



International Evaluation Conference

Cohesion Policy 2014–2020:
Towards Evidence Based Programming and Evaluation

4–5 July 2013
Vilnius, Lithuania

Draft Programme

8 May 2013

Event of the Lithuanian Presidency of the EU Council

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania and the European Commission kindly invite you to the 5th international conference held in Lithuania on the evaluation of EU Structural Funds. This year's conference will largely focus on the programming and evaluation of EU Structural Funds for 2014–2020.

The upcoming programming period envisages new priorities for the use of Structural Funds and their evaluation. Increasing importance of the intervention logic in the Cohesion Policy, changing monitoring and evaluation arrangements, elaboration of the monitoring system, use of more robust methods to measure changes and impacts of Structural Funds – these are only a few issues currently debated by the EU legislator. The Lithuanian Ministry of Finance and the European Commission invite you to discuss new organisational, procedural and methodological aspects of EU Structural Funds in the next programming period, intervention logic, monitoring and evaluation, as well as the results of ex-ante evaluations of operational programmes of the next programming period.

Lithuania holds the Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2013, and this conference is one of the presidency events. The Ministry of Finance is very pleased that the Lithuanian Presidency will pay special attention to programming and evaluation of EU Structural Funds. The Ministry sincerely hopes that ideas shared by conference participants will contribute to successful programming of EU Structural Funds for 2014–2020 and that their monitoring and evaluation will start on a smooth note and meet all expectations and needs of both the Commission and the Member States.

We look forward to seeing you in Vilnius!



Conference Host

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Target Group

The conference intends to bring together officials from Lithuania and other EU Member States, representatives of the EU institutions, responsible for programming, monitoring and evaluation of EU Structural Funds, representatives from academia, socio-economic partners and other stakeholders with an interest in evaluation.

Date

4–5 July 2013

Venue

Conference Centre at the *Radisson SAS Blu Lietuva Hotel* (20, Konstitucijos ave.), Vilnius

Working Languages

Lithuanian and English with simultaneous interpretation

Conference Website

www.esparama.lt/2007-2013/en

Important Deadlines

Early-bird **registration** for conference participants is open until **31 May 2013**.

CONFERENCE THEME

Against the background of tight public budgets and ever growing social disparities across the EU, Cohesion Policy has come under pressure to focus more on results and effectiveness of the Funds' support and pay particular attention to the objectives set out in the Europe 2020 strategy. The Commission's proposals for revising the Regulations governing Cohesion Policy have put effectiveness of the Funds and the Europe 2020 strategy as a key anchor for the coming programming period. Amongst others, **the Commission has proposed a different approach to programming and intervention logic and to monitoring and evaluation.**

- ❖ *Programming* aims at proper identification of challenges and needs and formulation of a corresponding, adequate and realistic intervention which addresses the challenges and needs and contributes to the Europe 2020 Strategy objectives at national or regional level.
- ❖ The task of *monitoring* is to record data for input, output and result indicators.
- ❖ *Evaluation* seeks to measure the efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the Funds by answering whether, to what extent, how and why the interventions contributed to the results sought.

From the very start, programming must lay the ground and establish a reference point for monitoring and evaluation of operational programmes. **Already now it is crucial to put a greater emphasis on planning the support and developing indicators, to establish a system which allows storing robust monitoring data, and to establish an evaluation plan setting out ongoing evaluations aiming at evaluating impacts of interventions and distinguish that from other factors.**

Ex-ante evaluations of operational programmes 2014–2020 focus not only on tasks that are typical for such evaluation (for instance, evaluation of the relevance of priorities and their compatibility with key strategic documents, or measurement of administrative resources), **but also on the relevance and adequacy of programme indicators and evaluation systems.** This will ensure to set a proper foundation for the implementation of the new legislative requirements at the beginning of the new programming period.

The international conference will take place in Vilnius on the eve of the new programming period, when all EU Member States are fully familiar with the new regulatory requirements and have already taken first steps to prepare for their implementation. This makes it a perfect moment to discuss the state of play of the preparation for the new period in the Member States and European Commission, share good practices, and reflect on the first results of the ex-ante evaluations.

The conference will discuss programming and evaluation of EU Structural Funds in 2014–2020, including:

- ❖ **new approach to the intervention logic and new requirements for programme monitoring and evaluation;**
- ❖ **methodological, organisational and procedural aspects of the evaluation of EU Structural Funds;**
- ❖ **results of ex-ante evaluations of operational programmes of the upcoming period.**

The worrying unemployment situation and the increasing risk of social exclusion of certain groups of the population in the EU make the interventions supported by the European Social Fund (ESF) particularly relevant for the next programming period. Therefore, when discussing the changes proposed in programming, monitoring and evaluation of EU Structural Funds, the **conference will have a special focus on ESF interventions, namely employment, social inclusion and education, administrative capacity building and other relevant social fields.** Compared to hard infrastructure interventions, planning and evaluation of ESF interventions are relatively more complex. Designing social intervention logic models, as well as monitoring and assessing results require sound methodologies which also take into consideration other factors contributing to the impact of social interventions. This makes the conference, which will address all central aspects of programming and evaluation of EU financial support, an excellent place to look deeper into ESF funded interventions.

