The Result Orientation:

Cohesion Policy at work

16 & 17 June 2016
Sofia, Bulgaria

Programme
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Cohesion Policy is the EU’s main investment policy; it supports all regions in the European Union thus enhancing job creation, business competitiveness, economic growth, sustainable development, and improving citizens’ quality of life.

The need to understand whether and how far these objectives are met has led to a stronger focus on results in the 2014-2020 Programming Period.

The European Commission’s 2016 Evaluation Conference builds on this need and brings together Managing Authorities, evaluation experts, the academia, and stakeholders from across Europe for a dialogue and analysis of the evidence on Cohesion Policy.

The focus is on two sets of questions. First, what has EU Cohesion Policy achieved in the last decade? Second, what are the challenges to the effectiveness of the interventions in the Programming Period 2014-20?

We would like to thank the speakers, discussants, chairpersons and all the participants in this event. We are confident that this conference will stimulate fruitful debates and support the further development of the policy.

Mariana Hristcheva
Santiago Loranca Garcia
Conference Venue:
Sofia Hotel Balkan
5 Sveta Nedelya Square
Sofia 1000
Bulgaria

Performance by the National Folklore Ensemble “Bulgare”:
Sofia Hall
1 “Knyaz Aleksandar I” Square
Sofia 1000
Bulgaria

Buffet dinner:
Sofia Hotel Balkan
5 Sveta Nedelya Square
Sofia 1000
Bulgaria
## Thursday, 16 June 2016

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08:30</td>
<td>Registration and welcome coffee</td>
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<tr>
<td>09:30</td>
<td><strong>Welcoming Speakers</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Address by Boyko Borissov – BG Prime Minister</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chair: Nicholas Martyn – EC, Deputy Director General for Regional and Urban Policy</td>
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<td>Corina Crețu – EC Commissioner for Regional Policy</td>
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<td>Peter Pellegrini – SK Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Cohesion Policy</td>
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<td>Tomislav Donchev – BG Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Cohesion Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15</td>
<td><strong>EU Budget and Results: the Challenges Ahead</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chair: Nicholas Martyn – EC, Deputy Director General for Regional and Urban Policy</td>
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<td>Nadia Calviño – EC, Director General for Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15</td>
<td><strong>The Role of Evaluation for the Future of EU Cohesion Policy</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Chair: Francisco Merchán Cantos – EC, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Director for Audit and Evaluation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Elliot Stern – University of Lancaster and University of Bristol (UK)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15</td>
<td><strong>Award Ceremony</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Corina Crețu – EC Commissioner for Regional Policy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Francisco Merchán Cantos – EC, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Director for Audit and Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45</td>
<td>Poster session and Lunch</td>
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# Parallel workshops 1: existing evidence and challenges on...

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
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<tr>
<td>14:15</td>
<td><strong>Support to enterprises</strong></td>
<td>Frans Leeuw, <em>Maastricht University</em> (NL)</td>
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<td>Dirk Czarnitzki, <em>KU Leuven</em> (BE)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Daniele Bondonio, <em>Università del Piemonte Orientale</em> (IT)</td>
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<td>Rafał Trzciński, <em>Polish Evaluation Society</em> (PL)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Discussant: Rodrigo Peduzzi, <em>European Commission</em></td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td><strong>Research and innovation</strong></td>
<td>Massimiliano Mascherini, <em>Eurofound</em> (IE)</td>
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<td>Dominique Foray, <em>Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne</em> (CH)</td>
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<td>Silvia Vignetti, <em>CSIL</em> (IT)</td>
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<td>Tatiana Fernández Sirera, <em>Generalitat de Catalunya</em> (ES)</td>
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<td>Discussant: Juliet Martinez, <em>EFTA</em></td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td><strong>Institutional capacity building</strong></td>
<td>Mina Shoylekova, <em>European Commission</em></td>
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<td>Costanza Pagnini, <em>Fondazione Brodolini</em> (IT)</td>
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<td>Andrea Naldini, <em>ISMERI</em> (IT)</td>
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<td>Stéphane Jacobzone, <em>OECD</em></td>
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<td>Discussant: Nick Thijs, <em>EIPA</em> (NL)</td>
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<td>16:00</td>
<td><strong>Skills</strong></td>
<td>Joao Santos, <em>European Commission</em></td>
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<td>Karolina Jakubowska, <em>ICF</em> (PL)</td>
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<td>Gianluca Argentin, <em>Catholic University Milano</em> (IT)</td>
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<td>Joachim James Calleja, <em>CEDEFOP</em> (GR)</td>
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<td>Discussant: Francesca Pagnossin, <em>European Commission</em></td>
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16:00 *Coffee Break*
## Parallel workshops 2: existing evidence and challenges on...

