



# 12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES 2017

Programme implementation  
at half time: 2017



## 12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES



### Venues of the conference

1. Accommodation of our guests: **Hotel President** • Budapest, Hold street 3-5, 1054
2. Venue of the presentations and plenary sessions: **Aranytíz** • Budapest, Arany J. street 10, 1051



*“Programme implementation at half time: 2017” is the title of the international conference dealing with implementation of the competitiveness operational programmes, organised for the twelfth time by the Ministry for National Economy of Hungary in cooperation with the European Commission in Budapest between 18-19th of May 2017.*



## 12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

**2017** Programme implementation  
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Driven by the success and the positive feedback received from participants of prior events, the Deputy State Secretariat for the Implementation of Economic Development Programmes of the Ministry for National Economy (Hungary) and the European Commission jointly organize the 12th annual international conference on the implementation of Competitiveness Operational Programmes.

The conference aims to be a forum for sharing key experiences and good practices for the European Commission and the representatives of member states. These conferences traditionally focus on the competitiveness operational programmes of member states. This year's main topic will be the exchange of experiences gathered at the mid-term of the programming period by member states (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, Croatia, Germany, Austria and Finland) as well as the Commission.



At our conference, participants include the representatives of the European Commission, ministries from Hungary and other member states, managing authorities of EU funds at primarily Central European member states, the leading officials of intermediate bodies, chambers of commerce and industry, other partners and media representatives.

The programme is set to be opened by high-ranking Government officials who will also present their experiences at plenary sessions. On the second day, four section meetings are scheduled to be held, where attendees are to share and debate their views and opinions from the angle of their respective countries, based on the process they have made in their home countries. The working language of the conference is English.

During the course of these two days, presenters and participants of section meetings are to discuss experiences gained in the management of ongoing competitiveness operational programmes, paying special attention to challenges and opportunities which have arisen by the mid-term of the programming period.

Besides discussing professional issues, the conference provides a great opportunity for establishing contacts and the networking of managers.



# Programme

Thursday, 18 May 2017

Moderator: **Adam Abdulwahab** Programme Manager  
European Commission, Directorate for Administrative Capacity Building  
and Programme Implementation II, DG REGIO

9.00 – 9.30	Registration
Welcome speech	
9.30 – 9.40	<b>Tamás Karsai</b> Head of Managing Authority Ministry for National Economy of Hungary
Opening remarks	
9.40 – 9.50	<b>Andriana Sukova-Tosheva</b> Director European Commission, Directorate for Investment, DG EMPL
9.50 – 10.00	<b>Thomas Bender</b> Head of Unit European Commission, Directorate for Administrative Capacity Building and Programme Implementation II, DG REGIO
10.00 – 10.10	<b>Eszter Vitályos</b> State Secretary for EU Development Projects Prime Minister's Office of Hungary
Introduction of the Competitiveness OPs in the relevant countries, sharing the mid-term experiences with the 2014-20 programming period.	
10.10 – 10.30	<b>Tomáš Novotný</b> Vice Minister for European Funds, Research, Development, Innovations and Investments Incentives Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic
10.30 – 11:00	Coffee Break – Tolnay Klári Room (3rd floor)
11:00 – 11.20	<b>Nataša Kulakowski-Kramarić</b> , Assistant Minister Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Croatia

11.20 – 11.40	<b>Svetlana Gombos</b> Head of Managing Authority Managing Authority of Competitiveness Operation Programme, Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, Romania (tbc)
11.40 – 12.00	<b>Madalina Istrate</b> Managing Authority of Regional Operational Programme, Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds, Romania
12.00 – 12.20	<b>Marcin Łata</b> Head of Managing Authority, Ministry of Development, Poland
Questions and Answers	
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch – Knight Rooms (ground floor)
14.00 – 14.20	<b>Edmund Škorvaga</b> Programming, Monitoring and Evaluation of EU Structural Funds, Ministry of Economy, Slovak Republic
14.20 – 14.40	<b>Kalin Marinov</b> Deputy Director, Directorate General for European Funds for Competitiveness Ministry of Economy, Bulgaria
14.40 – 15.00	<b>Reiner Kneifel - Haverkamp</b> Head of EU-Funds Coordination, Internationalization Unit Ministry of Justice for European Affairs and Consumer Protection of Brandenburg
15.00 – 15.20	<b>Balázs Rákossy</b> State Secretary for EU Funds Ministry for National Economy of Hungary
15.20 – 15.45	Questions and Answers
Closure of the first day / Closure of the first day	
15.45 – 16.00	<b>Adam Abdulwahab</b> Programme Manager, European Commission, Directorate for Administrative Capacity Building and Programme Implementation II, DG REGIO



