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

4–5 July 2013
Vilnius, Lithuania

Draft Programme
24 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

Important Deadlines
Early-bird registration for conference participants is open until 31 May 2013.
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 distinguishing 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.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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| 9:00-9:45| Opening of the Conference                                                                                      | Welcome Speeches and Opening Remarks by Conference Hosts  
Rimantas Šadžius, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania  
Representative of the European Commission - tbc                                                                                       |
| 9:45-11:00| Plenary session I                                                                                              | Result Orientation and Logic of Intervention in the Upcoming Programming Period  
Presentations, discussion  
Chair: Ramūnas Dilba, Ministry of Finance, Lithuania  
Results and Performance for Cohesion Policy – a Step Change for the Future  
Veronica Gaffey, European Commission, DG REGIO  
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  
Evidenced-Based Programming – the Role of Ex-Ante Evaluations  
Dr. Derek Jan Fikkers, Technopolis Group, The Netherlands                                                                                     |
| 11:00-11:30| Coffee break                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                            |
| 11:30-12:45| Plenary session II                                                                                             | Role of the Ex-Ante Evaluation for Developing Operational Programmes  
Presentations, Q&A  
Chair: tbc  
Ex-ante Evaluation of the EU Structural Funds: the New Challenges of 2014–2020  
Haroldas Bražžalis, PPMI, Lithuania  
Getting and Keeping All on Board: the Added Value of Ex-Ante Evaluation to R&D Stakeholder Management in Operational Programmes  
Dr. D. J. Jan Fikkers, Technopolis Group, The Netherlands  
Evidenced-Based Programming – the Role of Ex-Ante Evaluations  
Dr. D. J. Jan Fikkers, Technopolis Group, The Netherlands                                                                                     |
| 12:45-14:00| Lunch                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                            |
| 14:00-15:30| Plenary session III                                                                                             | Evaluation of Cohesion Policy after 2013: Need for More Robust Methods, Reliability and Availability of Data  
Presentations, discussion  
Chair: Dr. Egidijus Barcevičius, PPMI, Lithuania  
title of the presentation tbc  
Experience of Counterfactual Impact Evaluation in the CZ OP HRE, Case of Enterprise Support  
Dr. Vladimir 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 Ladhér, Urban Research TA Ltd, Finland  
Measurement Indicators for Evaluation: We get What We Measure  
Diana Berman, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, University of Tartu, Estonia                                                                 |
| 15:30-16:00| Coffee break                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                            |
| 16:00-17:15| Parallel sessions                                                                                                | Challenges of the New Programming Period for the Programming and Evaluation of Cohesion Policy  
Presentations, discussion  
Chair: tbc  
Programming (parallel session 1.1)  
Chair: Dr. Vitalis Nakrošis, PPMI, Lithuania  
Programming for 2014–2020 and the Implications for Performance  
Dr. John Bachfiller, 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, Lithuania  
Concept of Intervention Logic in Preparation of 2014–2020 Programmes – the Case of Czech Republic  
Lenka Sekyrova, Ministry for Regional Development, Czech Republic  
Conclusion of Day 1  
Chairs of parallel sessions  
Evaluation (parallel session 1.2)  
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 Karlovcec, Ministry of Finance, Slovenia  
2003–2023 Brief History of Two Decades of Cohesion Policy Evaluation & Result Oriented Approach  
Stanisław Bienias, Evaluation Expert, IDEA for Development, Poland                                                                                       |
<p>|            | Social programme                                                                                                | tbc                                                                                                                                        |</p>
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<td>Welcome Speeches and Opening Remarks by Conference Hosts</td>
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<td>Aloyzas Vitkauskas, Viceminister of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania</td>
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<td>Georg Fischer, European Commission, DG EMPL</td>
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<td>9:45-10:45</td>
<td>Experience and Lessons Learnt from Programming and Evaluation of the European Social Fund 2007–2013</td>
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<td>Presentations, discussion</td>
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<td>Chair: Nijolė Mackevičienė, Ministry of Social Security and Labour, Lithuania</td>
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<td>10:45-11:15</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>11:15-12:30</td>
<td>Challenges and Needs for Programming and Evaluation in Different ESF Fields</td>
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<td>Presentations, Q&amp;A</td>
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<td> Employment and Social Inclusion (parallel session 2.1)</td>
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<td> Education and Life-Long Learning (parallel session 2.2)</td>
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<td> Institutional Capacity and the Efficiency of Public Administrations (parallel session 2.3)</td>
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<td>Chair: Stephen Morris, National Centre for Social Research, United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Rapporteur: Benedict Wauters, ESF Agency Flanders, Belgium</td>
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<td>Chair: Antonella Schulte-Braucks, European Commission, DG EMPL</td>
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<td>Rapporteur: Dr. Žilvinas Martinatis, Visionary Analytics, Lithuania</td>
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<td>Chair: Manuela Geleng, European Commission, DG EMPL</td>
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<td>Rapporteur: Dr. Klaudijus Maniokas, ESTEP, Lithuania</td>
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<td>Summary of the Day 2, conclusions from the conference</td>
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<td>Chair: Ramūnas Dilba, Ministry of Finance, Lithuania</td>
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<td>13:30-14:30</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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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.