



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI



Instrumente Structurale  
2014-2020

# **Evaluation of ESIF interventions in Europe. Between tradition and innovation**

**Bucharest, 5 – 6 May 2022**



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International  
conference

# EVALUATION OF ESIF INTERVENTIONS IN EUROPE. BETWEEN TRADITION AND INNOVATION

5 - 6 May 2022,  
Bucharest, Romania

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# INTRODUCTION

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The international conference “**Evaluation of ESIF interventions in Europe. Between tradition and innovation**” aims to support development of approaches to evaluation of public policy interventions during 2021-2027 programming period based on the lessons learned from the evaluation of ESIF 2014-2020.

The structure of the event includes debate panels organized as plenary sessions, as well as thematic sessions for sharing of practices and lessons learned.

The event enjoys the active contribution of European and national officials, representatives of the academic and research institutions, as well as international evaluation professionals.

The event is organized by the **Ministry of Investments and European Projects**, together with the **Romanian Evaluation Network** within the project “**Technical assistance to support the evaluation capacity**” financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Operational Program for Technical Assistance 2014-2020.



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# ADRESSES



## ON-SITE ATTENDANCE



### HOTEL RADISSON BLU

Calea Victoriei, 63 - 81 District 1  
10065 Bucharest, Romania

### ONLINE ATTENDANCE

Streaming through the **Zoom** platform





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# AGENDA

## THURSDAY 5 MAY 2022, Day 1

09:30 Registration of participants

10:00 **Welcome speech**

10:15 **Interventions (2):**

- The Covid-19 pandemic - implications for public policies on increasing the resilience capacity
- Transition towards a digital society and implications for public policies

10:45 **Plenary session 1 (debate):**

- Evaluation of ESIF interventions - keeping up with the change?

12:00 Coffee break

12:20 **Plenary session 2 (debate):**

- Lessons learned from Cohesion Policy evaluation for the recovery of post-pandemic Europe

13:30 Lunch

14:30 **Thematic sessions: *Interventions with impact and evidence-based evaluations***

- Thematic Session 1: *A Europe closer to the citizens and more inclusive*
- Thematic Session 2: *Research, development, and innovation in the digital age*
- Thematic Session 3: *Competitiveness and sustainable development in the European Union territories*

16:45 **Closing remarks Day 1**



# AGENDA

## FRIDAY 6 MAY 2022, Day 2

09:30 Registration of participants

10:00 **Welcome Speech Day 2**

10:15 **Plenary session 3 (debate):**

- Evaluators in cyberspace: navigating through the data

11:45 Coffee break

12:10 **Plenary session 4 (conclusions):**

- Evaluation of ESIF interventions - where are we and where do we want to get?

13:30 **Conference closing speech**

13:35 Lunch

# SESSIONS PRESENTATION

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The International Conference „**Evaluation of ESIF interventions in Europe. Between tradition and innovation**” aims to support the European approaches to evaluations of targeted public policy interventions over the programming period 2021-2027, based on lessons learned from 2014-2020 ESIF evaluations, targeting:



Challenges and opportunities in public policy evaluation which emerged during the Covid-19 pandemic, and the pressing need for digitalization;



Changes or transformations likely to be expected over the next years in the field of evaluation and in the actual modus operandi of organizations;



The need and capacity of adaptation to the new global trends, as well as the possible reluctance to change of evaluation actors;



Sharing the results obtained and lessons learned over the programming period 2014-2020 in social policies, research, development and innovation and territorial cohesion.

The conference proposes a forum for sharing best practices in the field of evaluation in order to support shaping the approach to the evaluation of FESI-funded programs over the period 2021-2027.

# SESSIONS PRESENTATION

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THURSDAY 5 May 2022, Day 1

## Plenary session 1 (debate):

### EVALUATION OF ESIF INTERVENTIONS - KEEPING UP WITH THE CHANGE?

#### Topics of debate:

- What were the challenges of evaluation in the last 3 years (e.g., fast moving context, closure and opening of new programming period, GDPR rules)?
- How were the challenges overcome?
- Is the evaluation still fit for purpose given its role to support policy formulation effectively?
- What should be changed to tackle challenges and make evaluation more effective?