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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| 16:30 to 17:45 | **Employment and social inclusion**  
Chair: Manuela Geleng, European Commission  
*Isabel Naylon, Metis (AT)*  
*Tina Weber, ICF (DE)*  
*Vilija Šemetienė, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania (LT)*  
Discussant: Nicola Duell, Economix Research & Consulting (DE) |
|          | **Urban and territorial development**  
Chair: Kai Stryczynski, European Commission  
*Paolo Veneri, OECD*  
*Sérgio Barroso, CEDRU (PT)*  
*Oliver Schwab, IfS Institut für Stadtforschung und Strukturpolitik (DE)*  
Discussant: Zsolt Szokolai, European Commission |
|          | **Economic and social cohesion**  
Chair: Daniele Vidoni, European Commission  
*Andrey Novakov, European Parliament*  
*Maximilian von Ehrlich, University of Bern (CH)*  
*Guido Pellegrini, Università La Sapienza (IT)*  
*Jana Jakubů, Magistrát města Brna (CZ)*  
Discussant: Kyosuke Kurita, Kwansei Gakuin (JPN) University and European Commission |
|          | **Investments in large infrastructures**  
Chair: Lena J. Tsipouri, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (GR)  
*Mateu Turrò, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (ES)*  
*Aidan Coville, World Bank (USA)*  
*Inesis Kiskis, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania (LT)*  
*Alex Conway, Greater London Authority (UK)*  
Discussant: Patty Simou, European Commission |
| 18:00    | Arrival at Sofia Hall                                                  |
| 18:30    | **Performance “The Eight Wonder of the World”** by the National Folklore Ensemble “Bulgare”, offered by the Bulgarian Government |
| 20:45    | Buffet dinner                                                         |
# Friday, 17 June 2016

## 09:00

**The evidence on the 2007-13 Programming Period**

Chair: **Rudolf Niessler** – EC, Directorate for Regional and Urban Policy, Director for Policy

- **Mariana Hristcheva** – EC, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, Head of Evaluation and European Semester Unit
- **Santiago Loranca Garcia** – EC, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Head of Evaluation and Impact Assessment
- **Kai Stryczynski** – EC, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, Deputy Head of Evaluation and European Semester Unit

## 09:45

**Collecting evidence on the 2014-20 Programming Period: the way forward**

Chair: **Andriana Sukova Tosheva** – EC, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Director for investment

- **Terry Ward** – APPLICA (BE)
- **Christian Biral** – Conseil régional Auvergne Rhône-Alpes (FR)

## 10:45

**Coffee Break**

## 11:15

**Panel: Cohesion policy for results**

Chair: **Mariana Hristcheva** – EC, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, Head of Evaluation and European Semester Unit

Address by **Iliana Ivanova** – Member of the European Court of Auditors

- **Nicholas Martyn** – EC, Deputy Director General for Regional and Urban Policy
- **Andriana Sukova Tosheva** – EC, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Director for investment
- **Iskra Mihaylova** – European Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development

## 12:45

**Closing Remarks**

- **Andriana Sukova Tosheva** – EC, Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Director for investment
- **Nicholas Martyn** – EC, Deputy Director General for Regional and Urban Policy

## 13:00

**Lunch**
GIANLUCA ARGENTIN (PhD) is a sociologist of education at the Department of Sociology – Catholic University of Milan. His research is focused on policies devoted to improve teacher quality and on impact evaluation of school interventions, especially through randomized controlled trials. He is actually directing a large scale RCT assessing the impact of teachers’ relational skills on student achievement (www.unicatt.it/openteq.it).

