

9th CONFERENCE ON THE EVALUATION OF EU COHESION POLICY, 16-17 SEPTEMBER 2021
“Shaping Transitions with Evidence”
Alfandega Conference Centre, Porto, PORTUGAL

NB: Session hours refer to Porto local time (1 hour behind Brussels time)

The plenary sessions of the conference are 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 the Evaluation Unit, Czech Republic
- **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 Department of Spatial and Environmental Research, Central Statistical Office, 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, European Commission

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
- **Carla Leal**, Head of the Strategic Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, Agency for Development and Cohesion, Portugal
- **Stéphane Jacobzone**, Head of the Evidence, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, OECD
- **Jan 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

Languages: 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:

- **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