Conference venue: Radisson Blu Hotel, Calea Victoriei, 63-81 Sector 1, 10065 Bucharest, Romania

The plenary sessions of the conference will be moderated by Jacki Davis, with interpretation in Romanian, German, French and English

Thursday, 20 June 2019

8:30 - 09:45 Registration and welcome coffee

09:45 – 10:30 Session 1: Opening

Keynote speech
  • Corina Creţu, European Commissioner for Regional Policy

Welcoming addresses:
  • Vasile-Daniel Suciu, Vice Prime Minister of Romania, Minister of Regional Development and Public Administration
  • Michael Schneider, Member of the European Committee of the Regions, Envoy of the State of Saxony-Anhalt to the Federal Government of Germany

10:30 Family photo and press conference

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break

11:00 – 11:30 Introductory speech
  ‘EU Focus on Performance in the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework’
  Maria Rosa Aldea Busquets, Deputy Director-General for Budget, European Commission

11:30 – 13:00 Session 2: Evaluation of cohesion policy – role and reach

Introductory remarks:
  • Roxana Minzatu, Minister of European Funds of Romania

Panel discussion:
  • Mihaela Virginia Toader, Secretary of State, Ministry of European Funds of Romania
  • Andrey Novakov, Member of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament
  • Michael Schneider, Member of the European Committee of the Regions
  • Duarte Rodrigues, Vice President of the Agency for the Development and Cohesion of Portugal
  • John Bachtler, Professor and Director of the European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde and the Technical University of Delft
  • Eric von Breska, Director for Policy, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch
**Agenda**

**14:30 – 16:00  Session 3 – Parallel workshops**

**Workshop 1: Evaluation of public policy – state of the art**

*Chair: Ioana Cristina Condurat*, Deputy Head of Evaluation and Impact Assessment Unit, Secretariat-General, European Commission

Speakers:
- **Christiane Arndt**, Head of Programme, Measuring Regulatory Performance, Regulatory Policy Division, OECD
- **Frauke Hoss**, Policy Officer at Evaluation and Impact Assessment Unit, Secretariat-General, European Commission
- **Jeff Chelsky**, Manager of Economic Management and Country Programmes, Independent Evaluation Group (IEG), World Bank

**Workshop 2: Smart specialisation strategies – monitoring and evaluation**

*Chair: Carlo Amati*, Evaluation Officer at Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Speakers:
- **Pierre-Alexandre Balland**, Assistant Professor of Economic Geography at Utrecht University and visiting Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Media Lab), The Netherlands and USA
- **Attila Varga**, Professor of Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Pécs, Hungary
- **Mara Giua**, Researcher at Department of Economics and Rossi-Doria Centre, Roma Tre University, Italy

**Workshop 3: Territorial integrated strategies – monitoring and evaluation**

*Chair: Marek Teplanský*, Head of Inclusive Growth, Urban and Territorial Development Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Speakers:
- **Adri Hartkoorn**, Programme Secretary of the Managing Authority of the ERDF Operational programme ‘Opportunities for the West’ 2014-2020, The Netherlands
- **Alessandra de Renzis**, Public officer at Tuscany Regional Government, Managing Authority of ERDF Regional Operational Programme Tuscany 2014-2020, Italy
- **Sérgio Barroso**, Director of the Centre for Studies and Urban and Regional Development (CEDRU), Portugal

**Workshop 4: Impact evaluation and the data revolution**

*Chair: John Walsh*, Team leader at Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Speakers:
- **Dirk Czarnitzki**, Professor at Faculty of Economics and Business, KU Leuven, Belgium
- **Anda Berényi**, Client Development Advisor, McKinsey & Company, Belgium
- **Simona De Luca**, OpenCoesione coordinator, Evaluation Unit, Department for Cohesion Policy, Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy
- **Dario Buono**, Team Leader at Methodology, Innovation in Official Statistics Unit, EUROSTAT

**16:00 - 16:30  Coffee break**
**Agenda**

16:30 – 18:00  **Session 4 – Parallel workshops**

**Workshop 5: Cohesion policy: what works well and what does not?**  
*Chair: Mariana Hristcheva*, Head of Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Speakers:  
- **John Bachtler**, Professor and Director of the European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde and the Technical University of Delft  
- **Riccardo Crescenzi**, Professor of Economic Geography at London School of Economics, United Kingdom  
- **Silvia Vignetti**, Director of Evaluation Studies at Centre for Industrial Studies (CSIL), Italy

**Workshop 6: Challenges and opportunities of evaluation of cohesion policy in Member States**  
*Chair: Claudia Magdalina*, Head of Programmes Evaluation Unit, Ministry of the European Funds of Romania  

Speakers:  
- **Terry Ward**, Director of Studies, Applica, Belgium  
- **Balázs Pichler**, Head of Evaluation Unit, Ministry for Innovation and Technology of Hungary  
- **Jana Drliková**, Head of Evaluation Unit, Ministry of Regional Development of Czechia

**Workshop 7: Exploiting the European Structural and Investment Funds open data**  
*Chair: John Walsh*, Team leader at the Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Speakers:  
- **Alain Vanden Borre**, Team Leader and Webmaster at Communication Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission  
- **Gabor Toth**, Evaluation Officer at Evaluation and Impact Assessment Unit, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

**Workshop 8: From administrative registers to impacts of the European Social Fund operations**  
*Chair: Maria-José Cueto Faus*, Head of Evaluation and Impact Assessment, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Speakers:  
- **Nuno Crato**, Professor at University of Lisbon, Portugal  
- **Andrea Naldini**, Director for Policy Analysis and Evaluation, Ismeri Europa, Italy  
- **Ann Coenen**, Statistical Analyst at International Relations and Socio-economic Studies Division, Federal Public Service Employment, Labour and Social Dialogue, Belgium

18:30  **Social event – classical music concert and cocktail dinner** at Romanian Athenaeum (offered by the Ministry of European Funds of Romania)
Friday, 21 June 2019

9:00 - 9:30  Welcome coffee

9:30 – 11:00  Session 1: Policy evaluation for the EU: learning, accountability and communication
Introductory remarks:
- Iliana Ivanova, Dean of Chamber II ‘Investment for cohesion, growth and inclusion’ in the European Court of Auditors
- Veronica Gaffey, Chair of Regulatory Scrutiny Board, European Commission
Panel discussion:
- Iliana Ivanova, Dean of Chamber II ‘Investment for cohesion, growth and inclusion’ in the European Court of Auditors
- Veronica Gaffey, Chair of Regulatory Scrutiny Board, European Commission
- Philip McCann, Professor of Urban and Regional Economics, Sheffield University Management School
- Mariana Hristcheva, Head of Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

11:00 - 11:30  Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00  Session 2: Wrap-up and conclusions
Feedback from workshops
- Chairs/rapporteurs from the parallel workshops

Q&A

Concluding remarks
- Mariana Hristcheva, Head of Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Closing remarks
- Mihaela Virginia Toader, Secretary of State, Ministry of European Funds of Romania

13:00 - 14:30  Lunch