# Programme

Friday, 19 May 2017

Parallel sessions

9.00 – 9.30	Registration
9.30 – 11.30	Parallel panel discussions
11.30 – 12.00	Coffee Break – Hall (1st floor)
12.00 – 12.40	Summary reports by the session moderators
12.40 – 12.50	Summary, <b>Adam Abdulwahab</b> European Commission, Directorate for Administrative Capacity Building and Programme Implementation II, DG REGIO
12.50 – 14.00	Lunch – Knight Rooms (ground floor)

## Section topics to be discussed

### 1. Increasing role of Financial Instruments

- Please introduce us the institutional structure you set up for implementing financial instruments.
- Please share with us some information about your process setting up FIs: how did you cope with public procurement in order to select fund managers and financial intermediaries? What kind of products do you have (loan, guarantees, venture capital, combined products)?
- What is the state of play of implementation of the 2014-20 financial instruments in your country/region? How many products have you launched? Which is your most successful product so far? What kind of results have you reached?
- Do you consider combining FIs with grants? If so, combination in a single FI measure or as two separate measures? In what areas do you consider such combinations? What body will provide the grant component when combined in a single FI measure (MA/fund manager)? What body will provide the grant when combined as two separate measures (fund manager acting as intermediate body for grants/MA)?
- Do you have a single monitoring and information system for Structural Funds? What kind of IT system do you have for financial instruments? How does the IT system back up the combined products you have? Do you have a one-stop-shop system in the process in order to make procedures more transparent for applicants?
- Which do you think the most important issues are that need to be clarified in order to make the implementation smoother?
- What measures have you taken/are planning to take to raise awareness of the non-grant support? Are there centrally managed campaigns?
- What are the main obstacles/challenges your MAs face in FI implementation / preparation of FI implementation?

Section chair

**Reiner Kneifel- Haverkamp**

Ministry of Justice for  
European Affairs and Consumer  
Protection of Brandenburg

Discussants

**Magdalena Pronobis**

Marshal Office of the  
Pomorskie Region, Poland

**Renata Adomavičienė**

Ministry of Economy, Lithuania

**Sanja Fiser**

Ministry of Economy,  
Entrepreneurship and Crafts  
of Croatia

**Velina Popova**

Ministry of Economy of  
Bulgaria

**Adam Abdulwahab**

European Commission  
DG REGIO

**Doru Zafiu**

Ministry of Research and  
Innovation, Intermediate Body  
for COP, Romania

**Emil Pícha**

Ministry of Agriculture and  
Rural Development of the  
Slovak Republic (tbc)



## Section topics to be discussed

### 2. Audit risk management in calls for proposals

- What are the first experiences of the implementation of the new programming period?
- What is right frequency of management verifications balancing between control costs and risk handling?
- How do you get assurance on the reliance of performance indicators to be introduced into the IT system?
- How do you control/audit compliance with market price? At which stages of the process (project selection, payment claims etc.) are verifications done?
- How widespread are Simplified Cost Options?
- How do you evaluate the “success” of R&D&I projects?

