

# 2015 Annual Conference of Competitiveness Operational Programmes

Double challenge: closing the old and launching the new programmes



**2015** Annual Conference of  
Competitiveness Operational Programmes

Double challenge: closing the old and  
launching the new programmes



## FOREWORD

The new 7 years long programming period started in the European Union in 2014 that has paved the way to the largest economic stimulus and development program ever.

Almost 12 thousand billion Hungarian Forint EU development funds are coming to our country and 60% of this amount will be spent directly on economic development by the Hungarian Government.

New jobs shall be created, the research activities and innovation shall be supported, the industrial developments shall have a priority and support shall have a strong focus on SME's.

The Central European Region is hopefully to be expected to become the growth engine of Europe Our results from the past few years justify that Hungary shall become the fastest growing economy in the European Union.

One of our most important objectives is to reach full employment by 2020 via providing the job opportunity for everyone who intends to work. We shall apply EU funding as prudent owner to achieve that objective.

The industrial development and reindustrialization shall be the main objective in the next 7 years what is fully in line with the EU 2020 strategy. As a result we expect that the added value contribution to the total GDP shall increase from 20 percent up to 30percent.

The main focus of the Hungarian economic policy is to improve the competitiveness of the SME's. The enterprises shall be supported via focused actions adjusted to their life-cycle and unique production factors.

We shall promote youth entrepreneurship and the creation of new enterprises. In addition clusters and other business cooperations shall be strongly promoted in order to increase the number of successful enterprises operating on international markets.

'Research and development' has never ever received such a large amount of development funding as the sector is to be supported in the next 7 years. Supporting the national research infrastructure directly increases the Hungary's competitiveness, therefore determines the level of her development. The creation of new research centres are to be promoted, and also it is an important objective to integrate domestic enterprises, research institutes or universities into the single European research networks.

As for IT development, the Hungarian government aims to develop the whole domestic digital environment. The broadband internet shall be accessible in every household until 2018 as a result of the program implementation. Due to the spread of digital literacy the life quality of individual citizens shall rise, while the widening of the digital economy increases the competitiveness of our country as well.

Hungary aims to reduce the emission of domestic manufacturing processes and aims to increase energy efficiency by joining the European Union's efforts against climate change. All the above activities contribute to the reduction of environmental burdens and the energy demand of production processes, and thus the external energy dependency of the country shall be reduced.

Our objectives might seem ambitious, however, investing much work and expertise alongside the economically and socially beneficial utilization of development funding, we can contribute to a well-developed and competitive future Hungary together.

I wish to all of us much creativity, persistence and even more success in reaching these objectives.

**Balázs Rákossy**

State Secretary for EU Funds

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

## THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2015

Moderator: **Adam ABDULWAHAB**, Programme Manager,  
European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy

**9.00 – 9.30** Registration

**9.30 – 9.40** Welcome speech: **Mihály VARGA**, Minister  
Ministry for National Economy, Hungary

### OPENING COMMENTS

**9.40 – 9.50** **Erich UNTERWURZACHER**, Director  
European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy

**9.50 – 10.00** **Eszter VITÁLYOS**, State Secretary for EU Development Projects  
Prime Minister's Office, Hungary

**10.00 – 10.10** **Balázs RÁKOSSY**, State Secretary for EU Funds  
Ministry for National Economy, Hungary

**10.10 – 10.20** Technical break for press

Presentation on lessons learned from closing the operational programmes and  
launching the new competitiveness operation programmes

**10.20 – 10.45** **Tomáš NOVOTNÝ**, Deputy Minister  
Section of EU Funds, Research, Development, Innovations  
and Investment Incentives Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic

**10.45 – 11.10** **Boris HUSLICA**, General Director  
Section of supporting Programmes, Ministry of Economy, Slovakia

**11.10 – 11.40** Coffee Break

**11.40 – 12.05** **Kalin MARINOV**, Deputy Director  
Ministry of Economy, Bulgaria

**12.05 – 12.30** **Reiner KNEIFEL-HAVERKAMP**,  
Head of EU-Economic and Financial Policies Unit  
Brandenburg Ministry of Justice, for European Affairs  
and Consumer Protection, Germany

