

EU law and policy institute for local and regional governments



Brussels, 19th of May
Europa decentraal

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Lisanne Vis-Boer – *Advisor*

Today

I

Europa decentraal:

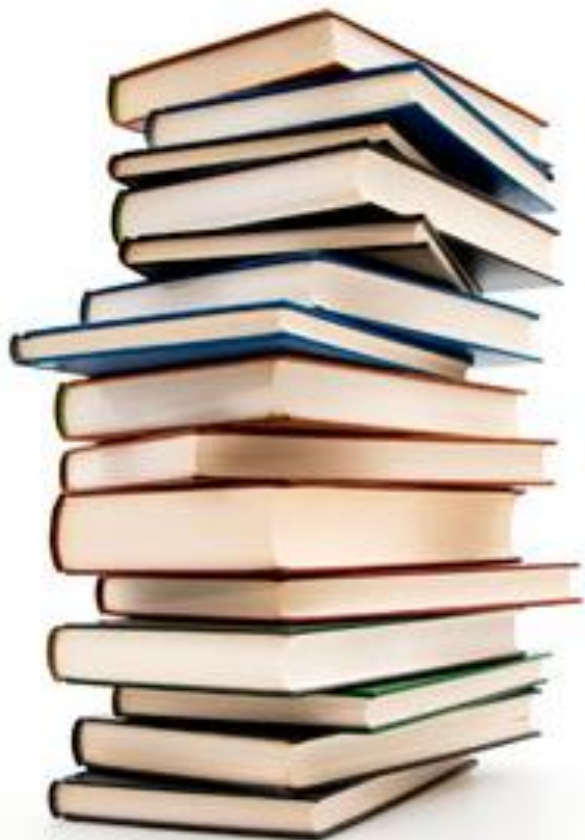
Linking pin between EU law and local and regional practice

II

Informing local and regional governments about SAM

III

Opportunities for insight on practical implementation of SAM



We are...

**The linking pin between EU law
and local and regional practice**



Accessible, independent and knowledgeable

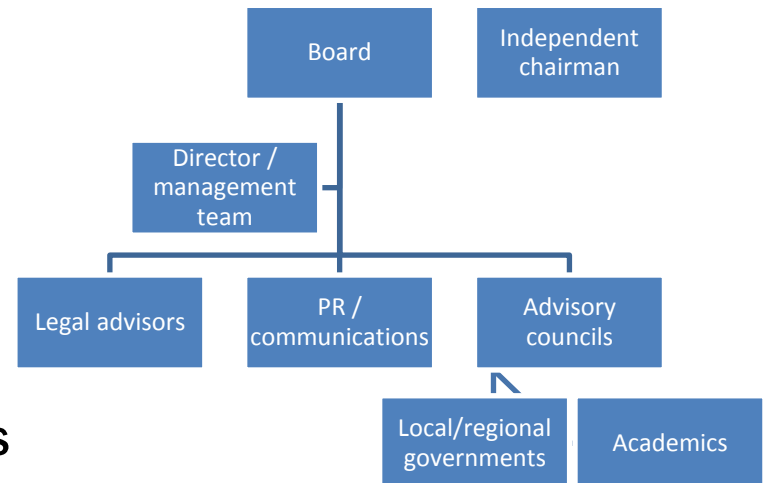
Our organisational structure and founders

We are:

- A non-profit foundation
- A shared service centre

Jointly established in 2002 and financed by:

- the Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations
- the Association of Netherlands Municipalities
- the Interprovincial Consultative Committee
- the Dutch Water Authorities



Our objectives

What?

