



11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

2016

Sharing the first experiences
of the new programming period





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FOREWORD



11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Dear Reader,
As we evaluate the economic processes of the recent past and overview the options for the future, we can see: the past years have not been without effort and so shall be the following years too.



Hungary has managed to override the recession due to the government's economic policy. As we promised, we managed to find a solution for problems deriving from the high level debt of municipalities and people and meanwhile we have managed to make a new direction for the economic development. Every important macro data reflects the sustainable development: our GDP has been exceeded the EU average not only in 2014 but also in 2015. The strength of our economy is indicated by the fact that the number of employed people increased by about half a million since the change of government in 2010 and the two third of the new jobs were created in the private sector.

Today we can claim that our performance has been increasingly acknowledged even by those who previously criticized us. There are more and more positive evaluations about the Hungarian economy,

such as the ones created by the OECD, the European Commission or the Fitch Ratings credit rating institution. Our most important goal has been achieved: Hungary has been recovered from the recession.

As for the foreseeable future I am convinced that we should set up the highest level of objectives. Because this carries forward the everyday work. This is particularly true for the upcoming period right ahead of us, because the next few years may be crucial from the long-term economic development point of view. Therefore, the plans of the government are rely simultaneously on the awareness of our aptitudes, on the result we have already achieved and on the desire to catch up to the developed industrial countries.

At the same time we wish to implement a growth perceived by everyone. This means for us that our result should be beneficial for the families and people

too. This can be achieved via decreasing the tax rates, providing tax allowances, but also it is present in the increase of the wages, expanding opportunities via acquiring professional knowledge and better living circumstances.

So as to reach the high context objectives, we have to achieve several low context goals simultaneously: going on decreasing the taxes, guarding the disciplined budget policy and create the driving force for the long-term economic development.

Taking into consideration all the objectives, the Hungarian government has decided to open every call for proposals by the summer 2017 covering the full allocated budget 2014-2020 programming period. Thus the majority of the investment may be implemented by the end of 2019. This might provide such a competitive advantage for the stakeholders in the econ-

omy that is without precedent not only in Hungary but also in the European Union. The Ministry of Economics has already opened the calls for proposals to the SME's in EDIOP for about 1000 billion forint out of the total budget of 2500-2600 forint. 80 percent of the total budget shall be available for application by the end of this year.

The Hungarian government - as a good owner - regards the Union support as an investment for the future. We work in order to utilize EU support as efficiently as it is possible in the 2014-2020 programming period. The success is a mutual thing; it can be achieved only together. I hope that this conference on the first experience of the new programming period shall provide valuable and useful information for all the participants and this knowledge can be utilized in the future too.

Mihály VARGA

Minister for National Economy

PROGRAMME



11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

THURSDAY

09 June, 2016

Budapest, Hungary

Novotel Budapest City****, H-1123 Budapest, Alkotás street 63.



ID: novotel
Password: novotel 23

9.00 - 9.30 REGISTRATION

WELCOME SPEECH, OPENING COMMENTS - Bartók Room

9.30 - 9.40 **Mihály VARGA**, Minister
Ministry for National Economy of Hungary

9.40 - 9.55 **Erich UNTERWURZACHER**, Director
European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban
Policy, Directorate for Operation Efficiency and Central Europe

9.55 - 10.10 **Andriana SUKOVA-TOSHEVA**, Director
European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment,
Social Affairs and Inclusion, Directorate for Investment

10.10 - 10.25 **Eszter VITÁLYOS**, State Secretary for EU Development Projects
Prime Minister's Office of Hungary

10.25 - 10.40 **Balázs RÁKOSSY**, State Secretary for EU Funds
Ministry for National Economy of Hungary

10.40 - 11.10 COFFEE BREAK AND TECHNICAL BREAK FOR PRESS

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMPETITIVENESS OPS IN THE RELEVANT COUNTRIES,
SHARING THE FIRST EXPERIENCES WITH THE OPENING OF THE 2014-20
PROGRAMMING PERIOD.

11.10 - 11.35 **Tomáš NOVOTNÝ**, Deputy Minister
Section of EU Funds, Research, Development, Innovations and
Investment Incentives, Ministry of Industry and Trade
of the Czech Republic

11.35 - 12.00 **Kalin MARINOV**, Deputy Director
Ministry of Economy of Bulgaria

12.00 - 12.20 QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

12.20 - 14.00 LUNCH - Arcade restaurant

14.00 - 14.25 **Svetlana GOMBOS**, General Director of Managing Authority for
Increase of Economic Competitiveness
Ministry of European Funds of Romania

14.25 - 14.50 **Tamás KARSAI**, Deputy State Secretary for Economic
Development Programmes, Ministry for
National Economy of Hungary

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS, CLOSURE OF THE FIRST DAY

14.50 - 15.20 **Adam ABDULWAHAB**, Programme Manager,
European Commission, Directorate-General for Regional and
Urban Policy, Operation Efficiency and Central Europe

PROGRAMME



11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

10 June, 2016

Budapest, Hungary

Novotel Budapest City****, H-1123 Budapest, Alkotás street 63.