SÉRGIO BARROSO, Geographer and Urbanist, Master in Urban and Regional Planning. Director of CEDRU, since 2001, is expert in the fields of spatial planning and climate change adaptation, urban and strategic planning, and evaluation of public policies. Has extensive experience in public policy evaluation and has participated, since 1998, in a large number of evaluation studies of regional, sectorial and territorial cooperation programmes, supported by European Structural and Investment funds and European Economic Area (EEA) Grants.

CHRISTIAN BIRAL is project manager within the Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Regional Authority (France) and has been in charge of evaluating public policies for twelve years. His department is now also responsible for the European funds evaluations. It provides methodological support to the European Programmes Directorate. This support involves the definition of indicators and the production and implementation of evaluation plans for four European programs: the Operational ERDF/ESF Programme, the Rural Development Program EAFRD, the multiregional Operational Program and the Rhone-Saone Alcotra Cooperation Programme. The Evaluation Mission also provides expertise for the ERDF Operational Programme Massif Central.

DANIELE BONDONIO (Ph.D Carnegie Mellon University) is Associate Professor at the Università Piemonte Orientale (Italy) and he has held visiting positions at the Ohio State University and the University of California at Irvine, where he has taught methods for program evaluation. He is the author of a number of publications on counterfactual impact evaluation of public policies. He has been the principal investigator for evaluation studies on innovation and enterprise support programmes commissioned by the EC (Joint Research Center-IPTS and DG-Regional and Urban Policy), regional Governments and national Ministries in various European countries.

JOACHIM JAMES CALLEJA served as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Education and Employment in Malta before his appointment as Director of Cedefop. In 2005 he set up the Malta Qualifications Council where he served as Chief Executive. Mr Calleja is a graduate of the Universities of Malta, Padua (Italy) and Bradford (UK). He is the co-author of the Malta Referencing Report of the Malta Qualifications Framework. He has been engaged on issues related to skills and qualifications since 2001.
**ALEX CONWAY** is responsible for development and implementation of the Mayor of London’s 2007–13 and 2014–20 European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund Programmes. He is also Vice Chair of the European Structural and Investment Funds Committee of the London Enterprise Panel. Prior to his appointment as Director at the Greater London Authority he worked in various central, regional and local government roles; including managing the 2000–06 European programmes. He has a history degree from Oxford University.

**AIDAN COVILLE** is an economist in the Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) team within the World Bank Development Economics Research Group and coordinator of DIME’s climate change program. After completing his MSc in Statistics at University College London and MSc in Economics for Development at the University of Oxford, he joined DIME in South Africa, exploring the effects of a large-scale slum upgrading project implemented across the country. Since then his work has focused on identifying environmentally and financially sustainable approaches for expanding infrastructure services to low income households.

**NADIA CALVIÑO** was appointed Director-General in the Directorate-General for Budget of the European Commission in 2014, taking up the top position of the department dealing with the EU’s financial programming, annual budgets, accounting and financial rules. Previously Ms Calviño was Deputy Director-General with a special responsibility for Financial Services in the DG for Internal Market and Services of the European Commission. She joined the European Commission in 2006 and she served as a Deputy Director General for Mergers and Antitrust (including cartels) in the DG for Competition between 2006 and 2010. Before moving to Brussels, Ms Calviño worked as a civil servant in Spain, mainly at the Ministry of Economy. She is an economist and a lawyer by training.