**12.30 – 12.55** **Marcin ŁATA** – Director  
Competitiveness and Innovation Department,  
Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, Poland

**12.55 – 14.00** Lunch

**14.00– 14.25** **Sanja FIŠER** - Head of Unit  
Management of EU programs and projects  
Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Croatia

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

**14.50 – 15.00** Questions and Answers

**15.00 – 15.10** Closure of the first day  
**Adam ABDULWAHAB**, Programme Manager,  
European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy

## FRIDAY, 24. APRIL 2015

**9.00 – 9.30** Registration

**9.30 – 11.30** Section Blocks

Challenges of the 2014-20 programming period	Financial instruments within the OPs of 2014-20 Competitiveness Programmes	Risks in auditing with regard to the project channel	Reducing differences in regions and sub-regions
<b>SECTION CHAIR:</b> <b>Emil PÍCHA (SK)</b>	<b>SECTION CHAIR:</b> <b>Balázs GARAMVÖLGYI (HU)</b>	<b>SECTION CHAIR:</b> <b>Břetislav GRÉGR (CZ)</b>	<b>SECTION CHAIR:</b> <b>Reiner KNEIFEL-HAVERKAMP (DE)</b>
<b>DISCUSSANTS:</b>	<b>DISCUSSANTS:</b>	<b>DISCUSSANTS:</b>	<b>DISCUSSANTS:</b>
- Jack Engwegen (EC)	- Gabriela Hernandez (EC)	- Pavol Borovský (SK)	- Jiří Švarc (EC)
- László Turóczy (HU)	- Magdalena Pronobis (PL)	- Balázs Dencső (HU)	- István Vagács (HU)
- Sanja Fišer (HR)	- Miglena Dobreva (BG)	- Csaba Novák (HU)	- Petr Porák (CZ)
- Lyudmila Tozeva (BG)	- Krisztina Júlia Szabó (HU)	- Zoltán Balogh (EC)	- Péter Keller (HU)
- Boris Huslica (SK)	- Inga Beiliuniene (LT)		- Marcin Łata (PL)
- Anna Kacprzyk (PL)	- Monika Šučur (HR)		- Milan Žabka (SK)
	- Daniel Pitoňák (SK)		

**11.30 – 12.00** Coffee break

**12.00 – 12.40** Summary reports by section chairs

**12.40 – 12.50** Summary, **Adam ABDULWAHAB**, Programme Manager, European Commission, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy

**12.50 – 14.00** Lunch

## PRESENTERS

### **Adam ABDULWAHAB**

Programme Manager  
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.

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### **Zoltán BALOGH Ph.D.**

European Commission, 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 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.

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### **Inga BEILIUNIENE**

Head of Project Management Division  
JSC “Investment and Business Guarantees” (INVEGA), Lithuania

Inga Beiliuniene has more than 6 years of experience at the national and international (i. e. EIF) financial institutions and working with the financial institutions and 12 years of experience in designing and implementing financial instruments and other support measures dedicated for the development of small and medium-sized business.

Currently she is a Head of Project Management Division at JSC „Investment and Business Guarantees“ (INVEGA) – national financial institution in Lithuania. She is responsible for the division, which works with financials instruments and global grant measures, financed from European Union Structural Funds as well as reflows and national funds.

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### **Pavol BOROVSÝ**

Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic  
Director of the Operational Programme Management and Methodology Division

August 2004 to present – various positions at the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic as the Managing Authority for competitiveness programmes during both past programming periods 2004 – 2006 and 2007 – 2013.

Currently Director of the Operational Programme Management and Methodology Division.

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**Balázs DENCŐ Dr.**

Director General

Directorate General for Audit of European Funds, Audit Authority,  
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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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**Miglena DOBREVA**

Chief expert, Monitoring Unit, Monitoring and Financial  
Management Department

Ministry of Economy of Republic of Bulgaria, General Directorate European  
Funds for Competitiveness – Managing Authority of  
Competitiveness OPs

Miglena joined the Ministry of Economy in 2006 and since she has more than 9 years' experience in management of projects for SMEs, funded under EU pre-accession and SF programmes. At the Managing Authority of OP Competitiveness, Miglena is responsible for monitoring of grant projects and financial engineering instruments for SMEs, set up under the JEREMIE Initiative in Bulgaria.

