



European
Commission

SHAPING TRANSITIONS WITH EVIDENCE

THE 9TH CONFERENCE
ON THE EVALUATION OF
EU COHESION POLICY

16-17 SEPTEMBER 2021
PORTO, PORTUGAL

PROGRAMME

*Regional and
Urban Policy*

SHAPING TRANSITIONS WITH EVIDENCE

THE 9TH CONFERENCE
ON THE EVALUATION OF
EU COHESION POLICY

16-17 SEPTEMBER 2021
PORTO, PORTUGAL

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INTRODUCTION

Cohesion policy is the biggest investment policy of the European Union. With its focus on the creation of a synergic European growth model, the policy invests in the establishment of stronger and more resilient economies and societies, addressing inequalities and benefitting all European citizens.

With its strong emphasis on performance, accountability and transparency of its investments, cohesion policy is at the forefront of the EU's green and digital transitions, which will shape the future of Europe over the next decades. The COVID-19 crisis has shown once more the essential role of cohesion policy in helping

Member States and regional authorities to respond quickly and flexibly to the health and economic crisis triggered by the pandemic, helping the most affected territories, sectors and people.

The monitoring and evaluation framework of EU cohesion policy has a crucial role in ensuring that investments are targeted and effective, and supports the Commission and all Member States in taking insightful, evidence-based policy decisions.

The 9th Conference on the Evaluation of EU Cohesion Policy will bring together policymakers from the Member States and EU institutions, academics, evaluation experts and managing authorities of the programmes co-financed by EU cohesion policy, civil society and other stakeholders. It will provide an opportunity to reflect on the importance of basing the policymaking cycle on robust evidence to adapt effectively to a fast-changing world, in view of the launch of the ex-post evaluation of cohesion policy's 2014-2020 investments over the next year.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the speakers, chairpersons and all the participants joining the conference. Thanks to your contribution, this will be an occasion to reflect on our next steps towards the consolidation of result-driven practices, which will be pivotal to foster the shift to a climate neutral, inclusive European economy.



EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR
COHESION AND REFORMS

ELISA FERREIRA

ADDRESSES



CONFERENCE VENUE

ALFANDEGA CONFERENCE CENTRE

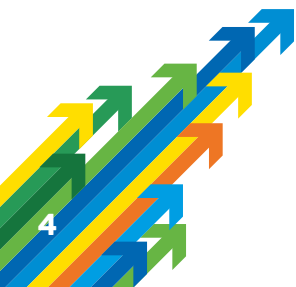
R. Nova da Alfândega, 4050-430 Porto



NETWORKING DINNER

WOW RESTAURANT

Rua do Choupelo, 39
4400-088 Vila Nova de Gaia
Portugal



AGENDA

NB: Session hours refer to Porto local time (1 hour behind CET)
The plenary sessions of the conference will be moderated by Jennifer Baker.

THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

10:00 – 10:30 **SESSION 1 – PLENARY: OPENING**

Languages: EN, PT, SI

OPENING REMARKS

Marc Lemaître

Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Zvone Črnač

Minister for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Slovenia

WELCOMING ADDRESSES

António Cunha

President of the Norte Regional Coordination and Development Commission, Portugal

Nuno Manuel Oliveira dos Santos

President of the Agency for Development and Cohesion, Portugal

10:30 – 11:15 **SESSION 2 – PLENARY: THE VALUE OF EVALUATION FOR A PERFORMANCE-ORIENTED POLICY**

Languages: EN, PT, SI

SPEECHES:

Iliana Ivanova

Dean of Chamber II "Investment for cohesion, growth and inclusion", European Court of Auditors

Veronica Gaffey

Chair of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board, European Commission

Andriana Sukova

Deputy Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Michael Wimmer

Director of Strategy, Better Regulation & Corporate Governance, Secretariat-General, European Commission

11:15 - 11:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:45 – 13:00

SESSION 3 – PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

Language: EN

WORKSHOP 3A: EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

Evaluation findings in the area of climate and environment

Sabine Bourdy

Head of Mainstreaming & Environmental Assessments Unit, Directorate-General for Environment, European Commission

Mihai Panaite

Evaluation Officer, Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Myriam Bovéda

Team Leader, Smart and Sustainable Growth Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Normunds Strautmanis

Deputy Head of Evaluation Unit, Ministry of Finance, Latvia

Rob Williams

Senior Consultant, Trinomics

WORKSHOP 3B: A EUROPE FIT FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

Evaluation findings in the area of ICT

Fabrizia Benini

Head of Digital Economy, Recovery Plan and Skills Unit, Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology, European Commission

Arturo Polese

Team Leader, Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Henriette Kiss

Head of Evaluation & Planning Unit, Department for Monitoring & Evaluation, Prime Minister's Office, Hungary

Gérard Pogorel

Professor of Economics and Management-Emeritus, Institut Polytechnique de Paris

Ivars Solovjovs

Board member, Cetera SIA



WORKSHOP 3C: AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR PEOPLE: R&I, SMES COMPETITIVENESS

Evaluation findings in the area of research and innovation/competitiveness of SMEs

Nicola De Michelis

Director of Smart and Sustainable Growth and Programmes Implementation, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

David Alba

Team Leader, Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Silvia Vignetti

Director, Development and Evaluation Unit, CSIL Centre for Industrial Studies

Jana Drlíková

Head of Evaluation Unit, Ministry of Regional Development, Czechia

Slavo Radošević

Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies, University College London