## Plenary session 2 (debate):

### LESSONS LEARNED FROM COHESION POLICY EVALUATION FOR THE RECOVERY OF POST-PANDEMIC EUROPE

#### Topics of debate:

- The Cohesion Policy between results and impact: what did we do right and what could we have done better? Case studies: (i) Green, digitalized, and automated economy, (ii) Skilled, mobile labor in a remote work regime, (iii) Sustainability and climate change and (iv) Demographics, poverty, and inclusion;
- How were the lessons learned integrated into the design of Recovery and Resilience Facility;
- Did lessons learned from the implementation of Cohesion Policy support appropriate delivery mechanisms for RRF?
- How to enhance synergies between Cohesion Policy and Recovery and Resilience Mechanism for a smarter, greener and more inclusive Europe? How can evaluation support better synergies?



# SESSIONS PRESENTATION

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**Thematic sessions:** Interventions with an impact and evidence-based evaluations

## THEMATIC SESSION 1 - A EUROPE CLOSER TO CITIZENS AND MORE INCLUSIVE

### Topics - Case studies:

- Investing in education: young people and skills for the jobs of the future;
- Between labor mobility and labor market flexibility: training, skills, and policies to keep up with the change;
- A Europe for all: less discriminated, less poor, less excluded.

## THEMATIC SESSION 2 - RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND INNOVATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

### Topics - Case studies:

- Small-scale research and innovation for global transformation: small and medium-sized enterprises;
- Digital transformation on all levels: where are we in full pandemic times?
- Shaping the post-industrial society: from services to disruptive technologies;
- Entrepreneurs and researchers: working together for a better world.

## THEMATIC SESSION 3 - SUSTAINABLE TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE EUROPEAN UNION

### Topics - Case studies:

- Smart specialization and integrated territorial strategies;
- Strong, competitive cities and regions, with sustainable economies;
- Interconnectivity and accessibility - enhancing the life quality and encouraging social cohesion in and among territories.



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# SESSIONS PRESENTATION

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FRIDAY 6 May 2022, Day 2

## Plenary session 3 (debate):

### EVALUATORS IN THE CYBERSPACE: NAVIGATING THROUGH THE DATA

#### Topics for debate:

- Innovative methods for data collection, processing and visualization;
- Big data, open data & micro data: how can they be used to increase the quality of evaluations?
- Data in progress: regulations and practical and ethical implications for evaluators.

## Plenary session 4 (debate):

### EVALUATION OF ESIF INTERVENTIONS - WHERE ARE WE AND WHERE DO WE WANT TO GET?

#### Topics for debate:

- Presentation of the conclusions of previous plenary and thematic sessions.

# LIST OF SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS



**DAVID ALBA, Speaker**

Team Leader  
Evaluation and European Semester, DG REGIO, the European Commission



**FRANCESCA ARDIZZON, Speaker**

Researcher  
Centre for Industrial Studies(CSIL), Italy



**ARNAULD BERTRAND, Moderator**

Partner, EY Global Public Sector Leader  
Professor, SciencesPo, France



**SERGIU CONSTANTIN BURLACU, Speaker**

Researcher  
FBK-IRVAPP, Institute for the Evaluation of Public Policies, Italy



**VASILICA CIUCĂ, Speaker**

General Director  
National Institute for Scientific Research for Labor Market and Social Protection, Romania



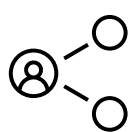
**MIRCEA COȘEA, Speaker**

Economist, Professor  
Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania



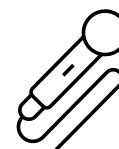
**RICCARDO CRESCENZI, Speaker**

Professor  
London School of Economics, United Kingdom



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MODERATORS



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SPEAKERS



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# LIST OF SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS

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## **ADRIANA DAVIDESCU, Speaker**

Researcher

The National Scientific Research Institute for Labour and Social Protection / Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, Romania



## **GABRIELA DRĂGAN, Speaker**

Professor, PhD

Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, Romania



## **CĂTĂLIN GHINĂRARU, Moderator**

Scientific Secretary

National Institute of Scientific Research for Labor and Social Protection, Romania