**CORINA CREȚU** is the European Commissioner for Regional Policy since November 2014. She is a former Member of the Romanian Parliament and was elected as a Member of the European Parliament for three consecutive terms. In her role as MEP, Corina Creţu was part of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, Delegation for relations with the US and Delegation to the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee. She was also the Vice-President of the Development Committee and the Vice-President of the European Parliament.

**DIRK CZARNITZKI** is Associate Professor at the Department of Applied Economics at KU Leuven, Belgium, and he is also a senior researcher at the Steunpunt O&O Statistieken at KUL as well as a research associate at ZEW. His research interests cover the fields of the economics of innovation and focus on applied microeconometrics. The lines of research address topics such as the evaluation of public innovation policies, corporate governance and innovation, the valuation of intellectual assets, as well as knowledge and technology transfer.
STEFAN DE KEERSMAECKER works for the European Commission. He is currently acting head of unit responsible for ESF & FEAD Policy and Legislation in the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Prior to that, he worked for the humanitarian aid service of the European Commission (DG ECHO). Before, he practiced labour law as a private attorney in international law firms. He holds a law degree from the University of Leuven and a DEA in African Studies from the Sorbonne University.

TOMISLAV DONCHEV is the Deputy Prime Minister for EU Funds and Economic Policy, appointed in 2014. He is a former member of the European parliament (2014), member of the Bulgarian National assembly (2013-2014), Minister of EU Funds Management (2010-2013) and a mayor of his hometown Gabrovo (2007-2010). Initially he has worked as a consultant and lecturer on project management and control. His political experience starts in 2004, when he was a program director in the Open Society Foundation in Bulgaria managing the unit on EU funded projects. Donchev was also participating in the Expert Analysis team and was a member of the working group of the Finance Ministry, drafting the rules for absorption of EU funds in Bulgaria.

NICOLA DUELL, labour economist (LSE and University of Munich), is managing director of Economix Research & Consulting, consultant to the European Commission, the OECD, the World Bank, the Federal Government of Germany and other public institutions. She is currently the German correspondent for European Employment Observatory and a thematic expert of the Mutual Learning Programme of DG Employment. She is specialized in the fields of labour market policies, inequalities and social policies, social innovation, the promotion of the economic development at the local and regional level, the management of the social consequences of industrial restructuring, training policies and migration. She worked on labour market aspects in the context of the evaluation of EU structural fund and was a core team member of the EU-wide evaluation of the Community Initiative EQUAL and conducted employment policy reviews in a number of countries.

TATIANA FERNANDEZ SIRERA is coordinator of Catalonia’s 2020 Strategy and of the Research and Innovation Strategy for the Smart Specialisation of Catalonia at the Government of Catalonia’s Ministry of the Vice-presidency and of the Economy and Finance. Before that, she worked for many years as an economic analyst and adviser on EU economic issues. She holds a PhD in European Integration and International Relations from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, a Master of Economics – Europe from the University of Saarland and a Bachelor of Economics from the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

DOMINIQUE FORAY is Professor at the Ecole Polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland) where he holds the Chair “Economics and Management of Innovation”. He was the author of the first paper on smart specialisation in 2009 and has been then deeply involved in the RIS3 development and implementation in the EU.
MANUELA GELENG works for the European Commission, where she is Acting Director of Social Affairs and also heads the Social Investment Strategy unit in the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Previously, she was head of the unit responsible for European Social Fund Policy and Legislation.

MARIANA HRISTCHEVA is Head of the Evaluation and European Semester Unit in DG REGIO. She joined the Commission in February 2010 and served as Head of Cabinet of Kristalina Georgieva in her portfolios for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Budget and Human Resources. Between 2001 and 2010, she headed the ECOFIN department of the Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the EU. Previously, she worked in the Bulgarian Ministry of Finance. In both positions, she participated actively in the negotiations of Bulgaria for membership to the EU and Council preparatory bodies in the area of financial and monetary issues, MFF, climate change financing, structural funds.