She is a PhD graduate in Economics, specializing in the field of EU Cohesion policy and PPPs, with a Master's degree in International Economic Relations at the University of National and World Economy in Sofia.

As a Fellow of the Carl Friedrich Goerdeler Kolleg for Good Governance - she specialized in various public and private institutions in Germany.

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**Balázs GARAMVÖLGYI**

CEO, director

MV-Venture Finance Hungary Co. Ltd.  
MFB Hungarian Development Bank Private Limited Company

Mr. Balázs Garamvölgyi graduated from the Budapest University of Economic Sciences (Faculty of International Relations) in 1998. He started his career in the field of corporate banking (Large Corporations Division) at CIB Bank and then - following ERSTE and ING Bank – he was appointed the head of SME Financing Department at Takarékbank Zrt.

Five years later, in 2010 he joined Venture Finance Hungary Plc. (a state-owned company running EU-funded financial programs) where - as a deputy CEO - he was responsible for the business and the product development areas. At the end of 2013 he was promoted to the CEO position at Venture Finance Plc.

As from 1st January, 2015 he is the director of EU Competence Directorate of MFB Hungarian Development Bank in part time.

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**Sanja FIŠER**

Ministry of Entrepreneurship and Crafts

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 competitiveness, 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.

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**Břetislav GRÉGR**

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

Since 2003 Mr. Grégr has been working in the sphere of exploitation of European funds at the Czech Ministry of Industry and Trade. He was personally involved into the foundation of the system of managing and implementing of the Structural Funds for support of Czech entrepreneurs in 2004, he was also preparing the current Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovations 2007 – 2013 and now he was responsible for preparation of the new Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovations for Competitiveness 2014 – 2020.

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**Gabriela HERNANDEZ MARTIN**

Deputy Head of unit DG Regional Policy for Hungary  
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Official of the European Commission since 1986 specialised in regional issues, economic analysis and regional policy, management of EU programmes and major projects.

Master of Economy, macro-economy analysis and econometrics.

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**Boris HUSLICA**

Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic  
Director General – Supporting Programmes Section

Mr. Huslica has been involved in structural funds agenda since 2008. First experience with implementation of projects he achieved during two years work at Slovak Tourist Board (Intermediary body). Later, since 2010 he has worked at the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic - Managing authority for OP Competitiveness and Economic Growth, for last 3 years in the position of Director General (Supporting Programmes Section). For 2014-2020 he is also responsible for the agenda of an Intermediary Body for OP Research and Innovation.

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**Anna KACPRZYK, Ph. D.**

Director of Pilot Programmes Department  
Polish Agency for Enterprise Development

Mrs. Anna Kacprzyk graduated from the University of Lodz, Faculty of Economics and Sociology. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Lodz, Faculty of Management, specialising in Management.

Mrs. Kacprzyk pursued her professional career in public institutions, including the Government Centre for Strategic Studies, Ministry of Economy and Polish Agency for Enterprise Development, dealing with national and international programmes and support instruments for companies. She has gathered substantial experience in the area of implementation of various support instruments in the field of innovative and competitive capacity of SMEs as well as gaining access to different sources of funding, project management and state aid rules.

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**Tamás KARSAI**

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

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**Péter KELLER**

Head of Unit  
International and Cluster Unit, Ministry for National Economy, Hungary

Mr. Peter Keller started his career at the SME Development Department of the Ministry of Economy and Transport in 2002. He played a very active role in planning the SME Development priority of the I. National Development Plan 2004-2006 (NDP). After 2006 as the head of the Economic Development Planning Unit he coordinated the planning process of the Economic Development Operational Programme 2007-2013 in the framework of the II. NDP.

Between 2010 and 2011 he worked as a government adviser at the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice. He was responsible for cohesion policy especially related to Structural Funds. On 1 January 2012 he joined MAG–Hungarian Economic Development Centre, where he was leading the Cluster Development Office.