13:00 - 14:30 LUNCH

14:30 – 15:45 **SESSION 4 – PLENARY: HOW CAN EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-CHANGING WORLD?**

Languages: EN, PT

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Peter Berkowitz

Policy Director, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Duarte Rodrigues

Vice-President, Agency for Development and Cohesion, Portugal

Riccardo Crescenzi

Professor of Economic Geography, London School of Economics

Dominika Rogalińska

Director of the Spatial and Environmental Surveys Department, Statistics Poland

Katerina Mantouvalou

Director, Europe Policy, ICF

Jos Vaessen

Adviser, Independent Evaluation Group, World Bank

Julia Bachtrögler-Unger

Economist, Austrian Institute of Economic Research

Q&A

15:45 - 16:15 COFFEE BREAK

16:15 – 17:30

SESSION 5 – PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

Language: EN

WORKSHOP 5A: AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR PEOPLE: THE SOCIAL DIMENSION

Evaluation findings in the area of employment, education and social inclusion

María José Cueto Faus

Head of Better Regulation Unit, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

Joaquim Bernardo

President, Managing Authority of the Human Capital OP, Portugal

Wioletta Dąbrowska

Deputy Director, Regional Development Department, Podlaskie Voivodeship Marshall Office, Poland

Małgorzata Zub

Head of the Research Team, Evalu

Elena Meroni,

Research Fellow, Centre for Research on Impact Evaluation, JRC, EC

WORKSHOP 5B: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF MS EVALUATIONS (ASSESSING THE TERRITORIAL DIMENSION, DISSEMINATING THE LESSONS LEARNT, MEASURING IMPACT)

MS territorial evaluation findings

David Alba

Team Leader, Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Stéphane Jacobzone

Head of the Evidence, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, OECD

Carla Leal

Head of the Strategic Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Agency for Development and Cohesion, Portugal

Jan-Philippe Kramer

Head of Brussels office, Prognos AG

Elliot Stern

Emeritus Professor of Evaluation Research at Lancaster University

WORKSHOP 5C: THE USE OF DATA FOR EVALUATION

Data sources for evaluation and the links among them

John Walsh

Team Leader, Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Véronique Menez

Coordinator of European Funds, National Agency for Territorial Cohesion, France

Daniele Bondonio

Professor of Statistics for Economics, University of Eastern Piedmont, Italy

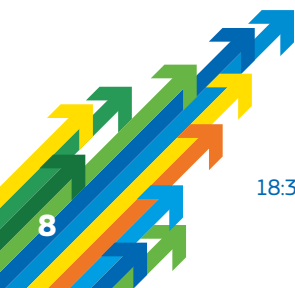
Audronė Sadauskaitė

Researcher, Visionary Analytics

Emanuela Sirtori, Senior Researcher, CSIL Centre for Industrial Studies

18:30 – 23:00

SOCIAL EVENT AND NETWORKING DINNER



FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2021

9:45 – 11:00

SESSION 6: PLENARY: EVALUATION, A COMPASS FOR THE TRANSITIONS

Language: EN, FR, PT

PANEL DISCUSSION:

Elisa Ferreira

European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

Younous Omarjee

Chair of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament

Nelson de Souza

Minister for Planning, Portugal

Vasco Alves Cordeiro

First Vice-President, European Committee of the Regions

Lilyana Pavlova

Vice-President, European Investment Bank

Q&A

11:00 - 11:30

COFFEE BREAK AND FAMILY PHOTO

11:30 – 12:15

SESSION 7: PLENARY: WRAP-UP AND CONCLUSIONS

Languages: EN, FR, PT

FEEDBACK FROM THE PARALLEL WORKSHOPS:

Rapporteurs from the parallel workshops

David Alba, Carlo Amati, Philip Engels, Mihai Panaite, Arturo Polese

Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

María José Cueto Faus

Head of Better Regulation Unit, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

WRAP-UP AND NEXT STEPS TOWARDS 2014-2020 EX POST EVALUATION:

Mariana Hristcheva

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

María José Cueto Faus

Head of Better Regulation Unit, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

12:15

CLOSING REMARKS

Elisa Ferreira

European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

Ana Abrunhosa

Minister for Territorial Cohesion, Portugal

12:30 - 14:00

LUNCH

DESCRIPTION OF PLENARY SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

SESSION 1: OPENING AND WELCOMING ADDRESSES

The conference will be opened by the Director General for Regional and Urban Policy, followed by some remarks by the Minister for Development and European Cohesion Policy of Slovenia, currently presiding the Council of the European Union, and two welcoming addresses by the Portuguese authorities: the President of the Norte Regional Coordination and Development Commission, and the President of the Agency for Development and Cohesion.

SESSION 2: THE VALUE OF EVALUATION FOR A PERFORMANCE-ORIENTED POLICY

Evaluation has a central role in ensuring that policies are effective and result-oriented, and it supports policymakers by providing strong evidence to assist the development of the current policies and the design of new interventions to address arising challenges. In this session, we will present how robust evaluation can achieve this goal, in light of the Commission priorities and its Better Regulation framework, considering the current challenges that EU Member States are facing.

SESSION 3: PARALLEL WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP 3A: EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

The green transition will shape the next decades of EU policy and will be at the core of its new growth strategy: the European Green Deal. The European Green Deal aims to transform the Union into a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy. The objective of this workshop is to reflect on how the evaluation of green cohesion policy interventions can underpin policy and investment choices in all central areas of the green transition, such as low carbon economy, adaptation to climate change, and environment, and to assess the main challenges in evaluating green interventions.