## **MICHELE GIOVE, Moderator**

Senior Manager,

Ernst & Young Romania



## **OCTAVIAN GROZA, Speaker**

Professor, PhD

Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iasi, Romania



## **ZINTIS HERMANSONS, Speaker**

Project Expert

Project Development and Coordination at ESPON EGTC, Luxemburg



## **MICHAL HORACEK, Speaker**

Vice-President Of The Czech Evaluation Society

EY Czech Republic

# LIST OF SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS

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**BENCE KISS-DOBRONYI, Speaker**

Senior Economist  
Cambridge Econometrics, United Kingdom



**JAN KRAMER, Speaker**

Director Prognos  
AG Bruxelles, Belgium



**CRISTINA LINCARU, Speaker**

1st degree Scientific Researcher, National Scientific Research  
Institute for Labour and Social Protection, Romania



**LILIANA LUCACIU, Speaker**

Evaluation expert,  
LIDEEA Development, Romania



**CLAUDIA MĂGDĂLINA, Speaker**

Head of Service, Programs' Evaluation and Social Cohesion Policies  
Service, Ministry of Investments and European Projects, Romania



**VÉRONIQUE MENEZ, Speaker**

European Funds Coordinator  
National Agency for Territorial Cohesion, France



**ROBERTO MUSMECI, Speaker**

Data Scientist And Policy Evaluation Expert  
DG Regio



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# LIST OF SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS

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## **RADU NECŞULIU, Moderator**

ad Of The Territorial Analysis And Databases Service  
General Directorate for Regional Development and Infrastructure,  
Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, Romania



## **JOZEF PACOLET, Moderator**

Professor  
KU Leuven, Belgia



## **MIHAI PANAITE, Speaker**

Evaluation officer  
Evaluation&European Semester Unit, DG Regio, European Commission



## **ALINA-MARIA PÂRÂIALĂ, Speaker**

Chief,  
The Authority for the Digitalization of Romania, Romania



## **DRAGOŞ PÎSLARU, Speaker**

Economist, MEP  
European Pariliament Member, Romania



## **ARTURO POLESE, Speaker**

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



## **MONICA ROMAN, Speaker**

Professor With The Department For Statistics And Econometrics  
Bucharest University, Research Fellow, the Institute for Labour  
Economy (IZA), Romania

# LIST OF SPEAKERS AND CHAIRS

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**MAREK ROZKRUT, Speaker**

Partner,  
Leader EY EMEIA, Poland



**AUDRONĖ SADAUSKAITĖ, Speaker**

Research Manager,  
Visionary Analytics, Lithuania



**ELLIOT STERN, Moderator**

Professor Emeritus, Lancaster University  
Director, ELESCO Consulting Limited, United Kingdom



**GÁBOR TÓTH, Speaker**

Senior Policy Officer  
European Commission, DG EMPL



**IONUȚ ȚAȚA, Speaker**

CEO @Iceberg / Board Member @The Institute Entrepreneur  
investor Creative Industries / technology / 'green tech', Romania



**ANNE THOLLARD, Speaker**

Directorate-General, Regional and Urban Policy - Budget,  
Communication and General Affairs - Communication (Regio.A.2)



**ALESSANDRO VALENZA, Speaker**

Partner and Founder  
T33, Italy



**SILVIA VIGNETTI, Moderator**

Director Of Evaluation Studies  
Centre for Industrial Studies (CSIL), Italy

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

*Agenda and Program for the International Conference “**Evaluation of ESIF interventions in Europe. Between tradition and innovation**”*

*May 5-6, 2022, Bucharest, Romania*

*This document was elaborated within the service contract no. 51069 / 12.07.2018 “Technical assistance to support the evaluation capacity”.*

*The views expressed in the report are those of Ernst & Young S.R.L., Qures Quality Research and Support S.R.L. and the National Institute for Scientific Research in the Field of Labor and Social Protection (INCSMPS) and does not necessarily represent the point of view of the Ministry of Investment and European Projects.*

*Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund under the Technical Assistance Operational Program 2014-2020*