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 Černač, 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
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 Michielis, 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
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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
- Maríá 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:

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