From 15. April 2014 the Ministry for National Economy took over most tasks (including cluster development related tasks) from MAG on the above date. The tasks of the previous MAG - Cluster Development Office is performed by the International and Cluster Development Unit in the Ministry for National Economy. Now Peter Keller is leading the International and Cluster Development Unit.

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**Reiner KNEIFEL-HAVERKAMP**

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

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**Marcin ŁATA**

Ministry of Infrastructure and Development  
Director of Department for Competitiveness and Innovation

Marcin Łata – director of Department for Competitiveness and Innovation in Ministry of Infrastructure and Development of Poland. This 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.

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**Kalin MARINOV**

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

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. Representing the Institute he was 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”.

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**Csaba NOVÁK**

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

Mr. Csaba Novák started his career with 9 years of economic research, of which 6 years were spent in the UK. 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, than became the head of the managing authority for enterprise development and R+D+I.

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 whole life cycle of calls for proposals financed by Economic Development OPs.

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**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 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.

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**Daniel Pitoňák**

Slovak Business Agency (SBA), Slovakia  
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 involved in monitoring of venture capital funds operated by SBA and also took part in the process of planning of financial instruments for 2007-2013 period as well as for 2014-2020 period. He has long experience with EU programming, project management and evaluation.

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**Emil PÍCHA**

Director of the Director General's Office, Department of Management of Regional Development Programmes  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Slovakia

Mr. Pícha worked between 1985 and 1992 in Slovak Academy of Sciences as research worker and between 1992 and 1998 in field of mass media both in public and private sector. From 1998 to 2005 he worked in private sector as marketing and investment consultant. Since 2005 he works in state administration in the field of European structural and investment funds (2005 – 2012 Ministry of Economy, since 2012 Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development).

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**Petr PORÁK**

Deputy Director, The 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.

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**Magdalena PRONOBIS**

Marshal Office of the Pomorskie Region  
Department of Regional and Spatial Development Financial Instruments Unit,  
Chief Specialist

Ms. Pronobis joined the FEI team in Pomorskie over two years ago – her responsibilities include both the implementation of the FEI 2007-2013 and the programming 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.

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**Balázs RÁKOSSY**

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





**Monika ŠUČUR**

Advisor to the Management Board  
Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments (HAMAG-BICRO)

Monika Šučur is a professional with more than 15 years of experience in the field of SME development and environmental management and sustainable development. She has been working at HAMAG-BICRO since 2008, where is currently responsible for coordination of preparatory activities for efficient management and control of the ESI funds.

Ms. Šučur earned master degree in public affairs at the Indiana University Bloomington, USA. She further developed professionally in Japan and Europe.

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**Jiří ŠVARC**

Head of Unit for Hungary, Finland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia  
DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
European Commission

Jiří Švarc is responsible for the implementation of the European Social Fund and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived in Hungary, Finland, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia. His unit also analyses the employment and social inclusion policies in the countries mentioned, particularly within the framework of the Europe 2020 strategy.

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**Krisztina Júlia SZABÓ**

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

Ms. Szabó has her degree in economy from the Budapest Corvinus University (2001), and then she followed a postgraduate course at ELTE in law studies (2003). She gained some market experience in the banking sector in 2002-2003 and in a multinational company between 2003 and 2004. Then she changed for the public sector in 2005. First she worked for the Ministry of Infocommunication as a planner for the operational programmes 2007-13. From 2006 she was in the Ministry of Economy and transport where she participated in evaluating a strategy for reducing administrative burden of SMEs.

She has been working for the Managing Authority responsible for economic development programmes since 2008. She is specialised for financial instruments.

Hungary started to implement Jeremie in 2007 with a holding fund structure. The Managing Authority launched the first open calls (microcredit and guarantee) in autumn 2007 and after a notification procedure with the Commission they finalised a tender for venture capital in July 2009.

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**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 OP "Regional development" 2007-2013.

Since beginning of 2013 she is the Head of Programming Department 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.