FRIDAY

9.00 – 9.30 REGISTRATION

9.30 – 11.30 SECTION BLOCKS

SECTION 1

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS WITHIN
COMPETITIVENESS OPS

Section chair:

Györgyi NYIKOS

(Hungarian Development Bank)

Discussants:

- **Jana KOLARÍKOVÁ**
(European Commission- DG REGIO)
- **Magdalena PRNOBIS**
(Marshal Office of the
Pomorskie Region, Poland)
- **Velina POPOVA**
(Ministry of Economy of Bulgaria)
- **Martin POLÓNYI**
(Ministry of Finance of the
Slovak Republic)
- **András NEMESCSÓI**
(Horváth & Partners DLA Piper)

SECTION 2

AUDIT RISK MANAGEMENT IN CALLS
FOR PROPOSALS

Section chair:

Balázs DENCŐ

(DGAEF - Hungary)

Discussants:

- **Pavel HRADECKÝ**
(Ministry of Finance
of the Czech Republic)
- **Rafał MANIKOWSKI**
(Ministry of Finance of Poland)
- **Csaba NOVÁK**
(Ministry for
National Economy of Hungary)

SECTION 3

INNOVATION BRIDGE: CONVERTING
R&D INTO COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

Section chair:

Petr PORÁK

(Ministry of Industry and Trade
of the Czech Republic)

Discussants:

- **Vera VIEHRIG**
(ERDF Managing Authority
in Brandenburg)
- **Sanda HILGEN**
(National Authority for Scientific
Research and Innovation of Romania)
- **Ferenc FRIEDLER**
(National Research, Development and
Innovation Office, Hungary)

SECTION 4

SMES IN THE FOCUS: HOW TO BOOST
SMES TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE

Section chair:

Zoltán BALOGH

(European Commission, DG Employment)

Discussants:

- **Lyudmila TOZEVA**
(Ministry of Economy of Bulgaria)
- **Sanja FISER**
(Ministry of Entrepreneurship
and Crafts of Croatia)
- **Daniel PITOŇÁK**
(Slovak Business Agency)
- **Doru ZAFIU**
(National Authority for Scientific Research
and Innovation of Romania)
- **Gyula POMÁZI**
(Ministry for
National Economy of Hungary)
- **Robert WENZEL**
(Ministry of Industry and Trade of the
Czech Republic)

11.30 – 12.00 COFFEE BREAK

12.00 – 12.30 SUMMARY REPORTS BY SECTION CHAIRS

12.35 – 12.50 CLOSURE OF THE SECOND DAY IN THE BARTÓK ROOM

SUMMARY: **Adam ABDULWAHAB**

Programme Manager, European Commission

12.50 – 14.00 LUNCH - Cote Jardin restaurant

Thank you for joining us.

SECTION TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED



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SECTION 1 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS WITHIN COMPETITIVENESS OPS

Topics to be discussed in the panel are the followings:

What is the state of play of the implementation of the 2014-20 financial instruments in your country? Please share with us any information about your process setting up FIs: ex ante assessment, choices made about implementation modalities, co-operation with EIB; selection of financial intermediaries...

What is your opinion on the clarity of provisions, including delegated/implementing acts and guidance documents? Is the current legal framework providing legal certainty on FIs? How are the new FIs provisions being applied in your country? What are the main issues emerging at this stage of the implementation (e.g. uncertainties, positive versus negative evolution compared to the previous period, practical challenges, etc)?

How do you choose among the different types of FIs? Do you intend to use combinations with grants or "off the shelf" products or "SME Initiative" and why? What are the challenges you face linked to the broader thematic scope of FIs that are now available for all thematic objectives under the CPR? How does the rate of the leverage effect look like for the planned products?

What amount and proportion of the funds allocated to financial instruments was returned until now compared to the original source? How do you use the funds returned from the 2007-13 financial framework? (responsible institution, method of use, target group, supported projects)

Which are the type and scope of the verifications carried out by the MA? How to plan frequency and coverage of on-the-spot verifications proportionate to funding and to risks identified?