ILIANA IVANOVA is former Member of the European Parliament, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control and Vice-Chair of the Special Committee on the Economic, Financial and Social Crisis. Currently, she serves as Member of the European Court of Auditors, responsible for financial and performance audits relating to structural funds. She is Reporting Member for the annual Statement of Assurance in relation to cohesion policy and a number of performance audits concerning ESF, ERDF and Cohesion Fund topics, e.g. Youth guarantee, financial instruments, absorption.

STÉPHANE JACOBZONE co-ordinates the OECD Public Governance Committee activities, and co-ordinated the 2015 Public Governance Ministerial Meeting in Helsinki. He has been responsible for thematic work on strategic agility, the toolkit for policy making, public governance, regulatory reform, and risk governance country reviews and other institutional aspects. He also developed comparative indicators and analysis of regulatory policy. Mr. Jacobzone has previous experience on health policy, welfare, public finance and social affairs matters. He began his carrier at the French Treasury.

KAROLINA JAKUBOWSKA is a Senior Consultant at ICF International with 10 years of experience in policy analysis and evaluation at the regional, national and European level. She has extensive knowledge of delivery systems and outcomes of ESF support in Poland. Recently she was researcher in ex-post evaluations commissioned by DG EMPL: “European Social Fund (ESF) 2007-2013 ex-post evaluation: investment in human capital” and “ESF 2007-2013 Ex-post evaluation: Supporting the integration of disadvantaged groups into the labour market and society”.
JANA JAKUBŮ is Head of the investment department in Brno city municipality. Previously, she worked as director of division Public sphere for the consulting company and she focused on infrastructures projects. She holds a master degree in Economics and administration from Mendel University in Brno and she lectures on administrative project leading, financial control system and state aid. Her work includes mainly implementation and coordination of investment projects in the city.

ZOLTÁN KAZATSAY is the Deputy Director-General of DG EMPL (Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) in the European Commission. As of 1 December 2011 he coordinates the management of the European Social Fund. Zoltán Kazatsay joined the European Commission in 2004 coordinating transport activities. As of 1997 as Deputy Secretary of State in Hungarian Ministry of Transport he was in charge of transport policy issues and the accession negotiations with the EU in the transport sector. Zoltán Kazatsay graduated from the Technical University of Budapest as a civil engineer.

INESIS KIŠKIS is a Director of an EU Funds Management Department in Lithuanian Ministry of Environment. In early 1990's he managed international relations of the newly established national environmental authority. From 1993 to 2006 he worked at the World Bank as Senior Environmental Specialist in Europe and Central Asia Region. In 2006, he re-joined Ministry of Environment to become an Undersecretary of the Ministry; after a number of reorganizations he assumed the current position in 2009.

KYOSUKE KURITA is Associate Professor of School of Economics at Kwansei Gakuin University in Japan. He is also visiting research fellow at DG-REGIO in EUROPEAN COMMISSION. His recent research focuses on the issue of policy evaluation from microeconometric perspective, in particular on the effectiveness analysis of cohesion policy on firm performance.

FRANS LEEUW is the Professor of Law, Public Policy & Social Science Research at Maastricht University. Also the Director of the Netherlands Institute for applied security and justice Research, The Hague. He was President of the EES, reviewer of evaluation journals, advisor to governments, Director of Performance Audits & Evaluation of the Netherlands Audit Office, Chief Inspector of Education and has held several university positions (Leiden, Utrecht, a.o.).