WORKSHOP 3B: A EUROPE FIT FOR THE DIGITAL AGE

The digital transition represents one of the headline policies of the new European growth strategy, and it aims to facilitate a broader diffusion and uptake of digital and clean technologies to make Europe a transformational leader. EU structural funds have already invested considerable amounts of European funds in the previous programming periods in broadband connectivity and digital services. The goal of this workshop is to discuss how evaluation findings can best shape and facilitate the implementation of upcoming investments, and how evaluation can contribute to the strategic implementation of the EU digital agenda in the European Member States.

WORKSHOP 3C: AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR PEOPLE: R&I, SMES COMPETITIVENESS

Investments in research and innovation and competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises are one of the cornerstones of cohesion policy. This workshop will address the practical challenges of evaluating these investments and the possible solutions, in particular in terms of evaluation design and methods, as well as discuss how to obtain solid evidence from evaluations of interventions to underpin policy and investment decisions.

SESSION 4: HOW CAN EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY KEEP UP WITH THE FAST-CHANGING WORLD?

Evaluations of cohesion policy face several challenges, such as issues of data availability, timing, and limited resources. This panel will be an occasion to reflect on how it is possible to address some of these challenges, also through innovative uses of data to inform evidence-based policy in a fast-changing world, and how developments in data collection can offer opportunities to improve evaluation quality.

SESSION 5: PARALLEL WORKSHOPS**WORKSHOP 5A: AN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR PEOPLE: THE SOCIAL DIMENSION**

Around 100 counterfactual impact evaluations (CIEs) have been carried out to date to assess the impact of the ESF and YEI interventions. The results of these evaluations have provided evidence to help to improve the programmes and to direct resources to the best use. In this workshop, the evaluators and policy makers will share their experience with two education CIEs from Portugal and Poland. We will discuss the challenges related to education evaluations, the evaluation findings and their use as well as the methodological and data access issues.

WORKSHOP 5B: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF MS EVALUATIONS (ASSESSING THE TERRITORIAL DIMENSION, DISSEMINATING THE LESSONS LEARNT, MEASURING IMPACT)

Since the beginning of the 2014-2020 programming period, more than 1800 evaluations carried out by Member States have been published. This represents the great effort and commitment of the Member States to generate evidence for policy learning in line with the stronger result orientation of the policy. Member States however remain different in terms of maturity and capacity, and practitioners face diverse evaluative challenges and opportunities. This workshop has the objective to reflect on how these can be addressed, in particular concerning evaluation in the international sphere, evaluating the territorial aspects of the policy, conducting impact evaluations and disseminating the results.

WORKSHOP 5C: THE USE OF DATA FOR EVALUATION

Relevant, reliable data is the fundamental prerequisite for impact evaluations of public financial support. Any evaluation must be carefully built taking data availability, evaluation methods and financial and administrative costs of data collection into account. This workshop will address the issue of understanding the variety and quality of data available as a key factor in choosing evaluative methods.

FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2021

SESSION 6: EVALUATION, A COMPASS FOR THE TRANSITIONS

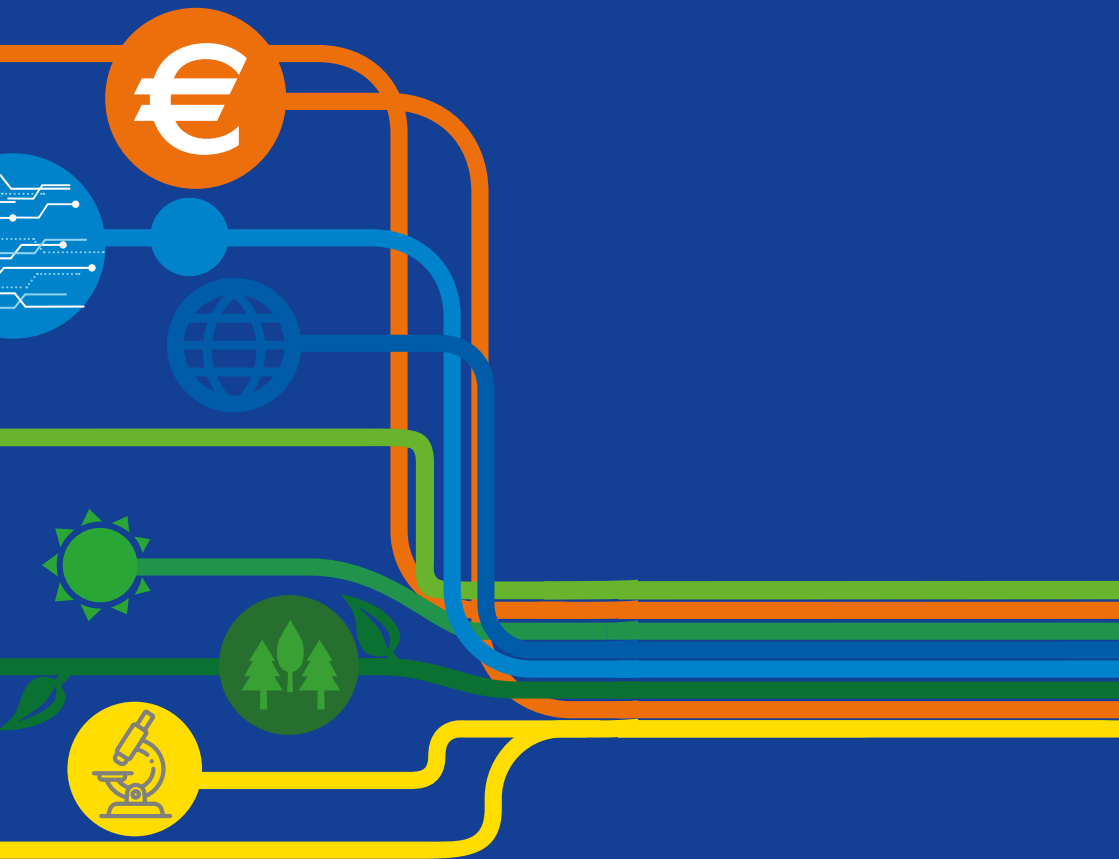
The European commitment to lead the green and the digital transition, affirming Europe as a world leader of sustainable innovation, requires policy makers to raise to the challenges brought about by this period of change. In this context, evaluation is an essential tool for the design of effective, evidence-based policies, supporting cohesion policy in addressing the economic, social and territorial aspects of the twin transition. The panel will reflect on how to continue improving the overall performance of cohesion policy throughout the dimensions of policy learning, accountability and communication to support the EU political commitments and priorities.