How to treat errors found during the verifications?

How to audit compliance/ non-compliance with market price? One of the main topics in the audits conducted by EU institutions is the market price equivalence of project budgets. What kind of methods and practice do you use to control the submitted budget by the beneficiary? At which stage of the project channel is the market price control taken/ done (e.g.: project evaluation before decision making, contracting, financing, on-the-spot check)

Please share your practical experience with the Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) method.

What are the specialities of R&D checked during audits?

SECTION 3 INNOVATION BRIDGE: CONVERTING R&D INTO COMMERCIAL SUCCESS

Topics to be discussed in the panel are the followings:

How much emphasis has the R&D&I in your competitiveness programme? Which are the main R&D&I actions/ measures in your OP?

Comparing to the previous OPs, do you use new policy instruments, approach to support R&D&I? If so, which are these instruments? (e.g.: supporting research infrastructure title, process innovation title)

How will be the conclusions of S3 strategies applied in practice at the calls for proposals focusing on R&D&I? How do S3 specializations prevail in practice at the selection criteria at R&D&I calls for proposals?

SECTION 2 AUDIT RISK MANAGEMENT IN CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

Topics to be discussed in the panel are the followings:

Identify possibilities how to improve and maximize project selection performance and how to benefit from the potential synergies for the programming period 2014-2020?

SECTION TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED



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What kind of policy instruments, measures are used to stimulate more effective cooperation between the private and the research sector? Do the clusters operating in your country/ region have any role in this cooperation?

What kind of methods do you use to assist market access of new products, services developed within the framework of the supported projects?

Do you use/ or do you plan to use so called combined measures (refundable, non- refundable) in the financing of R&D&I projects? If you use some for what purpose?

R&D&I projects are implemented mostly in/ or near capitals, regional knowledge centres, universities. What kind of instruments, incentive programs do you use to foster the appearance of R&D&I projects in territories lacking universities and research centres.

SECTION 4

SMES IN THE FOCUS: HOW TO BOOST SMES TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE

Topics to be discussed in the panel are the followings:

In which policy areas are the most important to improve according to the SMEs needs in your country?

Which are the most important aims and measures (e.g.: employment, training, internationalisation, technology modernization, investment priorities) where your Competitiveness OP support SMEs?

Do you use any focus points, specialisation (e.g. sector, size) at the call for proposals aimed to develop to SMEs? Are you supporting social economy/ social enterprises through your OP?

Do you use/ or do you plan to use so called combined measures (refundable, non- refundable) in the financing of SME projects? If you use some, are the beneficiaries pre-selected somehow (e.g.: size, sector) or a wide range of

SMEs can access this programmes? What kind of intensity rate do you use at the combined measures? Do you foresee any supplementary measures to be provided for supported SMEs (training, mentoring)?

The specifics of the less developed areas are: low business density, unfavourable employment indicators, and availability of high amount of young but unqualified workforce. Considering these characteristics do you use (and if you use, what kind) any instruments for assisting SMEs operating in these lagging behind regions (e.g. training on entrepreneurship, preferential support system, earmarked funding, mentoring)?

Shortage of qualified professionals and high unemployment rate among the low-skilled workforce with lower educational level are simultaneously present in Europe's economy. Job creation or production automation can be an answer to this problem but it can cause dilemmas as well. If you face with the same problem, what kind of measures will you use in your OP to manage the issue?



PRESENTERS



11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Adam ABDULWAHAB

(EC)

Directorate-General for Regional and
Urban Policy
Programme Manager



Mr Abdulwahab started his professional carrier in 1999 in the Hungarian Ministry of Economy. His main responsibility was to develop economic strategy, including institutional preparation for the EU Structural Funds. In 2003 he joined DG Regional Policy of the European Commission. In the beginning his work was mainly related to the accession of the 10 Member States joining the EU in 2004. He participated in developing the

mandate of European Commission for the financial period 2007-14. Between 2006 and 2014, he worked on evaluating effects of Cohesion Policy, with special focus on development and application of economic indicators. He also contributed to the result orientation framework for the financial period 2013-20. He has been working in the unit responsible for Hungary since 2014.



András NEMESCSÓI

(HU)

Horváth & Partners DLA Piper, Budapest
Partner, Head of Litigation and Regulatory
Practice Group, Budapest

András has significant expertise in both regulatory and administrative matters and high profile specialist litigations. His primary focus is on financial and corporate litigations, financial regulatory issues and EU subsidies. He has also been involved in several M&A transactions and public

equity investments. His clients include some of the biggest international investment funds and key players of the financial markets. András has been invited to the Advisory Board of the Budapest Stock Exchange and has also been appointed as a member of the Issuers' Committee.