SESSION TOPICS

The overall objective of the conference is to discuss and share information about the evaluation of EU Structural Funds and its findings, explore theoretical, methodological and practical aspects of evaluation, promote cooperation and networking among public authorities and evaluators from Lithuania and other MSs.

The first day of the conference will cover programming and evaluation of the Cohesion Policy in 2014–2020, including such issues as designing the intervention logic, selecting monitoring indicators, adjusting monitoring and evaluation systems and new organisational, procedural and methodological needs in the field of evaluation, etc.

The second day of the conference will deal with the programming, monitoring and evaluation of the ESF. It will look at evaluations of ESF interventions, conducted by the Commission and MSs, how effective they were and what will be relevant or should be changed in the fields of ESF programming and evaluation from 2014.

The conference will discuss the results of ex-ante evaluations of operational programmes 2014–2020. This July many Member States will already have intermediary, if not final, results of ex-ante evaluations of operational programmes for the next programming period. These results will bring more clarity into the debates and new insights into capacities and needs of Member States in the preparation for the new programming period.

DRAFT PROGRAMME

DAY 1		
Opening of the Conference	9:00-9:45	Welcome Speeches and Opening Remarks by Conference Hosts Representative of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania - tbc Representative of the European Commission - tbc
	Plenary session I	Result Orientation and Logic of Intervention in the Upcoming Programming Period <i>Presentations, discussion</i> Chair: tbc
9:45-11:00		Results and Performance for Cohesion Policy – a Step Change for the Future Veronica Gaffey, European Commission, DG REGIO and Antonella Schulte-Braucks, European Commission, DG EMPL Application of New Concepts in Programming: Lithuania’s Experience Ramūnas Dilba, Ministry of Finance, Lithuania Stimulating Sustainable Growth Using Cohesion Policy: Realistic or a Holy Grail? Dr. J. Bradley, EMDS Consulting, Ireland
11:00-11:30		Coffee break
Plenary session II	11:30-12:45	Role of the Ex-Ante Evaluation for Developing Operational Programmes <i>Presentations, Q&A</i> Chair: tbc
		Ex-ante Evaluation of the EU Structural Funds: the New Challenges of 2014–2020 Haroldas Brožaitis, PPMI, Lithuania
		Evidenced-Based Programming – the Role of Ex-Ante Evaluations Paul Casey, Welsh Government, Welsh European Funding Office, United Kingdom Getting and Keeping All on Board: the Added Value of Ex-Ante Evaluation to R&D Stakeholder Management in Operational Programmes Dr. Derek Jan Fikkers, Technopolis Group, The Netherlands
Lunch	12:45-14:00	
Plenary session III	14:00-15:30	Evaluation of Cohesion Policy after 2013: Need for More Robust Methods, Reliability and Availability of Data <i>Presentations, discussion</i> Chair: Dr. Egidijus Barcevičius, PPMI, Lithuania
		title of the presentation tbc Prof. Michael Wiseman, The George Washington Institute of Public Policy, United States
		Experience of Counterfactual Impact Evaluation in the CZ OP HRE, Case of Enterprise Support Dr. Vladimír Kváča, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Czech Republic Dr. Oto Potluka, University of Economics Prague, Czech Republic Network Analysis as a Method of Evaluating Support of Enterprise Networks in ERDF Projects Tamás Lahdelma, Urban Research TA Ltd, Finland Measurement Indicators for Evaluation: We get What We Measure Diana Eerma, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, University of Tartu, Estonia
Coffee break	15:30-16:00	
Parallel sessions	16:00-17:15	Challenges of the New Programming Period for the Programming and Evaluation of Cohesion Policy <i>Presentations, discussion</i>
		❖ Programming (parallel session 1.1)
		Chair: tbc
		Programming for 2014–20 and the Implications for Performance Dr. John Bachtler, European Policy Research Centre (EPRC), Strathclyde University, United Kingdom Programming the Contribution of Culture for Economic Development and Societal Cohesion: in Search of the Theory of Change Eglė Saudargaitė, Ministry of Culture, Darius Žeruolis, ESTEP, Lithuania Concept of Intervention Logic in Preparation of 2014–2020 Programmes – the Case of Czech Republic Lenka Sekyrova, Ministry for Regional Development, Czech Republic
		❖ Evaluation (parallel session 1.2)
Chair: Dr. Vitalis Nakrošis, PPMI, Lithuania		
Quality and Use of Results of EU Structural Funds Evaluation in Lithuania. Standards for EU Structural Funds Evaluation Dr. Vitalis Nakrošis, PPMI, Lithuania Can Participatory Evaluation Approach Trigger an Increased Demand for Results of Relevant Stakeholders in 2014+ Programming Period? Krunoslav Karlovceć, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Slovenia 2003–2023 Brief History of Two Decades of Cohesion Policy Evaluation & Result Oriented Approach Stanislaw Bienias, Evaluation Expert and Head of National Evaluation Unit in Poland, Poland		
Conclusion of Day 1 Chairs of parallel sessions		
Social programme		tbc