To enhance knowledge and expertise on EU law
of local and regional governments

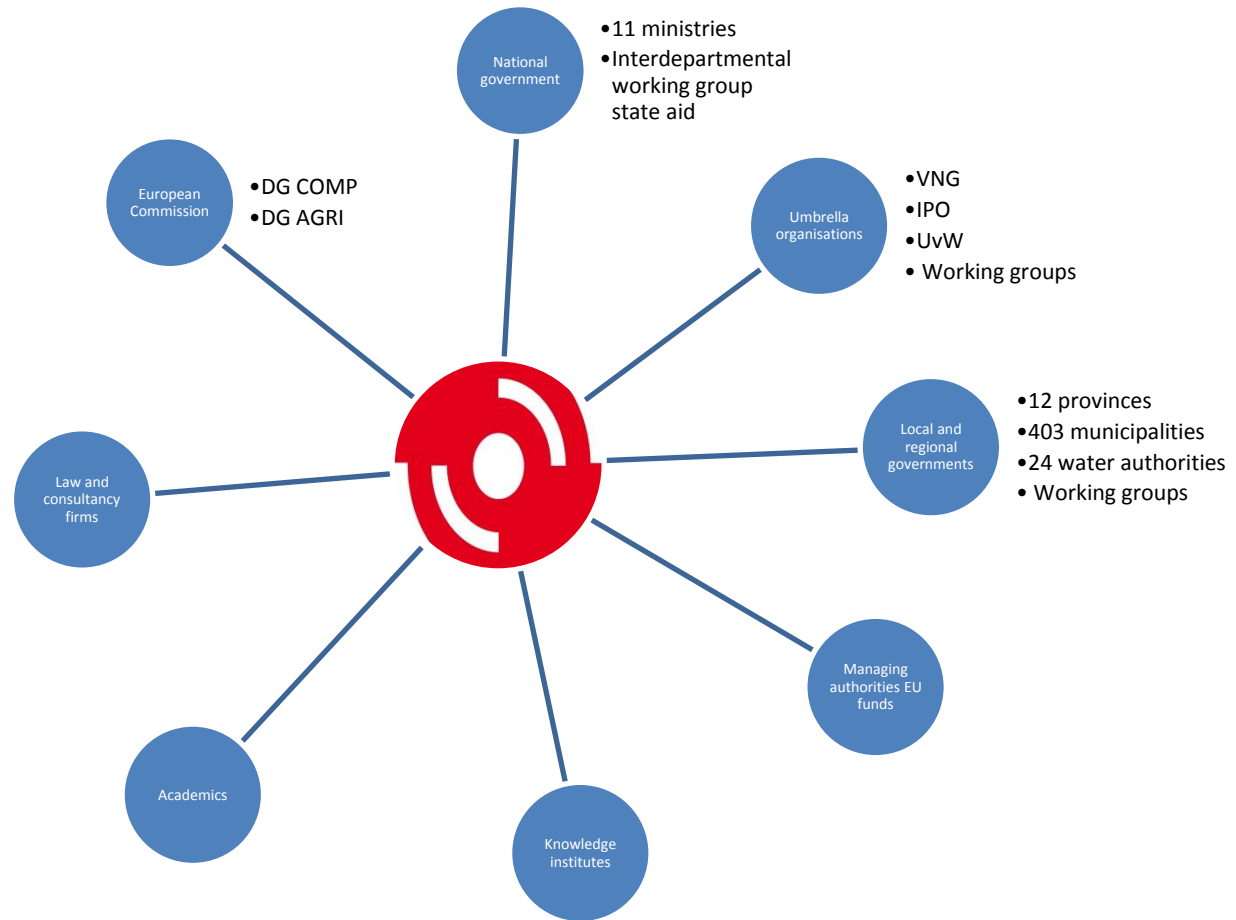
How?

By providing information and advice
on the correct application of European law and policy
in clear and understandable language

For whom?

Legal advisors, controllers, subsidy advisors,
project managers, policy officers, administrators...

Our network



Our services

- **Helpdesk:** 1000+ questions per year / 350 on state aid
- **Database:** 10.000+ EU law questions
- **www.europadecentraal.nl:** 30.000+ visitors per month
- **Online newsletter** 'de Europese Ster' to 8.000+ subscribers
- **Question of the week** and **EU courts judgement** of the month
- **Events** and training / **Publications**



Specifically for state aid:

- » **Coordinator exemption notification / reporting state aid** to EC by local and regional governments (on behalf of ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations)
- » **Coordinator national state aid network**

Helpdesk

Stel hier als medewerker van een gemeente, een provincie, een waterschap of het Rijk gratis een vraag over Europees recht of beleid!