Andriana SUKOVA- TOSHEVA

(EC)

Directorate-General for Employment,
Social Affairs and Inclusion
Director, Directorate „Investment”



Ms Andriana Sukova-Tosheva is an economist with a long experience in the public sector (more than 15 years, from researcher to a Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture) as well as in NGO sector (5 years) and business management (chairperson of the Board of Directors of a big foreign company). After Bulgaria's accession to the

EU, Ms Sukova-Tosheva joined the Cabinet of Commissioner for Consumer Protection Meglena Kuneva. In August 2010 she was appointed Director in DG EMPL where she is currently in charge of all funds in the DG - ESF and FEAD, EaSI and EGF. Ms Sukova-Tosheva has numerous post-graduate trainings in the UK, Italy, Japan, USA.

Balázs DENCSŐ Dr.

(HU)

Director General
Directorate General for Audit of European
Funds, Audit Authority,
Hungary



Since 2010, when the authority was established, Balázs Dencső has been Head of the Directorate General for Audit of European Funds (DGAEF), which is the Audit Authority for SOLID Funds as well as EU Structural Funds in Hungary. The DGAEF is responsible for preparing the strategy and planning, performing auditing as well as preparing control reports and closure declarations. Balázs

Dencső has particularly extensive expertise and practical experience in auditing public procurement in the context of EU funding. Between 2003 and 2010, Balázs Dencső was working at the Ministry of Finance in the Central Harmonisation Unit which was responsible for the coordination and harmonisation of the European and national funds' control and audit.

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Balázs RÁKOSSY

(HU)

State Secretary for EU Funds
Managing Authority for Economic
Development Programmes,
Ministry for National Economy of Hungary

Mr. Rákossy coordinates the planning and the implementation of the Economic Development and Innovation Operative Programme (GINOP), the Regional and Municipal Development Operative Programme (TOP) and the Competitive Central Hungary Operative Programme (VEKOP). As of 2010, Chief of Staff of the Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office; as of 2012 Chief of Staff of the Minister Responsible for Liaison with International Financial Organizations, as

of 2013 Chief of Staff of the Minister for National Economy. At the earlier stages of his career he worked in 2002-2004 as the Chief Legal Counsellor of the EU's Hungarian delegation, Chief Legal Officer at Pfizer, Regional CLO as of 2006, after that Chief Legal Officer at British American Tobacco and MOL. Graduated with a law degree from Janus Pannonius University of Pécs; post-graduate degrees from University of Maastricht and the University of Oxford.

Csaba NOVÁK

(HU)

Managing Authority for Economic
Development Programmes, Ministry for
National Economy of Hungary
Head of Division



Mr Csaba Novák started his career with nine years of economic research. Starting from 2001, he was involved in planning the first National Development Plan, initially at the Ministry of Economy and Transport, and later at the National Development Office. Following the planning period, he worked first as operational chief at the ECOP's Managing Authority. In 2007, he joined MAG - Hungarian Economic Development Centre, a government agency, where he was in charge of project evaluation,

contracting, finance and monitoring. From September 2010 as the Director for Strategy and International Relations he was responsible for external audits, irregularity management and international projects. Currently he works as a head of division in the Economic Development Operational Programmes Managing Authority at the Ministry for National Economy. He coordinates and manages all the relevant tasks concerning the project cycle funded by Economic Development OPs.

Daniel PITOŇÁK

(SK)

Slovak Business Agency (SBA)
Head of Business Environment Analysis
Department



Mr Daniel Pitoňák is leading the team at the SBA responsible for preparation of surveys, analyses and studies related to economic environment, business development and SME issues, including monitoring and evaluation of the measures for support of SMEs. He was responsible for coordination of the process of drafting the National Strategy for Support of SMEs and took part

in the process of introduction of the SME test in Slovakia. He was involved in programming of the Operational Programme Research and Innovation 2014-2020. He took part in the process of planning of financial instruments for SMEs for 2007-2013 period as well as for 2014-2020 period. He has long experience with EU programming, project management and evaluation.

Doru ZAFIU

(RO)

National Authority for Scientific Research
and Innovation - the Directorate General
Intermediate Body for Research - Sectoral
Operational Programme "Increase of
Economic Competitiveness"

Irregularity Officer



Since 2 May 2006 I have worked within the IB for Research, Priority Axis 2 - SOPIEC. My position is Senior Counselor and I act as "Irregularity Officer", in charge with the management of irregularities, covering the entire range of activities from

prevention and detection all the way through, debts recovery. Also, I manage suspected frauds. As a liaison officer with the banks and other financial intermediaries, I deal with financial instruments developed under our programme.

