IBFD Course Programme

Introduction to European Value Added Tax

Amsterdam / 6 – 9 October 2020
Overview and Learning Objectives
This course is designed to provide participants with a framework of the most important valued added Tax (VAT) principles and issues that anyone dealing with VAT in the European Union is confronted with and needs to understand.

In addition to the topics covered, course participants will also work on case studies to gain confidence in applying the knowledge and skills acquired during the course.

This is an interactive course with a maximum of 32 participants. Participants will have access to relevant online collections on the IBFD Tax Research Platform for a period of two weeks.

Field of Study
Taxes

Who Should Attend?
The course is suitable for value added tax advisers, government officials, in-house tax counsel and general tax practitioners who need to acquire an understanding of VAT in the European Union.

Course Level and Prerequisites
This is an introductory-level course. No advance preparation is required. Prior experience with VAT is desirable but is not a prerequisite to satisfactorily participating in this course.
Introduction to European Value Added Tax

Day 1

08.30 - 09.00  Registration

09.00 - 09.20  Welcome and IBFD Overview

09.20 - 10.30  Introduction
  ▶ General introduction to the VAT mechanism
  ▶ Harmonization of VAT in the European Union
  ▶ Advantages and disadvantages of VAT
  ▶ Neutrality of the VAT system

10.30 - 10.50  Break – Refreshments

10.50 - 11.45  Taxable Persons
  ▶ What is a “taxable person”?
  ▶ Small businesses
  ▶ Government bodies
  ▶ Group treatment
  ▶ Holding companies

11.45 - 12.45  Goods and Services
  ▶ Transactions subject to VAT – basic rules
  ▶ Differences between goods and services
  ▶ Exceptions and unusual items
  ▶ Intermediaries and commissionaires
  ▶ Asset labelling
  ▶ Separate and composite supplies

12.45 - 14.00  Lunch

14.00 - 15.40  Place and Time of Supply
  ▶ Place of supply of goods: general rules, assembly/installation, intra-Community supplies of goods and distance selling
  ▶ Chain transactions
  ▶ Place of supply of services: general rules and special rules
  ▶ Effective-use-and-enjoyment override
  ▶ Reverse charge mechanism
  ▶ New place-of-supply rules for services
  ▶ Time of chargeable event, including continuous supplies

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Day 2

09.00 - 10.30 Deduction of Input Tax

- Basic rules for input tax deduction
- Direct link between inputs and outputs
- Partial and non-deduction
- Adjustment of input tax deduction
- Abuse of law
- Missing-trader fraud
- Eighth and Thirteenth Directives refunds
- New directive on VAT refunds

10.30 - 10.45 Break – Refreshments

10.45 - 11.45 Taxable Amount – VAT Rates

- Consideration, subsidies, withdrawal/self-supply, discounts
- Open-market value
- Standard rate and reduced rates

11.45 - 12.45 Exemptions

- Overview of exemptions
- Consequences of exemptions
- Conditions, options for taxation
- Transitional arrangements

12.45 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.30 Immovable Property

- Supplies and leasing and letting of immovable property
- Rights in rem
- Exemption and option for taxation

15.30 - 15.45 Break – Refreshments
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15.45 - 17.00  Case Study 1

- Case study incorporating the content of days 1 and 2
- Feedback and discussion

17.00 - 17.10  Library Tour (optional)

Day 3

09.00 - 10.50  Imports and Exports

- Imports and intra-Community acquisitions of goods
- Postponed accounting
- Exports and intra-Community supplies of goods
- Zero rate
- Documentary evidence
- Retail export scheme
- Warehousing arrangements

10.50 - 11.10  Break – Refreshments

11.10 - 12.45  Administrative Obligations

- Registration for VAT purposes (VAT groups)
- Business records
- Registration
- VAT invoices
- VAT returns
- Payment of VAT
- Recapitulative statements

12.45 - 14.00  Lunch

14.00 - 15.30  Special Schemes (Including Digital Services)

- Small businesses
- Flat-rate farmers
- Travel agents
- Investment gold
- Second-hand goods, works of art, antiques and collectors’ items (margin scheme, globalization, auctions, options)
- Telecommunication, broadcasting and electronically supplied services (OECD Guidelines: BEPS Action 1)
Day 4

09.00 - 10.30  Intra-Community Trade – 1

- General introduction to the transitional system
- Origin and destination principles
- Intra-Community supplies of goods
- Intra-Community acquisitions of goods
- Transfers of goods
- Distance selling
- Intra-Community services

10.50 - 12.45  Intra-Community Trade – 2

- Special cases
- Intra-Community triangulation
- Consignment arrangements and call-off stocks
- Bilateral work on goods

14.00 - 16.00  Case Study 2

- Case study focusing on cross-border transactions
- Feedback and discussion