SESSION 7: WRAP-UP AND CONCLUSIONS

Rapporteurs of the thematic workshops will summarise the issues debated in the parallel sessions and present the main outcomes of the discussion. The Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission will then draw some concluding remarks on the overall conference and the way forward, including the approach for the ex post evaluation 2014-2020.

CLOSING REMARKS

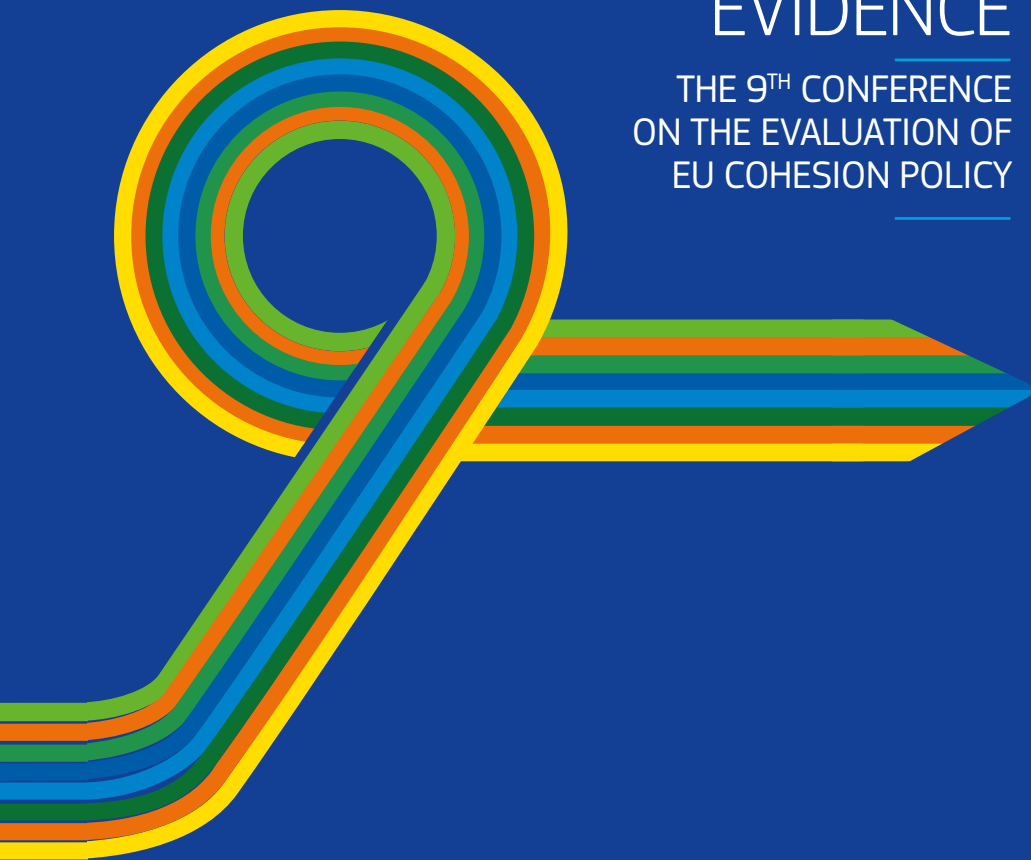
The European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms and the Portuguese Minister for Territorial Cohesion will close the conference.



LIST OF SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS

SHAPING TRANSITIONS WITH EVIDENCE

THE 9TH CONFERENCE
ON THE EVALUATION OF
EU COHESION POLICY





Ana Abrunhosa

Minister for Territorial Cohesion

Government of Portugal

President of the Centro Portugal Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDRC) and President of the Management Board of the Centro Regional Operational Programme from 2014 to 2019, as well as President of the Investment Committee of the Urban Instrument for Rehabilitation and Revitalization (IFRRU 2020). She holds a PhD in Economy from the College of Economics of the University of Coimbra.



David Alba

Team Leader, Evaluation and European Semester Unit

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Overseeing evaluation activities and support services in the area of monitoring and evaluation of Cohesion policy. He worked in the area of evaluation and audit for 16 years of his career in the European Commission and KPMG. His academic background is in Engineering and Business Administration.