PRESENTERS



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Erich UNTERWURZACHER
(EC)

Directorate-General for
Regional and Urban Policy

Director, Directorate „Operation Efficiency
and Central Europe”



Since 2012 Erich Unterwurzacher heads the Directorate within the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy which guides the implementation of Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund programmes and projects in Germany, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. Prior, Erich Unterwurzacher managed financial assistance to candidate countries of the Bal-

kans and Turkey, and led their accession negotiations. Between 1996 and 1999 Erich Unterwurzacher was at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris and dealt with energy security matters, where he worked already from 1987 to 1991. From 1991 to 1994 he was with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).



Eszter VITÁLYOS

(HU)

Prime Minister's Office of Hungary

State Secretary for EU Development Projects

Eszter Vitályos was born in Budapest, Hungary. Having obtained her law degree from Pázmány Péter Catholic University in 2005 she started working at CIB Bank as head of the customer service division. Her career in public administration began in 2006 at the Municipality of Leányfalu as she became the Head of the Mayor's Cabinet and Head of Secretariat. Between 2006 - 2012 she was Deputy Mayor in Pócsmogyer. From 2010 she started work-

ing for the Hungarian Parliament, in the Cabinet of Municipalities. Between 2012 - 2013 she worked at the Prime Minister's Office Heading the Department of Policy Coordination. She started working as Vice President responsible for legal and financial affairs of the National Development Agency in August 2013. As of January 2014 she was first Deputy State Secretary than State Secretary for EU Developments at the Prime Minister's Office of Hungary.

Ferenc FRIEDLER Dr.

(HU)

National Research, Development and
Innovation Office

Vice President for Innovation and
General Affairs



Dr. Ferenc Friedler (1953) is Vice President for Innovation and General Affairs of the National Research, Development and Innovation Office of Hungary as of July 2015. He is also a full professor in the Faculty of Information Technology and Bionics at Pázmány Péter Catholic University in Budapest. He graduated in mathematics (1977), received CSc degree (1990) and DSc degree (1995) in chemical engineering. His research interests include process systems engineering focusing on mathematical modeling and optimization. He is the co-founder of the P-graph framework for synthesizing processing systems. He has published more

than two hundred papers in international journals. Professor Friedler has supervised major national and international research and R&D projects. He is founder of several international scientific conferences. He was rector at University of Pannonia in Hungary from 2011 through 2015, where he established academic organizations including department, faculty, and PhD program. Professor Friedler is honored with several awards including the Knight's Cross Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary, John von Neumann Prize, and the Széchenyi Prize awarded by the highest ranking constitutional officers of Hungary.



PRESENTERS



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Györgyi NYIKOS Ph.D.
(HU)

Hungarian Development Bank
Director

National University of Public Service
Associate professor

Györgyi Nyikos is cohesion policy and public procurement expert, associate professor at the National University of Public Service and head of the EU Competence Center at the Hungarian Development Bank. Nyikos was formerly cohesion policy first counselor at the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU in Brussels, Deputy State Secretary for Development Affairs and the Hungarian Deputy Governor of the

Governing Council of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Before that she had the position of the general counsel of the Office of Fiscal Council Republic of Hungary and prior to that vice-president for public administration at the National Office for Regional Development. Her research work is in Cohesion / Regional policy, Public Procurement and Public Finance Management.

Gyula POMÁZI
(HU)

Ministry for National Economy, Department
for Enterprise Development
Head of Department



Gyula Pomázi has consultancy and managerial work experience more than 25 years. He has initiated complex development plan for more economic areas in Hungary and took part in the implementation of these projects. Furthermore he has participated many large companies and institutions' development as a program manager in the coordination of strategic projects, full organizational and operational review, initiating quality

measurement system, development of IT systems and management systems. His areas of expertise also include reforming of the state and public administration systems, developing management systems of financial and national coverage organizations' and managing of regional economic development programs. Won special prize the Project Manager of The Year award in 2012.



Jana KOLAŘÍKOVÁ
(EC)

Directorate-General for
Regional and Urban Policy

Programme Manager - EU policies (Slovakia)

July 2011 - present: Seconded national expert to the European Commission (DG REGIO) - Programme manager of EU policies in Slovakia. Part of my portfolio is to monitor the Slovak OP Competitiveness and Economic Growth (2007-2013) and OP Research and Innovation (2014-2020). I have been also following financial instru-

ments in Slovakia, especially JEREMIE. December 2007 - June 2011: Structural Funds expert at the National Coordination Authority at the Czech Ministry for Regional Development. Part of my portfolio was to monitor the OP Enterprise and Innovation and OP Research and Development for Innovation.



