EU law and policy institute for local and regional governments

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Europa decentraal

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Today

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Europa decentraal:
Linking pin between EU law and local and regional practice

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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

- National government
  - 11 ministries
  - Interdepartmental working group
  - State aid
- European Commission
  - DG COMP
  - DG AGRI
- Umbrella organisations
  - VNG
  - IPO
  - UvW
  - Working groups
- Law and consultancy firms
- Academics
- Knowledge institutes
- Managing authorities EU funds
- Local and regional governments
  - 12 provinces
  - 403 municipalities
  - 24 water authorities
  - Working groups
- European Commission
  - DG COMP
  - DG AGRI

Knowledge institutes
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**
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.

EUnrest

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.

Unsubscribe

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 herziet 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.

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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!
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Thank you for your attention!