#### Section chair

**Balázs Dencső**  
DGAEF - Hungary

#### Discussants

**Radka Bucilova**  
Ministry of Industry and  
Trade of the Czech Republic

**Sanda Hilgen**  
Ministry of Research and  
Innovation, Intermediate Body  
for COP, Romania

**Peter Petrik**  
European Commission  
DG REGIO

**Milán Kovács**  
European Commission -  
DG EMPL

**Csaba Novák**  
Ministry for National Economy  
of Hungary

## Section topics to be discussed

### 3. Social dimension of competitiveness programmes – employment and training

- Social dimension of competitiveness programmes: In your opinion what are the most important social dimensions that a competitiveness programme must deal with?
- SME training: In the field of supporting trainings for employees of SMEs, what are the most important areas that need improvement in your opinion? Do you combine technological development and trainings? Do you combine ERDF and ESF funds in any form?
- Developing entrepreneurial attitudes and skills: Importance of vocational education in developing an entrepreneurial attitude and business skills. Do you have any national or EU funded programme for developing entrepreneurial attitude especially in public education? What is your experience on it?
- Job creation vs raising productivity and competitiveness by production automation: Shortage of qualified professionals and high rate of long term unemployment among the low-skilled workforce with lower educational level are simultaneously present in Europe's economy. Production automation can be an answer to raising competitiveness but not necessarily to job creation. If you face this problem, what kind of measures do you use in your OP to manage this issue?
- Social enterprises: Experiences on promoting social enterprises, which type of mentoring services do you provide for start-up social enterprises?; In your country/region do you have experience on combined use of ESF with financial instruments or ERDF for social enterprises?
- Work-life balance: How to develop services and implement innovative practices to ensure work-life balance?
- Flexible employment: What type of good practices do you promote in your programmes on flexible employment?; In your view what can be the contribution of flexible employment to SME development?
- Youth entrepreneurship: How do you support youth entrepreneurship, do you have any dedicated programme for this target group? What is your experience on Youth Guarantee scheme and use of Youth Employment Initiative? Do you use financial instruments to promote youth entrepreneurship? Do you combine ESF and financial instruments for employment promotion?

#### Section chair

Representative of  
the Ministry for National  
Economy of Hungary

#### Discussants

**Jouni Ponnikas**  
Regional Council of Kainuu,  
Finland

**Zoltán Balogh**  
European Commission -  
DG EMPL

**Noémi Danajka**  
Ministry for National Economy  
of Hungary

Representative of the  
Ministry of Economy of the  
Slovak Republic





## Section topics to be discussed

### 4. SME 4.0 – role of SMEs in Industry 4.0

- From your aspect what does Industry 4.0 really mean? Why it is that Industry 4.0 is creating such interest?
- In your opinion what are the main role and tools of the public sector that can help SMEs' transition to Industry 4.0? Does the Operational Programme that you deal with help the transition of SMEs in using Industry 4.0 solutions?
- If yes, what are the most important tools you use to provide incentives to SMEs in your country/region? What are the most important areas at SME level which need to be improved so that SMEs be able to exploit the advantages of Industry 4.0? If not, what could be done?
- Support of Industry 4.0 and state aid.
- Is your organisation's personnel prepared well to deal with project proposals submitted in subjects in or related to Industry 4.0? Do you think such project proposals require any special skills from the MA/IB staff side (like knowledge of the fields ICT, digitalisation)?
- If you have dedicated programmes for this purpose do you use any focus points, specialisation (e.g. sector, size) at the call for proposals aimed at supporting SMEs in this field or do you use a horizontal approach?
- What does digitalization entail for manufacturing? Do you think that there are other sectors/ segments where Industry 4.0 can be applicable? In your viewpoint can the Industry 4.0 be interpreted at company level or it must be applied in the whole value chain of the product/service provided by the given company?
- At applying Industry 4.0 solutions what can be the short-term business opportunities at company level according to your experience?

