Draft agenda

Investing in Our Shared Future
The 8th Conference on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy
Bucharest, 20-21 June 2019

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

Day 0 (19 June):

Evening
• Speakers’ networking dinner

Day 1 (20 June):

8:30 - 10:00  Registration and welcome coffee

10:00 – 11:00  Session 1
Moderator: Jacki Davis
Welcoming speeches:
• Vasilica-Viorica Dăncilă, Prime Minister of Romania
• Corina Crețu, European Commissioner for Regional Policy
• Iskra Mihaylova, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament

Keynote speech: EU Focus on Performance in the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework by Maria Rosa Aldea Busquets, Deputy Director-General for Budget, European Commission

* Interpretation: Romanian – German – French – English

11:00 - 11:30  Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00  Session 2: Evaluation of cohesion policy – role and reach
Moderator: Jacki Davis
Introductory speech:
• Richard Raši, Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
• Minister of European Funds of Romania

Panel discussion:
• Richard Raši, Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatization of the Slovak Republic
• Minister 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 a 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

* Interpretation: Romanian – German – French – English

13:00 - 14:30  Lunch
14:30 – 16:00  **Session 3 – Parallel workshops**

Workshop 1: Evaluation of public policy – state of art

*Chair:* 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  
- Yianis Koutsikidis, Policy Officer at Evaluation and Impact Assessment Unit, Secretariat-General, European Commission  
- Andrea Liverani, Leader of ‘Sustainable Development Program’, World Bank

Workshop 2: Smart specialisation strategies – monitoring and evaluation

*Chair:* Peter Berkowitz, Head of Smart and Sustainable Growth, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

*Speakers:*  
- Attila Varga, Professor of Economics, Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Pécs, Hungary  
- 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  
- 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:*  
- 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  
- Adri Hartkoorn, Programme Secretary of the Managing Authority of the ERDF Operational programme ‘Opportunities for the West’ 2014-2020, The Netherlands

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 Berenyi, 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*

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:
- 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
- Representative from the European Committee of the Regions

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

- Alain Vanden Borre, Team Leader and Webmaster at Communication Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- Gábor 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

- 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 dinner at Romanian Athenaeum**
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Day 2 (21 June)

9:00 - 9:30  Welcome coffee

9:30 – 11:00  Session 1: Policy evaluation for the EU: learning, accountability and communication
Moderator: Jacki Davis
Introductory speeches:
- 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, Secretariat-General of the 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, Secretariat-General of the European Commission
- Philip McCann, Professor of Urban and Regional Economics, Sheffield University Management School
- Eric von Breska, Director for Policy, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
*Interpretation: Romanian – German – French – English

11:00 - 11:30  Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00  Session 2: Wrap-up and conclusions
Moderator: Jacki Davis
Feedback from workshops
- By chairs/rapporteurs

Concluding remarks
- By Eric von Breska, Director for Policy, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Closing remarks
- By Minister of European Funds of Romania
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13:00 - 14:30  Lunch