PRESENTERS



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Kalin MARINOV
(BG)

DG European Funds for Competitiveness,
Ministry of Economy of the Republic of
Bulgaria
Deputy Director



Since March 2016 Mr Marinov is a chairperson of the SME Initiative Bulgaria Investors' Board representing the Ministry of Economy. Before joining the DG European Funds for Competitiveness in March 2015 he was Executive Director of the Economic Policy Institute, Sofia for more than six years. Representing the Institute he was a member of several public councils and monitoring

boards to the Council of Ministers, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Economy dedicating his expertise to good governance practices and efficient management of the public resources. In 2013 he was nominated to participate in the premier initiative of the U.S. Department of State - the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) - "Accountability of Government II"

Magdalena PRONOBIS
(POL)

Marshal Office of the Pomorskie Region, Poland
Department of Regional and Spatial Development
Head of the Financial Instruments Unit



Ms Pronobis joined the FI team in Pomorskie over three years ago - her responsibilities include both the closure of the FEI 2007-2013 and the programming and implementing of FI 2014-2020. She has also PhD in eco-

nomics and she is an academic teacher at a one of the private schools of higher education in Poland. Ms Pronobis has a 10-year experience in the European funds field as a consultant, auditor and a researcher.

Lyudmila TOZEVA

(BG)
DG European Funds for Competitiveness
Ministry of Economy of the Republic of
Bulgaria

Head of Programming, Monitoring and
Evaluation of OP Dept



Lyudmila Tozeva has more than 10 years professional experience in preparation of strategic and programming documents at regional and national level and the system of management and control of EU funds in Bulgaria. She was part of the team responsible for programming, implementing and evaluating the OP "Regional development"

2007-2013. Since beginning of 2013 she is the Head of Programming Dept. responsible for programming, preparation of procedures for selection of operations, OP Monitoring Committee functioning and evaluation of Competitiveness OP for 2007-2013 and 2014-2020 programming periods.

Martin POLÓNYI
(SK)

Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic
Director of the Department of Financial
Strategy for Economic Growth



Martin Polónyi has been working in the Ministry of Finance of the Slovak Republic on the coordination of the implementation of financial instruments in

the 2014 - 2020 programming period since June 2014. Before, he worked in the National Bank of Slovakia and in the European Central Bank.



PRESENTERS



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Pavel HRADECKY

(CZ)

Audit Authority – Ministry of Finance

Methodist

Working in the area of EU funds since 2005. In 2007 joined delegated audit body as auditor of ESF projects. In 2009 started as a project manager of the Development and implementation of National qualification framework project. Since 2013 head of unit and later of de-

partment of Strategic projects management. In 2015 joined Audit Authority in the position of Methodist. Member of EGESIF, COESIF, EQF Advisory group.

Petr PORÁK

(CZ)

Ministry of Industry and Trade
of the Czech Republic,
European Funds, Research, Development,
Innovations and Investments Incentives

Deputy Director

He is particularly involved in developing and implementing support programmes, using the means of EU Structural Funds that are focused on

innovation including technology transfer and the infrastructure for industrial research and development. He is also involved in FP 7 and publishes.

Rafal MANIKOWSKI

(POL)

Ministry of Finance of Poland

Robert WENZEL

(CZ)

Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, European Funds, Research, Development, Innovations and Investments Incentives

Programme Manager



Responsible for the design and implementation of programmes on the development of cluster organizations and technology platforms since 2007. Responsible for the preparation of the new Clusters programme focus-

ing on collective research and internationalization. Responsible for the introduction of the Knowledge Transfer Partnership programme in the CR. Responsible for cross-border activities in the area of R&D&I.



Sanda HILGEN

(RO)

National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation – the Directorate General Intermediate Body for Research - Sectoral Operational Programme “Increase of Economic Competitiveness”

Head of Financial Management and Control Unit

Since 18 December 2008 I have worked within the IB for Research, Priority Axis 2 - SOPIEC. My position is Head of Unit and I am in charge with the management of “on the desk” and “on

the spot” verifications of the reimbursement claims, control activity, irregularities and debts recovery. I coordinate the technical assistance activity of IB Research, as well.