#### Section chair

**Petr Porák**  
Ministry of Industry and  
Trade of the  
Czech Republic

#### Discussants

**Agnieszka Krasicka**  
European Commission  
DG REGIO

**Daniel Pitoňák**  
Slovak Business Agency

**Kerstin Koren**  
Office of the Regional  
Government of Lower Austria  
Department Economic Affairs,  
Tourism and Technology

**Lyudmila Tozeva**  
Ministry of Economy of Bulgaria

**Gyula Pomázi**  
Deputy State Secretary  
Ministry for National Economy

## Presenters



### Adam ABDULWAHAB

Programme Manager - EU Policies,  
European Commission, Directorate General  
for Regional and Urban Policy

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.

### Renata ADOMAVIČIENĖ

Chief Expert at Financial Instruments Division  
Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Lithuania



Renata Adomavičienė has more than 10 years professional experience in the implementation and management of EU programmes and projects in the field of energy efficiency and SME competitiveness, development of strategic documents and sectoral policies. She has been working on the coordination of the financial instruments in the 2007– 2013 and the 2014 – 2020 programming periods since March 2011. She coordinates and manages all the relevant tasks concerning setting up and implementing financial instruments designed to improve access to finance for SMEs.



### Zoltán BALOGH Ph.D.

Programme Manager – EU policies  
European Commission, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

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 Nyíregyháza as a lecturer and project manager in 2003, later he became the regional representative 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.



### Radka BUČILOVÁ

Deputy Director, Structural Funds Coordination Department  
Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic

Deputy Director, Structural Funds Coordination department  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of the Environment  
CEO, State Environmental Fund  
Director, Anti-flood Measure Department  
Director, Managing Authority of Cohesion Fund Department, Ministry for Regional Development  
CEO, State Environmental Fund  
Deputy Director, Department of Economic Policy, Ministry of the Environment  
Education: Techno chemical University, Prague, Czech Republic

### Thomas BENDER

Head of Unit  
European Commission, Directorate for Administrative Capacity  
Building and Programme Implementation II, DG REGIO

Thomas Bender is from Regensburg in Germany, where he also studied and obtained a doctorate. He worked in research from 1987-1993. Since 1994 he works for the European Commission, mainly in DG Employment and since 2016 in DG REGIO.



### Balázs DENCŐ

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.







## Noemi DANAJKA

Head of Unit for ESF Co-financed Priorities  
Managing Authority for Economic Development Programmes  
Ministry for National Economy

Noemi Danajka has 20 years of experience with management and implementation of pre-accession funds and ESF and ERDF co-financed projects in the field of human resources development. She has been active in ESF management since the set-up of the first managing authority for human in the programming period 2004-2006 period, dealt with policy co-ordination and planning in the 2007-13 period, with active labour market and training related planning of the 2014-20 period. She has been involved in the implementation of the ESF co-financed priorities of Economic Development and Innovation Programme since October 2014.



## Sanda HILGEN

Ministry of Research and Innovation,  
Intermediate Body for COP, Romania

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.

## Sanja FIŠER

Head of Unit  
Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship  
and Crafts- Intermediary Body, Croatia

Ms. Sanja Fišer is an economist working in the Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts as the Head Unit responsible for programming and evaluation of programmes. In focus of her work were development of SME related strategic documents and sectoral strategies and cooperation with international institutions. Since 2005 she is engaged in the management of EU programmes and projects in the field of entrepreneurship and regional competitiveness. She is also a certified trainer and lecturer in the field of strategic planning and management of EU programmes.



## Madalina ISTRATE

Ministry of Regional Development,  
Public Administration and European Funds, Romania





## Marcin ŁATA

Director of Programmes Supporting Innovation and Development  
Department, Head of Managing Authority, Ministry of Development,  
Poland

The department fulfils the role of the Managing Authority for Innovative Economy Operational Programme 2007-2013 financed from European Regional Development Fund as well as Smart Growth Operational Programme to be implemented in the 2014-2020 financial perspective. Since 2000 he has been involved in the preparation and implementation of social and economic development programmes in Poland, including EU financed programmes.



## Reiner KNEIFEL-HAVERKAMP

Head of Unit EU-Funds Coordination, Internationalisation  
Brandenburg Ministry of Justice, for European Affairs  
and Consumer Protection

Lawyer and former diplomat, he has held various management positions in the Brandenburg government and served as Programme Manager for Poland in DG Regional Policy of the European Commission.