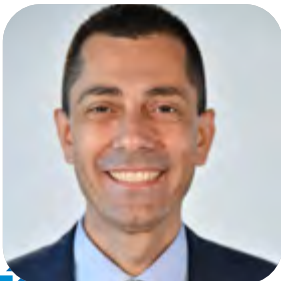


Vasco Alves Cordeiro

First Vice-President

European Committee of the Regions

He is currently Member of the Azores Regional Parliament, after serving two terms as president of the Government of the Azores, an Autonomous Region of Portugal and an EU outermost region. He held several cabinet positions as Regional Secretary for the Economy (2008-2012), the Presidency (2004-2008), responsible for European and External Affairs, and Agriculture and Fisheries (2003-2004). Mr. Cordeiro has represented the Azores at European and international level as a member of organizations such as the Assembly of European Regions or R20 – Regions of Climate Action. He has been president of the Conference of Maritime and Peripheral Regions of Europe from 2014 to 2020.



Carlo Amati

Evaluation Officer, Evaluation and European Semester Unit

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

He deals mainly with thematic evaluations and support services. He has an extensive background in quantitative methods for analysis and statistical modelling. Before joining the Commission, he worked for the Italian government where he launched and managed the OpenCoesione initiative and other tools to exploit the potential of monitoring data. He holds a Master's degree in Physics from the Sapienza University of Rome and a Master in Applied Econometrics.



Julia **Bachtrögler-Unger**

Economist in the research group “Structural Change and Regional Development”

Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO)

Her research focuses on regional and urban economics, in particular the analysis of economic policy measures in a regional context, regional development and convergence. Her current research activities include the analysis of the implementation and effects of EU cohesion policy at the micro and small-scale level, using data on actual beneficiaries and supported projects. .

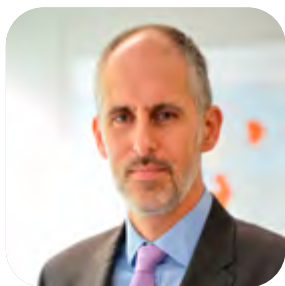


Fabrizia **Benini**

Head of Digital Economy Recovery Plan and Skills Unit

European Commission, DG Communications Networks, Content and Technology

Lawyer by training, she joined the European Commission in 1992 having worked in the internal market, competition, maritime affairs and digital Departments as well as in the cabinet office of the Vice-President for industrial relations. Presently she is focusing on the challenges of the digital transformation in the framework of the Digital Decade targets.



Peter **Berkowitz**

Policy Director

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Previously, he was Head of Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth coordinating work on smart specialization, SMEs, environment, energy, climate change, transport and digitalisation. He has also been Head of Unit for Policy Development, including the preparation and negotiation of the Commission's proposals for the reform of Cohesion Policy 2014-2020. During his career in the Commission he has worked on enlargement, CAP reform and rural development.



Joaquim **Bernardo**

President

Managing Authority of the Human Capital OP, Portugal

He holds a Degree in Sociology and a Master's Degree in Human Resources Policies and Management, both from the ISCTE – IUL. He is also a researcher in the fields of employment and vocational training, author of papers and communications, and has participated in a large number of evaluation studies, focusing on programs or measures co-financed by the EU's structural funds, mostly by the European Social Fund.



Daniele Bondonio

Professor of statistics for economics

University of Piemonte Orientale, Italy

He has held visiting positions at the University of California at Irvine, Ohio State University and Toronto University. He has served as scientific expert for the JRC, DG-REGIO, the Mutual Learning Programme and Ministries of EU member States and has authored numerous scientific articles on counterfactual impact evaluation applied to support to SMEs, regional economic development, ITC and innovation investments.



Sabine Bourdy

Head of Mainstreaming & Environmental Assessments Unit

European Commission, DG Environment

Throughout her career, she has been supporting regional development, both in Brussels and in the field, as Head of Unit on cohesion policy for several Member States (Greece, Cyprus, Slovakia and Austria) and the 9 outermost regions of the EU. She has also been a Director in a French region, in charge of Research, Higher Education, International and Europe.



Myriam Bovéda

Team Leader, Smart and Sustainable Growth Unit

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Polic

Myriam works with other Commission services to integrate the European Green Deal objectives into cohesion policy investments across the EU. Myriam holds a Master degree in European law and has 25 year experience of working on cohesion policy and sustainable growth both in the private and public sectors at European and local levels.



Zvone Černač

Minister for Development and European Cohesion Policy

Government of Slovenia

He was a member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, which he held for the first time in 2004. He also served as the Minister of Infrastructure and Spatial Planning. Previously he worked in the private sector (Lipica, Postojna Cave) and the municipal level (deputy mayor and director of the Housing Fund).



Riccardo Crescenzi

Professor of Economic Geography

London School of Economics, United Kingdom

Current holder of a European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant. He is also an Associate at the Centre for International Development at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. His research is focused on Regional Economic Development, Innovation, Multinational Firms and the analysis and evaluation of European Union development policies.



María José Cueto Faus

Head of Better Regulation Unit

European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

She did legal studies in the University of Barcelona and a Master in European Community Law at the College of Europe, in Bruges. She has worked in the European Union's institutions in a variety of policies and, since 2017, she is in charge of evaluation and impact assessment activities in the employment and social area.