PRESENTERS



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Sanja FIŠER

(HR)

Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts of Croatia

Head of Unit

Unit for EU Programmes Preparation and Evaluation

Ms Sanja Fišer is an economist working in the Directorate for EU Programmes and Projects in the Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts as the Head of Unit for EU Programmes Preparation and Evaluation. Since 2005 in focus of her work were management of EU programmes and projects in the field of entrepreneurship and regional com-

petitiveness, development of strategic documents and sectoral policies and strategies, cooperation with international institutions and organizations as well as organizing seminars and conferences. She is also certified advisor for Entrepreneurship and a certified trainer and lecturer in the field of strategic planning and management of EU programmes.

Tomáš NOVOTNÝ

(CZ)

Ministry of Industry and Trade
of the Czech Republic

Vice Minister

for European Funds, Research, Development,
Innovations and Investments Incentives



Mr Tomáš Novotný, born on 15th September 1968 is married and has one child. He completed his schooling at the Secondary school in Prague – Vysočany in 1988 and he graduated from the Faculty of International Affairs at Prague's University of Economics in 1993 with specialization in International Politics and Diplomacy. In 1997 Mr Tomáš Novotný graduated from the Faculty of Law at Charles University in Prague where he completed his JUDr. study focused on the Law of European Communities in 2001. After that in 2007 Mr Tomáš Novotný completed his Ph.D. study at Prague's University of Economics focused on European Studies. In the period 1997–1998 he began his career as secretary of the organizational committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic. From 1998 to 2000 he worked as

expert on the EU affairs at Investiční a Poštovní Banka, a.s. From 2000 to 2002 he worked as deputy director of the State Fund of Environment, director of the Implementation Agency and advisor to the minister focused on the EU funds. In the period 2002–2006 Mr Tomáš Novotný held the position of deputy minister of environment and director of the section of external relationship of the Ministry of Environment. From 2006 to 2008 he worked as director of the Section for Drawing the EU Funds and deputy general director at Technoexport, a.s. From 2009 he worked as director of the Regional Council Office of Central Bohemia. Mr Tomáš Novotný was named Vice Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Trade as of 11th February 2014 and he manages the Section of EU Funds, Research, Development, Innovations and Investment Incentives.

Svetlana GOMBOS

(RO)

Ministry of European Funds of Romania

General Director



I managed the European funds since 2006 and have been involved in the management of ERDF, namely in the SOP IEC. Also, I was part of the team which was tasked with at the accreditation of the management and control system; I have established the Payment Unit of the managing authority. At the level of Inter-

mediate Body for Research I have coordinated the allocation of technical assistance. I also managed financially the ESF funds within the Operational Programme Human Resources Development. I had a number of proposals for legislative changes, among which the most important ones is the Retrospective projects.



PRESENTERS



11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF
COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES



Tamás KARSAI

(HU)

Managing Authority for Economic
Development Programmes, Ministry for
National Economy of Hungary

Head of Managing Authority,
Deputy State Secretary

Mr Karsai has been participating in the establishment of the Hungarian system dealing with Structural Funds. Until 2004 he worked as chief head of secretariat for the MA leader of the first competitiveness framework program and then supported the work of the Managing Authority as an external consultant. From 2010 he worked as an advisor

to the Monitoring Committee. Since August 2013 he has been heading the Managing Authority. Since 2014 he is Deputy State Secretary at the Ministry for National Economy. In an earlier phase of his career he also worked as a management consultant, economic journalist and was also active at an investment bank. He studied in Budapest and London.

Zoltán BALOGH Ph.D.

(EC)

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
Programme Manager - EU policies



Graduated at the Budapest University of Economic Sciences and Public Administration and completed his Ph.D. studies on the field of regional management at the Corvinus University of Budapest. He joined the College of Nyiregyháza as a lecturer and project manager in 2003, later he became the regional represent-

ative of Észak-Alföld Region in Brussels from 2008 to 2012. He was coordinating the international affairs of Észak-Alföld Regional Development Agency from 2012. Since 2014 he is working as a programme manager for the European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion.