## Tamás KARSAI

Head of Managing Authority, Deputy State Secretary  
Managing Authority for Economic Development Programmes,  
Ministry for National Economy of Hungary



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.

## Kerstin KOREN

Area Manager for Research and Technology  
Regional Government of Lower Austria  
Department for Economy, Tourism and Technology



Kerstin Koren studied at TU Graz and TU Wien Chemical Engineering with emphasis on organic-chemical technology and process engineering. She graduated in 2000 and proceeded to work as a project manager for tecnet capital, providing advice and assets for High Technology Companies. Passionate about technology projects, the move to Department for Economy, Tourism and Technology of the Regional Government of Lower Austria, in 2011 was a natural fit. Since December 2015 she is Area Manager for Research and Technology. She is also the project manager in charge for "Wirtschaft 4.0", the Lower Austrian initiative dealing with industry 4.0 and digitalisation. Besides she is the responsible Lower Austrian Intermediate Body for the "ERDF program Investment in Growth and Jobs Austria 2014-2020.





## Agnieszka KRASICKA

Programme Manager – Croatia  
European Commission – Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO)

Agnieszka joined DG REGIO in 2008. Initially she was responsible for pre-accession support and accession negotiations with Croatia, Iceland and Turkey. Later she has moved to the policy unit, where she was developing horizontal initiatives aiming at support of implementation of EU funds, such as TAIEX REGIO PEER 2 PEER. Since mid-2016 she is responsible for monitoring of business and innovation support and financial instruments in Croatia.

Before joining Commission, Agnieszka worked in the Polish Ministry of Economy, where her main responsibility was preparation of government strategic documents, including business support instruments, later-on implemented under the OP Innovative Economy 2007-2013.



## Kalin MARINOV

Deputy Director DG European Funds for Competitiveness  
Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria,  
Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Member of the Supervisory Board of the Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria (since December 2016) and chairperson of the SME Initiative Bulgaria Investors' Board (since March 2016) representing the Ministry of Economy in both managing bodies. Before joining DG European Funds for Competitiveness in March 2015 he was Executive Director of the Economic Policy Institute, Sofia for more than six years. In 2013 he participated in the premier initiative of the U.S. Department of State - the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) – "Accountability of Government II".

## Nataša KULAKOWSKI KRAMARIĆ

Assistant Minister  
Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Croatia

Mrs. Nataša Kulakowski Kramarić is an economist with a 9-year experience in the field of EU funds (from pre-accession assistance to Interreg and competitiveness programmes). During this time she was involved in programming, system development (including development of procedures), project monitoring, financial and accounting management and closure of the programmes. Beside mentioned, as certified trainer of Financial Management and Control of EU funded projects, she held numerous trainings to state and public officials dealing with EU funds.



## Csaba NOVÁK

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

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.

At the MA he is responsible for the management of the project cycles of projects funded by Economic Development and Innovation OP.





## Tomáš NOVOTNÝ

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

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 in 2001 his JUDr. study focused on the Law of European Communities. 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.



## Peter PETRIK

Programme Manager European Commission  
DG Regional and Urban Policy

Peter joined DG Regional and Urban Policy of the Commission in 2007. He worked as External Auditor for several Member States and then as Head of Sector for Strategic HR and Budget Planning, before becoming Programme Manager for Czech Republic and Slovakia. He also has several years of audit experience in KPMG Slovakia. Peter holds Master Degrees from Rotterdam School of Management (Cum Laude) and University of Economics in Bratislava. He is Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

## Daniel PITOŇÁK

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

Mr. Daniel Pitoňák is responsible for preparation of studies and analyses related to economic environment, business development and trends within the SME sector, including monitoring and evaluation of the support measures for SMEs. He was involved in preparation of the National Strategy for Support of SMEs and the introduction of the SME test in Slovakia. He has long experience with EU programming, he was involved in programming of the Operational Programme Research and Innovation 2014-2020 and took part in preparation of financial instruments for SMEs for 2014-2020 period.