António Cunha

President

Norte Regional Coordination and Development Commission, Portugal

Mr. Cunha is the first elected President of the Norte Regional Coordination and Development Commission. While being the Rector of University of Minho (2009-2017), he was the President of the Council of Rectors of Portuguese Universities (2014-2017) and Board Member of Iberian Nanotechnology Institute (2012), MIT-Portugal Program (2013) and Bosch-UMinho Partnership (2014). Later, he was Board Member of the Minho Advanced Computing Centre (2018) and of the High Level Scientific Committee of the Atlantic International Satellite Launch Programme (2019). As well he is the Co-founder and Executive Board Member of the Centre for Innovation in Polymer Engineering – PIEP (2001-2009) and the Centre for Engineering and Product Development – CEIIA (2005-09 and 2018-20).



Wioletta Dąbrowska

Deputy Director

Regional Development Department in the Podlaskie Voivodeship Marshal's Office, Poland

Wioletta Dąbrowska is responsible for strategic planning, monitoring, and for updating the Regional Development Strategy of the Podlaskie region. Since 2010 she's been working in the Managing Authority of the Regional Operational Programme for Podlaskie, dealing with ERDF implementation. She is responsible for the activities of the Regional Territorial Observatory/Evaluation Unit. She is also the chairwoman of the Regional Steering Evaluation Group. She is a member of the Expert Group on National and European Structural Policies operating at the Marshals' Convention.



Nicola De Michelis

Director of Smart and Sustainable Growth and Programme Implementation IV

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Responsible for the intervention of the structural funds in southern Europe and for smart and sustainable growth. Previously, he has been chief of staff of Commissioner Cretu; Director for the intervention of structural funds in northern Europe, for urban and territorial development, and for inclusive growth; deputy chief of staff of Commissioner Hahn. Before joining the Commission, he worked in the Territorial Development service of the OECD. He holds a degree in economics from the University of Modena.



Nelson de Souza

Minister for Planning

Government of Portugal

Previously, he has been Secretary of State for Development and Cohesion, Municipal Finance Director at the Lisbon City Council, General Director at Associação Industrial Portuguesa, and Secretary of State for Small and Medium Enterprises, Commerce and Services. He has also been manager of the Compete/QREN and Prime Program, administrator of the Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation, program manager at the Specific Program for the Development of Portuguese Industry, and Deputy General Manager for Industry.





Jana Drlíková

Head of Evaluation Unit

Ministry of Regional Development, Czechia

She focuses on qualitative methods, project management and public procurement issues. Previously, she worked at the Ministry of Health, where she gained expertise in the implementation of ESI funds in the Czech Republic. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Charles University and in international relations and European studies from Masaryk University; she graduated from Central European University in Budapest.



Philip Engels

Evaluation Assistant, Evaluation and European Semester Unit

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

He holds a BA from Trinity College Dublin and an LLB from Queen Mary, University of London. He has worked at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for three years prior to joining the European Commission in 2020, where he is currently working in both the European Semester and Evaluation strands of the Unit.



Elisa Ferreira

European Commissioner for Cohesion and Reforms

European Commission

Prior to her appointment, she was member of the board and Vice Governor at the Bank of Portugal, and Portugal's representative at the Supervisory Board of the Single Supervisory Mechanism. She also served as a Member of the European Parliament for 12 years and as Minister for the Environment and Minister for Planning of Portugal. Ms Ferreira is a professor in Economics, with a PhD from the University of Reading.



Veronica Gaffey

Chair of the Regulatory Scrutiny Board

European Commission

This Board, which is independent of the Commission services, examines the evidence base of all impact assessments for new policy proposals and major evaluations. Ms Gaffey was Director of the Paymaster's Office of the Commission from 2016 and before that worked in the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy from 2000. She worked in evaluation in Ireland and the European Commission for 23 years.



Mariana Hristcheva

Head of Evaluation and European Semester Unit and Deputy to the Policy Director

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Dealing with the performance of cohesion policy funds and their link to EU economic governance. She joined the Commission in 2010 and served as Head of Cabinet of Kristalina Georgieva, Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response and Budget and Human Resources. Previously, she worked as the Head of ECOFIN in the PR of Bulgaria to the EU, the MoF of Bulgaria and the private sector.



Iliana Ivanova

Dean of Chamber II "Investment for cohesion, growth and inclusion"

European Court of Auditors

Dean of Chamber II covering Cohesion and Reporting Member for a number of performance audits. She is a former Member of the European Parliament, where she was Vice-Chair of the Committee on Budgetary Control and the Special Committee on the Economic Crisis. She holds a Master's degree in International Economic Relations from the University of Economics in Varna and an MBA from the Arizona State University.

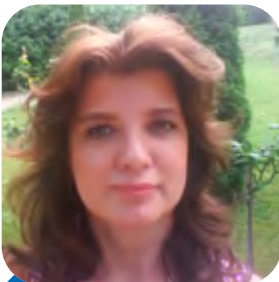


Stéphane Jacobzone

Head of the Evidence, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Directorate for Public Governance

OECD

He has developed work on the evidence, monitoring and evaluation. This included a comparative report on policy evaluation covering over 42 countries, analysis of standards of evidence, and capacity for strengthening evidence informed policy making. He has contributed to developing several public governance activities, including policy advisory systems and the evidence to decision making interface, public sector resilience, strategic agility and innovation, disaster risk management and illicit trade.



Henriette Kiss

Head of Evaluation & Planning Unit Department for Monitoring & Evaluation

Prime Minister's Office, Hungary

Previously she has been responsible for the communication of evaluations for 10 years. She holds a MA degree in English, Hungarian Literature and Linguistics and a certificate in Public Relations. She held various positions in public relations at the Budapest District Heating Company, and managed development projects at the British Council in Hungary.