SANTIAGO LORANCA GARCIA, European Commission, Head of Unit for Evaluation and Impact Assessment in the DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. He previously held responsibilities as HoU for European Employment Strategy and Governance in charge of the European Semester (2011-2013) and a number of ESF geographical desks. Previously he worked in DG Employment in the fields of adaptation to industrial change, the social dimension of the Information Society, local development initiatives, third sector and ESF innovative actions, and in EUROSTAT.
Nicholas Martyn took a first degree in history at Cambridge University, followed by law. After qualification, he practiced as a lawyer in England for 10 years. Since 1988 he has worked as a civil servant in the European Commission in Brussels. He has during his career with the Commission worked as a lawyer in the area of agriculture, held posts relating to financial control and audit, and for the last fifteen years worked in the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy. He was director of audit for 5 years, and subsequently director of a geographic directorate responsible for the management of programmes in six Member States. In 2011 he was appointed Deputy Director-General, and he has responsibility for performance, policy and compliance. As DDG, he had particular responsibility for the preparation and negotiation of the legislative package for Cohesion Policy for the 2014-2020 period.

Juliet Martinez is an economist in the Evaluation team at the European Free Trade Association in Brussels – the body managing trade relations between the EFTA states and the EU. Juliet manages evaluations of the 150 Norway and EEA grant funding programmes and co-ordinates the results based management approach. She previously worked in the evaluation unit of DG Regio, European Commission, where she was a senior expert for Territorial Co-operation. Before that Juliet worked in the UK Civil Service on spatial planning and the transition to a low carbon economy.

Massimiliano Mascherini is Research Manager at Eurofound, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, a European Union Agency. He is the leading author of the recent publication NEETs: Young people not in employment, education and training – characteristics, costs and policy responses, and coordinated the report Effectiveness of policy measures to increase the employment participation of young people as well as other several reports in the field of youth studies.

Francisco Merchán Cantos is DG EMPL's Audit and Evaluation Director since 2011, being also responsible for Impact Assessment of new policy and legislative initiatives. Prior to his current position, he was Director of the European Commission's Internal Audit Service and Head of Sector of the Central Financial Service in DG BUDG. Prior to joining the European Commission, he was European Financial Director of AlliedSignal and Financial Director of Leica Spain. He has also been Audit Manager with Ernst&Young and PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

Iskra Mihaylova is Chair of the Committee on Regional Development at the European Parliament. She is also Substitute at the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety. She acted as a Minister of the Environment and Water of Bulgaria (2013-2014). For years, she has worked for the implementation of the European Cohesion Policy in Bulgaria and was actively involved various in the Operational Programmes “Regional Development”, “Environment” and in the monitoring committees of cross-border cooperation programmes.
ANDREA NALDINI economist, is the director of the Evaluation Area of Ismeri Europa. He participated to and coordinated evaluations of structural funds since the beginning of 90s and contributed to all the EC ex-post evaluations. At the moment he is consultant for DG Regio and DG Employment on the Administrative Reinforcement Plans in Italy.

ISABEL NAYLON has more than 20 years of professional experience as consultant, project manager, evaluator and researcher in EU policies and programmes. She has managed and coordinated large networks of experts in a number of EU wide evaluations and studies with focus on employment policy and the ESF. Since the beginning of 2015 she has been project manager and core team member of the ESF Ex-post evaluations “Access and sustainable integration to employment” and “Evaluation Synthesis”, both for DG Employment.

RUDOLF NISSLER was born in Austria. He studied economics and informatics at the Vienna University and holds a PhD in economics. After qualifying he worked in economic research in Vienna. In 1991 he moved to the Federal Chancellery and then to the OECD in Paris where he was councillor for trade and environment. In 1997 he joined the European Commission. He served in several functions covering responsibilities such as impact assessment and urban affairs. In 2007 he was appointed Director for Policy Coordination. Since 2012 he is responsible for the overall policy strategy for Cohesion Policy. This covers impact assessment in relation to the EU economic governance and the relationship with the EIB group and other international financial institutions.

ANDREY NOVAKOV is the youngest Member of the European Parliament. His work is concentrated in 4 priorities: EU funding instruments and simplification of EU funding; European Fund for Strategic Investments; youth employment; EU Budget and Budgetary control. As a member of the Committee of Regional development, he is focusing mainly on the Programming period 2014-2020. His most important initiative is the EU funding simplification initiative. Andery Novakov has recently been appointed amongst the 30 most influential politicians for last year by Forbes.