Europese regels worden vaak als complex ervaren. Onze juridisch adviseurs beantwoorden graag uw vragen hierover

[Ga naar de Helpdesk](#)



Veelbekken Onderwerpen

- Aanbesteden
- Klimaat en Milieu
- Staatssteun
- Dienstenrichtlijn

Veelgebruikte Services

- Presentatie op locatie
- Praktijkvragen
- Vraag stellen?
- Bijeenkomsten
- CPV-zoekmachine
- Nieuwsbrief

Europese Ster

Europese Ster English Version - 09 May 2014

De Europese Ster (European Star) is a coproduction of knowledge centre Europa decentraal and the House of Dutch Provinces. The online newsletter gives an overview of all latest and relevant European developments, translated into the daily practice of Dutch local and regional authorities.

[Unsubscribe](#)

A newsletter by:

HUIS VAN DE **NEDERLANDSE** PROVINCIES



Praktijkvraag • EÜrrest

[Bekijk alles](#)

Europa decentraal



Informatiebijeenkomst 15 mei over nieuwe aanbestedingsrichtlijnen

[Meer informatie](#)



Oproep: uw gegevens voor de staatssteunrapportage

[Meer informatie](#)

EUrrest



Local and regional authorities should be aware of the fact that for some activities, landscape and nature conservancy organizations (NCOs) are considered as undertakings. As a consequence, the European prohibition of State aid may also apply to aid granted to such organisations. This is the main conclusion to be drawn from the Court's judgment in Germany v Commission.

[Read more](#)

State aid modernisation

Relevance for local and regional governments:

- **clarification of terms and definitions**
- **more exemptions (culture, sports, renewable energy)**
- **more possibilities for state aid in the field of agriculture**
- **exemptions correspond better with European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF)**

However: Several aspects need clarification



Our actions on SAM

- SAM calendar
- Publication on new exemptions
- Event in March 2014 in The Hague, with cooperation of DG COMP
- Nationwide events in fall 2014
- Online dissemination of answers to questions on SAM



Project EU-funds EU-proof

Staatssteunagenda



Op dit moment herzielt de Europese Commissie diverse staatssteuninstrumenten. Deze herzieningen zijn belangrijk voor de staatssteunpraktijk van decentrale overheden. In deze staatssteunagenda zet Europa decentraal de lopende en afgesloten herzieningen op het gebied van staatssteun voor u op een rij.

Instrument	Stand van zaken (maart 2014)
Algemene groepsvrijstellingsverordening (AGVV)	Ontwerp AGVV december 2013 i
Richtsnoeren inzake regionale steunmaatregelen 2014-2020	Aangenomen juni 2013 i
Kaderregeling inzake staatssteun voor onderzoek, ontwikkeling en innovatie	Issues paper december 2012 i
Milieu- en energiesteun richtsnoeren 2014-2020	Ontwerprichtsnoeren december 2013 i
Richtsnoeren inzake staatssteun ter bevordering van risicofinancieringsinvesteringen	Aangenomen januari 2014 i
EU-richtsnoeren voor de toepassing van de staatssteunregels in het kader van de snelle uitrol van breedbandnetwerken	Aangenomen december 2012 i
EU-richtsnoeren betreffende staatssteun voor luchthavens en luchtvaartmaatschappijen	Aangenomen februari 2014 i
Richtsnoeren reddings- en herstructureringssteun aan niet-financiële ondernemingen in moeilijkheden	Ontwerpverordening i
Aanpassing Enabling regulation	Aangenomen juli 2013 i
De-minimisverordening	Aangenomen december 2013 i

Opportunities for insight on practical implementation of SAM



Europa decentraal as linking pin between
EU law and local and regional practice

Opportunities:

- 1. Reducing legal uncertainty SAM**
- 2. Identifying potential issues relating to the correct application of EU (state aid) law**
- 3. Research opportunities**

(1) Reducing legal uncertainty SAM by

- **Answering questions and acquiring knowledge:**
 1. Our own experience and knowledge: database
 2. Decisions EC and case law national and EU Courts
 3. In cooperation with partners in our network
 4. In cooperation with case handlers of DG COMP and DG AGRI