Jan-Philipp Kramer

Principal and Head of EU Services

Prognos AG, Belgium

His focus is on European funding policy (e.g., ERDF, smart specialisation), strategy development and evaluation of funding programmes. In addition, he supports clients in important transformation topics for economic development, such as digitalisation or the circular economy. Dr Kramer's clients include the European Commission (DG REGIO, DG GROW) as well as national and regional ministries in Germany. He holds a PhD in Economic Geography from Hannover University & UC Berkeley



Carla Leal

Head of Strategic Evaluation and Monitoring Unit

Agency for Development and Cohesion, Portugal

She is the head of the Unit responsible for the coordination of the Portuguese Monitoring and Evaluation Network and the Global Evaluation Plan for the ESIF Funds. She is a senior representative of Portugal in the Networks promoted by the European Commission related with evaluation and has a strong experience in the negotiations of EU Funds regarding the regulation negotiations and the programming of PA and Ops. She is an Economist, holding a Master's degree in Territorial Economic Management.



Marc Lemaître

Director-General for Regional and Urban Policy

European Commission

Previously, he has been Director of the Office for Administration and Payment of individual entitlements, Head of the private office of Budget Commissioner Lewandowski, and Head of the private offices of Regional Policy Commissioners Hübner and Samecki. Before joining the Commission, he worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg. He holds a Master degree in European Economics from the College of Europe in Bruges.



Katerina Mantouvalou

Director, Europe Policy

ICF, United Kingdom

She leads the Education, Skills and Employment team and she has 16 years' experience in EU-level research and evaluation. She has successfully managed or directed more than 40 assignments on behalf of EU institutions (e.g. DG EMPL, DG COMM, DG JUST, EIGE, Eurofound and FRA) as well as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank and the United Nations. Katerina has a PhD in Political Science from University College London.



Véronique Ménez

Coordinator of European Funds

National Agency for Territorial Cohesion, France

She is in charge of coordinating the network of 19 managing authorities on monitoring and evaluation issues. In the past, she was working as an evaluator and has a 13 years' experience in designing and evaluating operational programmes (ERDF, ESF, EAFRD, EMFF).



Elena Meroni

Senior researcher at Competence Centre on Microeconomic Evaluation (CC-ME)

European Commission, Joint Research Centre

She holds a PhD in Statistics from the University of Padua. Her main research interests are policy evaluation, economics of education, labour economics, applied microeconometrics.



Younous Omarjee

Chair of the Committee on Regional Development

European Parliament

He has been the chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Regional Development since 2019, as well as member of the Budgets and Budgetary Control Committees. He sits within the group of The Left in the European Parliament (GUE-NGL), and is part of the French delegation of the France Insoumise movement.



Mihai Panaite

Evaluation Officer, Evaluation and European Semester Unit

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

Previously he worked in the Policy Development Unit of OLAF. Before joining the Commission, he worked in the Ministry of Finance and the Permanent Representation of Romania to the EU. He studied Political Economy in Bucharest and has a Master's degree in European Political Economy from the LSE.



Lilyana Pavlova

Vice-President

European Investment Bank

She has worked in the field of Cohesion Policy and management of European funds since 1997, as a Member of the National Assembly of Bulgaria, Minister for the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2018 and Minister of Regional Development for two mandates. She holds a PhD in Economics, a Master's degree in Public Administration and European Integration and a bachelor degree in International Economic Relations.



Gérard Pogorel

Professor emeritus of Economics

Institut Polytechnique de Paris-Telecom Paris Graduate School of Engineering, CNRS Interdisciplinary Institute for Innovation, France

He is an independent international expert in telecommunications, media and the digital economy. He was Chair of the European Union Framework Research & Technology Development Programme Monitoring Panel, and Chair of the Monitoring Committee of the EU Information Society and Technologies Research Programme. He conducted numerous evaluations as expert for the European Commission, and has published several influential position papers and reports.



Arturo Polese

Team Leader, Evaluation and European Semester Unit

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

He has an extensive background in regional policy, both in the Commission and in the Italian administration, where he was member and director of the public investment evaluation unit of the Campania region. He holds a PhD in sanitary engineering in the Milan Polytechnic and a Master's degree in environmental engineering from the Federico II University of Naples.



Slavo Radosevic

Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies

University College London, United Kingdom

He has been special advisor to the EC DG Commissioner for Regional and Urban Policy (2015-2019), researcher at University of Sussex SPRU and in Croatia, and government economist and Federal Under-secretary for Development in the former Yugoslavia. He has published extensively in international journals on innovation policy issues. He acts as an expert for the EC, OECD, UNESCO, UNIDO, World Bank, UNECE and Asian Development Bank and EU governments.



Duarte Rodrigues

Vice-President

Agency for Development and Cohesion, Portugal

Portuguese delegate to the OECD Regional Development Policy Committee (since 2008) and the President of its Working Party on Territorial Indicators (2010-2017). Deputy Coordinator of the NSRF Observatory (2008-2013); Adviser of the Secretary of State for Regional Development (2005-2008) and Head of the Territorial Statistics Unit in Statistics Office (1999-2005).



Dominika Rogalińska

Director of the Spatial and Environmental Surveys Department

Statistics, Poland

She has many years of experience in the implementation of statistical surveys, methodological and conceptual work on the development of spatial statistics, implementation of public policy monitoring systems and management of projects co-financed from EU funds. She is a graduate of the Faculty of Economic Sciences at the University of Warsaw (MA), PhD student at the Collegium of Socio-Economics of the Warsaw School of Economics.