COSTANZA PAGNINI is Senior expert and Manager at Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini, Evaluation team. She is in charge of coordination and implementation of applied research projects and evaluations about ESI Funds in the fields of employment and social inclusion, governance and regional development. She drafted the synthesis thematic report on Strengthening Institutional Capacity within the Ex post evaluation of ESF. She took part in analysing the outcomes of the 2014-2020 ESF programming, and is currently involved in a study on ESF performance.
FRANCESCA PAGNOSSIN is the Head of Unit for the Coordination of the Erasmus+ programme at the European Commission in charge of the evaluation of the Erasmus+ programme and the predecessor programmes. She started her career at the European Commission in 1998 working for the Structural Funds and Enlargement. In 2004 she has joined the Directorate General for Education and Culture occupying various functions in finance, audit, quality and business process management. Her areas of interest include change management and applied systems thinking.

RODRIGO PEDUZZI is a case handler in the European Commission’s Competition DG. He is primarily in charge of coordinating evaluation within State aid control. The requirement applies, since 2014, to a selection of State aid schemes in areas such as regional aid or research, development and innovation. Rodrigo contributes to the assessment of individual evaluation plans and to the progress of the initiative across the board. He joined the Commission in 2010, initially dealing with competitiveness policies and better regulation.

GUIDO PELLEGRINI is Full Professor in Statistical Methods for Regional Policies and Statistics at the Department of Social Sciences and Economics, Sapienza, University of Rome (Italy). Previously he was Economist at the Research Department of Bank of Italy, where he managed the Regional Analysis Unit. He participated to several projects and Committees on European and national policy evaluation, in Italy and abroad. He has published several papers in international journals on policy evaluation, industrial and regional policies, economic growth and convergence, local development, economic statistics.

PETER PELLEGRINI is Deputy Prime Minister of the Slovak Republic for Investments. He graduated from the Faculty of Economics at Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica and the Faculty of Economics at the Technical University in Košice with specialisation in finance, banking and investment. Mr. Pellegrini has held the post of State Secretary at the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic (2012-2014), Slovak Digital Champion (2012), Minister of Education, science, research and sport (2014), Speaker of the National Council of the Slovak Republic (2014-2016).

JOÃO SANTOS is Deputy Head of Unit in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion at the European Commission. The Unit is responsible for Vocational Training, apprenticeships and Adult education, as well as for the Erasmus programme in these policy fields. He had previously worked at the Directorate general for Employment and Social Affairs. As the coordinator of a geographical desk, he was involved in the negotiations on the EU structural polices supported by the European Social Fund.

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MAXIMILIAN VON EHRLICH is an Associate Professor at the University of Bern’s Department of Economics and a research fellow at the Center for Regional Economic Development. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Munich and was a postdoctoral researcher at ETH Zurich prior to joining the University of Bern. Maximilian is a CESifo affiliate and his work has been published in leading international journals. His research focuses on public finance, trade and economic geography.

TERRY WARD is the Director of Studies of APPLICA. He was a senior research officer in the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Cambridge for many years working on economic policy questions. He co-founded Alphametrics in the UK, of which he is Managing Director, in 1983, and Applica in 1992. Since then he has undertaken a great many studies on economic and social issues for the European institutions, directed several large scale international research projects and assisted in the preparation of a number of major Commission reports.

TINA WEBER is a Technical Director in ICF’s European Social Policy Team. She has over 20 years’ experience of carrying out comparative European research assignments in the field of labour law, labour market policy and industrial relations.
The Result Orientation:
Cohesion Policy at work

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
http://ec.europa.eu/social/home.jsp?langId=en

DG Regional and Urban Policy
http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/regional_policy/index_en.htm