## Gyula POMÁZI

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

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.

## Jouni PONNIKAS

Regional Development Specialist  
Regional Council of Kainuu, Finland

Jouni Ponnikas (Ph.D.) works as regional development specialist at Regional Council of Kainuu (RCK). On his responsibilities are coordination of regional bio economy and smart specialization (RIS3) strategies and sustainable energy action plan 2020 (SEAP) of Kainuu as well as regional monitoring and foresight. Regional Council of Kainuu is a member of Covenant of Mayors (COM), an associate member of Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC) and Ponnikas is the representative of Kainuu in these networks. Ponnikas is a member of Interreg Europe funded Bridges-project's interregional Steering Committee. Bridges` (years 2016 – 2021) aim is to improve partner regions' RIS3 implementation.



## Velina POPOVA

State Expert at Programming, Monitoring and Evaluation of OP Dept.  
DG European Funds for Competitiveness  
Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria

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 Competitiveness, 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.

## Petr PORÁK

Department of Research, Development and Innovation  
Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

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.



## Magdalena PRONOBIS

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

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 economics 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.



## Andriana SUKOVA-TOSHEVA

Director, Directorate "Investment"  
European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment,  
Social Affairs and Inclusion

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 RÁKOSSY

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, and 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.

## Edmund ŠKORVAGA

Programming, Monitoring and Evaluation of EU Structural Funds  
Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic





## Lyudmila TOZEVA

Head of Programming, Monitoring and Evaluation of OP Dept.  
DG European Funds for Competitiveness  
Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Bulgaria

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.



## Doru ZAFIU

Senior Counselor  
Ministry of Research and Innovation,  
Intermediate Body for COP, Romania

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.

## Eszter VITÁLYOS

State Secretary for EU Developments  
Prime Minister's Office, Hungary



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 Pócsmegyer. From 2010 she started working 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.





A revision of our conference from last year,  
based on the report of the MTI (Hungarian Telegraphic Office)

## With EU funds for Hungary's economic development

An international conference on experiences  
in the programming period 2014-2020 was held  
in Budapest on 9-10 June 2016.



An international conference on  
experiences in the program-  
ming period 2014-2020 was  
held in Budapest on 9-10 June  
2016.

Minister of State for the Utili-  
zation of EU Funds Balázs  
Rákossy of the Ministry for Na-  
tional Economy pointed out at

his keynote speech delivered at  
the opening of the conference  
that in the programming pe-  
riod 2014-2020 operative pro-  
grammes were to focus on eco-  
nomic development and the  
boosting of employment.

Minister of State for EU Develop-  
ment Projects Eszter Vitélyos of

the Prime Minister's Office said  
that in the programming period  
2007-2013 150 thousand tender  
bids were received, of which 70  
600 were granted funding, and  
HUF 9223bn of EU funds were  
allocated. Of the applicants,  
hardly 44 thousand were enter-  
prises, and public sector bodies



funding in the period 2014-2020.  
It is important to have EU-backed  
contracts implemented in 2017-  
2018, and to accelerate the  
absorption and disbursement  
process of funds. She stressed  
that the Government was close-  
ly cooperating with Hungarian  
market participants in utilizing  
EU funds. As one of the examples  
she mentioned that the Govern-  
ment designed the new law on  
public procurements -- as much  
as EU procurement regulations  
allow -- to create a level playing  
field in accessing domestic pub-  
lic sector development projects  
for Hungarian economic stake-  
holders vis-à-vis Western Europe-  
an enterprises which have long  
had these conditions at their  
home markets. Eszter Vitélyos









# Notes

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes, spanning the width of the left-hand side of the page.

#### IMPRINT:

The brochure was issued by the Managing Authority for Economic Development Programmes,  
Ministry For National Economy of Hungary

The photos of the brochure were taken at the Annual Conference in 2017.

The cover photo of the Hungarian Parliament was taken by Miroslav Petresko



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

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



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