, or its consequences, must not be reasonably foreseeable)
- Events should exclude acts/omissions of the Partner
- Special attention given to public law doctrines (e.g. economic re-balancing)







#### **Theme 12** – Compensation on early termination

- Market value of the contract (set through re-tendering or estimated) can be used for Partner default compensation (detailed conditions apply)
- Other methods of calculating Partner default compensation (e.g. book value, senior debt) → might influence
- Force majeure compensation → should be lower than full compensation for Authority default / Authority voluntary







# Theme 13 – Expiry of the PPP contract

Asset returns to the Authority for no payment

- $\rightarrow$  no influence if:
  - Operational Phase > 10 years

AND

• The Partner is forecast to recover its investment/lifecycle costs over the life of the contract







### **Theme 14** – Financing arrangements

Relevance of government financing defined by specific thresholds applied to total construction cost:

```
= on balance sheet
≥50%
<50% but >1/3 = VERY HIGH importance
≤1/3 but >10% = HIGH importance
≤10%
              = MODERATE importance
```

 Apply 2.5 multiplier to highest-risk finance and a sensible multiplier to finance between lowest and highest risk







### **Theme 14** – Financing arrangements

- Authority can have rights of approval/veto over refinancing
  - Subject to reasonableness
  - No right to force a refinancing
- Authority can share in refinancing gains
  - Authority takes share generated by its actions

OR

Authority take a specified % share (fixed no higher than 1/3)







#### Theme 15 – Government influence

Government equity  $\rightarrow$  3 issues to consider:

- Control → Partner classification issue (Chapter 2)
- Capital invested → government financing (Theme 14)
- Profit share → government reward (Theme 15)

≥50% = on balance sheet

<50% but >1/3 = VERY HIGH importance

 $\leq$ 1/3 but >20% = HIGH importance

≤20% but >10% = MODERATE importance

≤10% = NO INFLUENCE







# Concluding remarks & questions













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