- **Disseminating knowledge from database to local and regional governments**

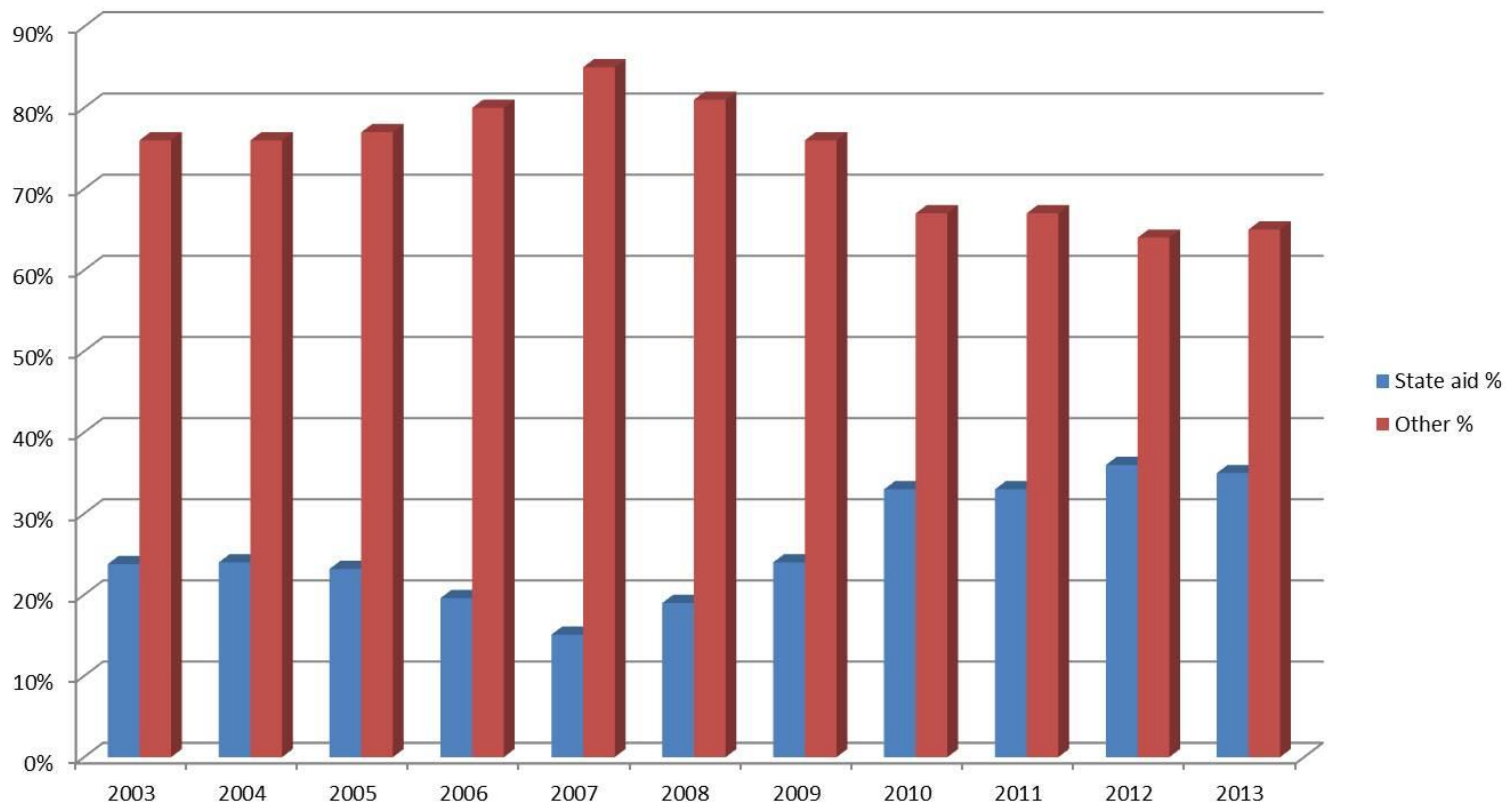


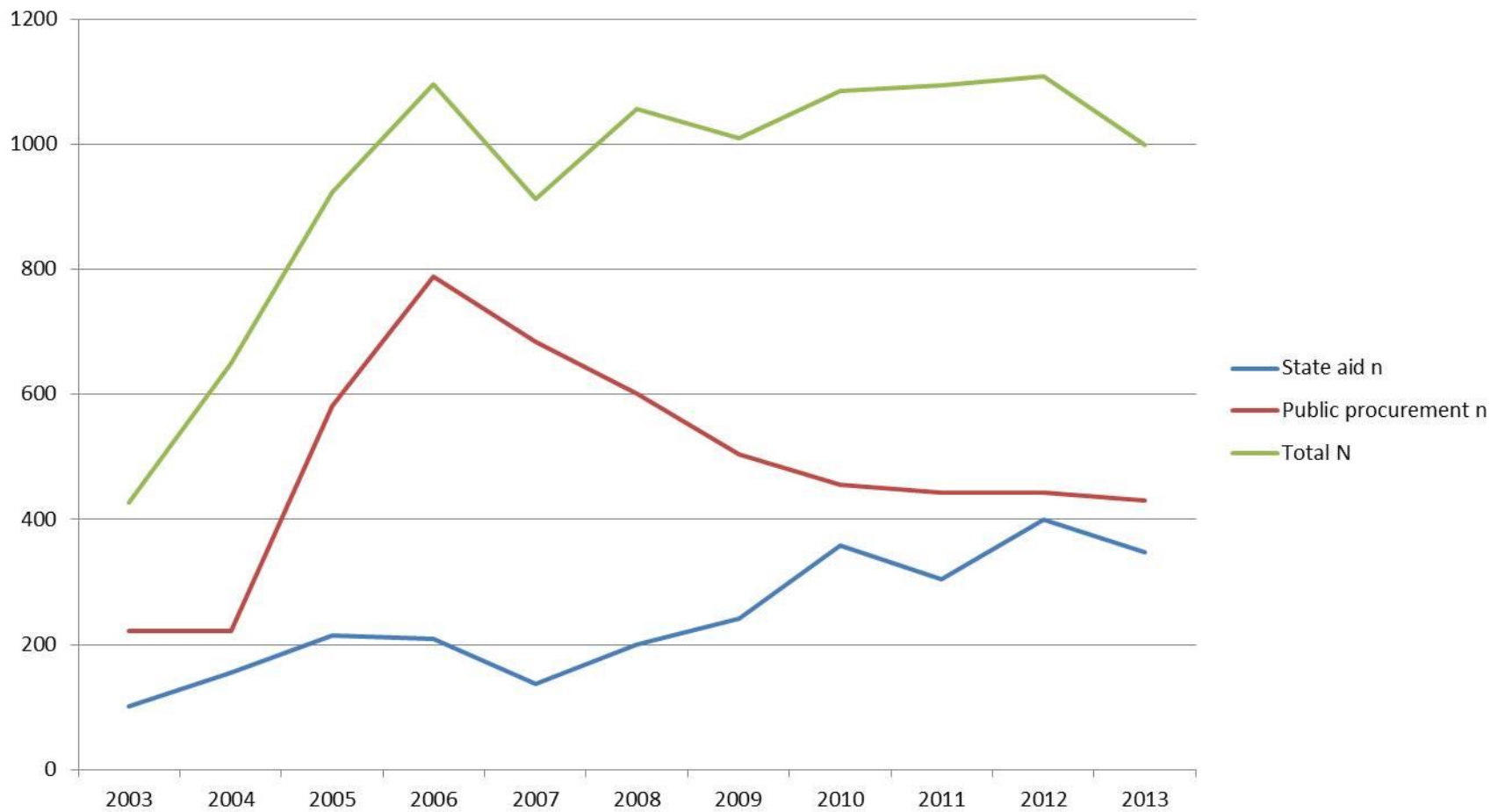
(2) Identifying issues relating to the understanding and application of SAM

For example...



(3) Researching number, type and complexity of questions on SAM







After 10 years...

State aid is common practice
in the Netherlands!



- From need of knowledge at local / regional level ... to specialized advisors
- From basic questions ... to questions of a (very) advanced level
- From a small few ... to a broad working field with strong state aid network

Legal fields become more and more interconnected

After SAM?

Current trends expected to continue on this path!

And Europa decentraal after 10 years...



- From waiting for the phone to ring ... to being the first to be consulted!
- From a small number of questions on state aid ... to 1000s questions!
- From pioneer ... to an authority on state aid!

Our task ahead:

To continue increasing our knowledge level on SAM, and spread the word!

Contact information

Kenniscentrum Europa decentraal

0031 (0)70 338 1090

Helpdesk 9.00 – 12.00

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Twitter: @EUdecentraal



Thank you for your attention!