Velina POPOVA

(BG)

DG European Funds for Competitiveness
Ministry of Economy of the Republic of
Bulgaria

State Expert at Programming, Monitoring and
Evaluation of OP Dept

Velina Popova has more than 10 years professional experience in EU structural funds assistance. She started her career with pre-accession funds back in 2007. With the commencement of the first programming period for Bulgaria she joined OP Development of the Competitiveness of the Bulgarian Economy 2007-2013, initially with responsibilities in project monitoring and verification. In 2012 Velina switched to the programming department of the OP Competi-

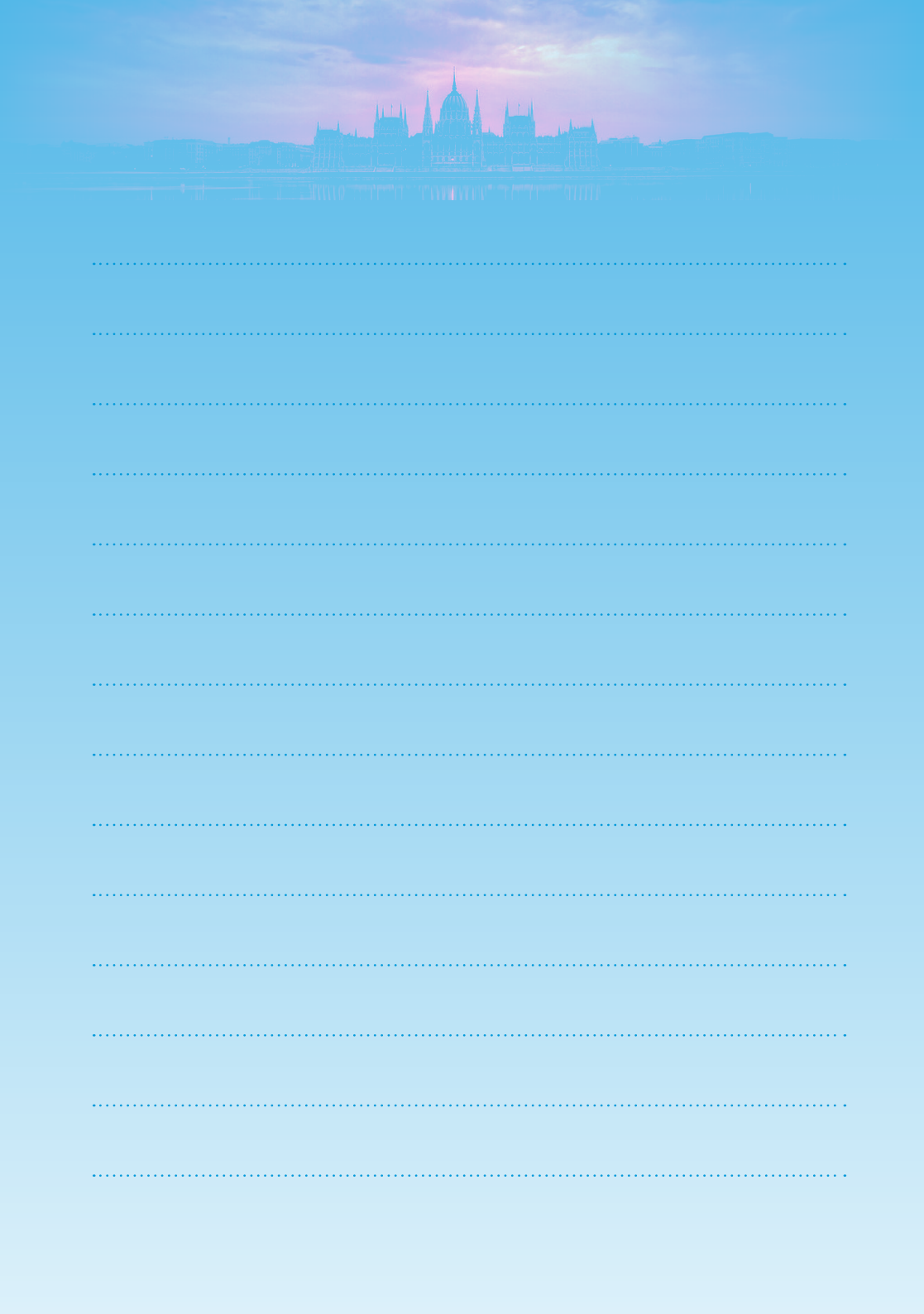
tiveness, where she was instrumental for the successful launch and implementation of one of the OP's most important priority areas, Energy Efficiency in SMEs. Recently Velina has been strongly involved in extending the use of financial instruments, supported by ESIF. She also played key roles in the preparation of two operational programmes, OP Innovation and Competitiveness 2014-2020 and OP SME Initiative. Velina is fluent in English, Portuguese and French.

Vera VIEHRIG

(GER)

ERDF Managing Authority in Brandenburg





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Information about the conference and the presentations will be available on the website of the conference: <http://gfpconf.gov.hu/en>

Please, send your questions, opinions, and requests to the following e-mail address: gazdasagfejlesztes@ngm.gov.hu



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