Audronė Sadauskaitė

Researcher

Visionary Analytics, Lithuania

Her work focuses on evaluations and impact assessments of European and national SME, education and digitalisation policies, with many intersections in between. She has extensive experience with evaluation of national programmes supported by European Structural and Investment Funds. She has recently contributed to several national evaluations of 2014-2020 measures, and coordinated technical assistance to the Managing Authority of Lithuania to prepare for the 2021-2027 programming period.



Nuno Manuel Oliveira dos Santos

President

Agency for Development and Cohesion, Portugal

From 2010 to 2020 he was the CEO and Global Marketing Director of Gf Group (now Intetum). Prior he was on the Board of Portuguese Tourism National Authority and Manager at the Portuguese Mission Unit for the Development of Knowledge Society and eGovernment.



Emanuela Sirtori

Senior Researcher

CSIL Centre for Industrial Studies, Italy

She has accumulated considerable know-how in the application of both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis, and the use of regional, sectoral, company and patent data. In two recent projects with DG REGIO, she has coordinated the EU-wide collection, harmonisation and analysis of monitoring data of projects and beneficiaries funded by ERDF/CF Operational Programmes.



Ivars Solovjovs

Board member

Cetera SIA, Latvia

He is a business and IT consultant with more than 20 year experience in the area of strategy development, public sector modernization, planning and implementation of IT projects as well as project evaluation. Prior to his current occupation as owner and leading consultant of small consulting company, he has worked for Ernst & Young, Andersen as well leading Latvian software development companies.



Elliot Stern

Emeritus Professor of Evaluation Research

Lancaster University, United Kingdom

His work focuses on evaluation strategy development; methodological choice; and how to embed impact evaluations in complex policy settings. He was lead author of the initial EVALSED Guide and advises on evaluation quality for the EU, OECD and UN agencies. Elliot is Emeritus Professor of Evaluation Research, Lancaster University; past President of the European Evaluation Society; and edits Evaluation – international journal of Theory, research and practice.



Normunds Strautmanis

Deputy Head of Evaluation

Unit Ministry of Finance, Latvia

He has been working with evaluation of EU funds for the past 8 years at the EU funds Managing Authority (ministry of Finance) of Latvia. He has been involved in commissioning and performing evaluations within different fields of interventions covering both ESF and ERDF/CF activities like urban development, human capital, environment, climate, business support etc. Normunds has been representing Latvia in REGIO Evaluation Network and ESF Evaluation Partnership.



Andriana Sukova

Deputy Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

European Commission

She is in charge of the European Semester process and the analytical backing of policy making, and for the funds supporting employment and social policy. She joined the European Commission in 2007 as a member of the Cabinet of the Commissioner for consumer protection. In 2010 she joined DG EMPL as a Director for the preparation of the legislation and implementation of the European Social Fund and European Globalisation Adjustment Fund, as well as on budget and performance reporting.



Jos Vaessen

Adviser, Independent Evaluation Group

World Bank

He has been working in evaluation research since 1998, first as an academic evaluation consultant and later on as a lead evaluator. He has conducted and led evaluations for multilateral and bilateral development organizations in a range of policy fields such as agriculture, environment, science, education, health and others. Since 2016 he has been leading the Methods Advisory Function at IEG.



Silvia Vignetti

Director, Development and Evaluation Unit

CSIL Centre for Industrial Studies, Italy

She is specialised in Regional Development and EU Cohesion Policy with a long track record of study and evaluation assignments. She is an expert in the design, planning and evaluation of infrastructure investments, as well as in Cost-Benefit Analysis. Her more recent research interests include the socio-economic impact of Research Infrastructures. Along with her research activity, she is the Director of the Evaluation team at CSIL and deals with contract and project management.



John Walsh

Team Leader, Evaluation and European Semester Unit

European Commission, DG Regional and Urban Policy

He is a team leader in the Evaluation and European Semester unit of the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy in the European Commission. In his functions, he works on ESIF Open Data, and the monitoring and evaluation of 2014–2020 programmes. He has a wide experience in issues linked to coordinating the implementation of the Structural and Cohesion Funds. He was coordinator for the 2018 Annual Summary report.



Rob Williams

Senior Consultant

Trinomics, United Kingdom

His recent European Commission evaluation experience includes the Biodiversity strategy, 7th EAP, ELV Directive, Batteries Directive and LIFE programme for DG ENV; Oils Stocks Directive and Energy reporting (in line with the Energy Union) for DG ENER and the Effort Sharing Decision and the Carbon Capture and Storage Directive Directives for DG CLIMA.



Michael Wimmer

Director of Strategy, Better Regulation & Corporate Governance

European Commission, Secretariat-General

After having headed several units in the Secretariat-General: 'Multiannual Financial Framework and Annual Management Cycle', 'Corporate Management, Budget and Administration', 'Internal Market and Competitiveness' and 'Coreper II'. He joined the European Commission in 2003 after having been a Diplomat in the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Austrian Embassy in Paris and the Permanent Representation of Austria to the European Union.



Małgorzata Zub

Social researcher

Evalo, Poland

Since 2007 has conducted evaluation and diagnostic studies supporting the design and improvement of public policies. Her main areas of expertise include education and training (transversal skills, use of technology), employment, social inclusion, the civil society, cross-sectoral collaboration, and programme management and implementation. She has been working with international and national evaluation companies, as well as at the Educational Research Institute (IBE).



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