DAY 2				
Opening of Day 2	9:15-9:45	Welcome Speeches and Opening Remarks by Conference Hosts Representative of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania - tbc Georg Fischer, European Commission, DG EMPL		
	Plenary session IV 9:45-10:45	Experience and Lessons Learnt from Programming and Evaluation of the European Social Fund 2007–2013 <i>Presentations, discussion</i> Chair: Nijolė Mackevičienė, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Lithuania		
Overview of ESF Evaluations by Member States in the Current Programming Period Antonella Schulte-Braucks, European Commission, DG EMPL Challenges Addressed? The Contribution of ESF to Ameliorating Employment and Social Inclusion Situation in Lithuania during 2007–2013 Dr. Egidijus Barcevičius, PPMI, Lithuania How does the Institutionalisation of Development Policy Influence the Effectiveness of ESF Interventions? Evidence from the Evaluation of Human Development Programmes in Hungary Gábor Balás, HÉTFA Research Institute, Hungary				
Coffee break	10:45-11:15			
Parallel sessions	11:15-12:30	Challenges and Needs for Programming and Evaluation in Different ESF Fields <i>Presentations, Q&A</i>		
		❖ Employment and Social Inclusion (parallel session 2.1)	❖ Education and Life-Long Learning (parallel session 2.2)	❖ Institutional Capacity and the Efficiency of Public Administrations (parallel session 2.3)
		Chair: Stephen Morris, National Centre for Social Research, United Kingdom Rapporteur: tbc	Chair: Antonella Schulte-Braucks, European Commission, DG EMPL Rapporteur: Dr. Žilvinas Martinatis, Visionary Analytics, Lithuania	Chair: Manuela Geleng, European Commission, DG EMPL Rapporteur: Dr. Klaudijus Maniokas, ESTEP, Lithuania
		Using Quantitative Theory Based / Counterfactual Impact Evaluation to Evaluate Actions for The Unemployed Benedict Wauters, ESF Agency Flanders, Belgium Impact of the ESF “Fight Against Discrimination Operational Programme” Managed by Non-Profit organisations in Spain José Manuel Fresno, Network of NGOs managing operators under the OP: Spanish Red Cross, Fundación ONCE, Fundación Secretariado Gitano, Caritas, Spain Let the Administrative Data Speak: a Lesson from Vocational Training Evaluation in the Province of Turin Elena Santanera, National Research Council (CERIS-Cnr), Italy	Lessons Learned for Monitoring ESF Indicators During 2007–2013 Period: the Case of Higher Education Rima Rubčinskaitė, Vilnius University, International Business School, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center, Lithuania Supporting Cooperation of Education and Business – the Case of Vocational Education in Poland Agnieszka Rybińska, Institute of Educational Research, Poland Learning about the Effectiveness of EU Structural Fund Projects in Italian Schools: a Large Scale RCT for Math Teachers Annamaria Leuzzi, Ministry of Education; Aline Pennisi, Ministry of Economy and INVALSI, Italy	title of the presentation tbc Manuela Geleng, European Commission, DG EMPL The Institutional Bottleneck Dr. Rolf Boehnke, AGEF, Germany Creation of Intervention Methods and Solutions in Administrative Capacity and Efficiency of Public Sector Fields of ESF Programmes Antanas Šabanas, Municipality of Birštonas, Lithuania
Plenary session V & closing of the conference	12:30-13:30	Preparation for the New Programming Period: What Is Most Relevant for ESF Interventions, Their Monitoring and Evaluation? <i>Summary of the Day 2, conclusions from the conference</i> Chair: tbc		
		Conclusion of parallel sessions 2.1–2.3: Rapporteurs of parallel sessions Closing remarks Georg Fisher, European Commission, DG EMPL Representative of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania - tbc		
Lunch	13:30-14:30			

NB! Please note that the conference programme as presented in this document is still a draft. The final programme will be announced in the end of May.