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**László TURÓCZY**  
Deputy State Secretary  
Ministry for National Economy, Hungary

László Turóczy (37) is deputy state secretary responsible for economic planning and competitiveness at Hungary's Ministry for National Economy. After involvement in the preparation of the Partnership Agreement between Hungary and the European Commission, he was responsible for the programming and final submission of Hungary's economic development and territorial operational programmes for 2014 to 2020.



**Erich UNTERWURZACHER**  
Director, European Commission, Directorate-General Regional and Urban Policy (REGIO F)

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 Balkans 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).

Erich Unterwurzacher's academic background is in engineering and economics; he holds a Masters degree from Vienna University of Technology and a Doctorate in Sciences from that same university, where he also was assistant professor.

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Mr. Vagács works for the Ministry for National Economy since 2011. He heads the Department for Enterprise Development since 2012. The department main tasks are development of small and medium enterprises, preparation and giving opinions for the Act of support for development of small and medium enterprises. The department is responsible for the 1st priority of the Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme.

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**Eszter VITÁLYOS**  
State Secretary for EU Development Projects  
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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.

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**Milan ŽABKA**

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Milan Žabka worked between 2011 and 2013 in The Financial Administration  
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## SECTION TOPICS

### I. CHALLENGES OF THE 2014-20 PROGRAMMING PERIOD

Closing the old and launching the new programmes is a double challenge for the Member States. The new programming period launched new methods and approaches in several fields. The gained experience from previous years can help tackle these challenges.

Topics to be discussed in the panel are the followings:

- In the 2007-13 period was there any measure, or applied method which you consider as a good practice for other Member States? What was the biggest challenge for your organisation in the previous period?
- What is your opinion about the compulsory use of thematic objectives at the planning of financial sources in the 2014-20 period? Which thematic objective(s) were used at your competitiveness OP? Did this approach mean any challenges at the planning phase compared to the previous period?
- Will you use any new tools or methods in your new competitiveness OP compared to the previous OP? What are the main differences between the two OPs? What are the main changes in the new program compared to the old one?
- The financial crisis in 2008-09 made necessary an - at least partial - redesign of most of the competitiveness OPs. How did you take into consideration this experience at the new programming period?

### II. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS WITHIN THE OPS OF 2014-20 COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMMES

In the new programming period the Commission intends to place particular emphasis on encouraging the implementation of financial instruments. Financial instruments play an important role in the achievement of cohesion policy objectives by enabling public sector resources to be used in a more efficient way by attracting private investors to finance the identified market gaps and thus providing significant multiplier effect.

Topics to be discussed in the panel are the followings:

- What are the major achievements, lessons learnt and challenges, in particular focusing on eligibility in relation to the closure process of FEIs in 2007-13?
- How do legacy resources (residual funds) from the 2007-13 programming period work and are these planned to be reused?
- What are the main differences between the programming period 2007-13 and 2014-20 in respect of the implementation structure and actors?
- What type of new products are to be launched in 2014-20 based on ex ante assessments (concerning target groups, scope, financing gaps, etc.)? What types of indicators will be used in order to measure the performance of FIs?

### III. RISKS IN AUDITING WITH REGARD TO THE PROJECT CHANNEL

The main expectations of the Commission for the next programming period related to strengthening the management and control system can be foreseen already from the audit experience of ERDF from the programming period 2007-13.

Topics to be discussed in the panel are the followings:

- What changes in policy and processes came about in the management and control system as a result of the Commissions controls during 2007-2013?
- Have these changes in policy and processes fulfilled the expectations? Have they managed to treat the discovered risks or did they result in the emergence of new risks? What recommendations would you give to the Commission in this respect?
- For the 2014-2020 programmes a further strengthening of anti- fraud measures is expected. What actions could be proposed for your consideration?
- One of the main topics in the audits is avoiding overpricing. It is expected that for project budgets average market prices should apply. How can market price be determined in your practice ?
- Please share your practical experience with the Simplified Cost Options (SCOs) method!

### IV. REDUCING DIFFERENCES IN REGIONS AND SUB-REGIONS

In most cases the Competitiveness Operational Programmes are financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). ERDF aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the EU by correcting imbalances between its regions.

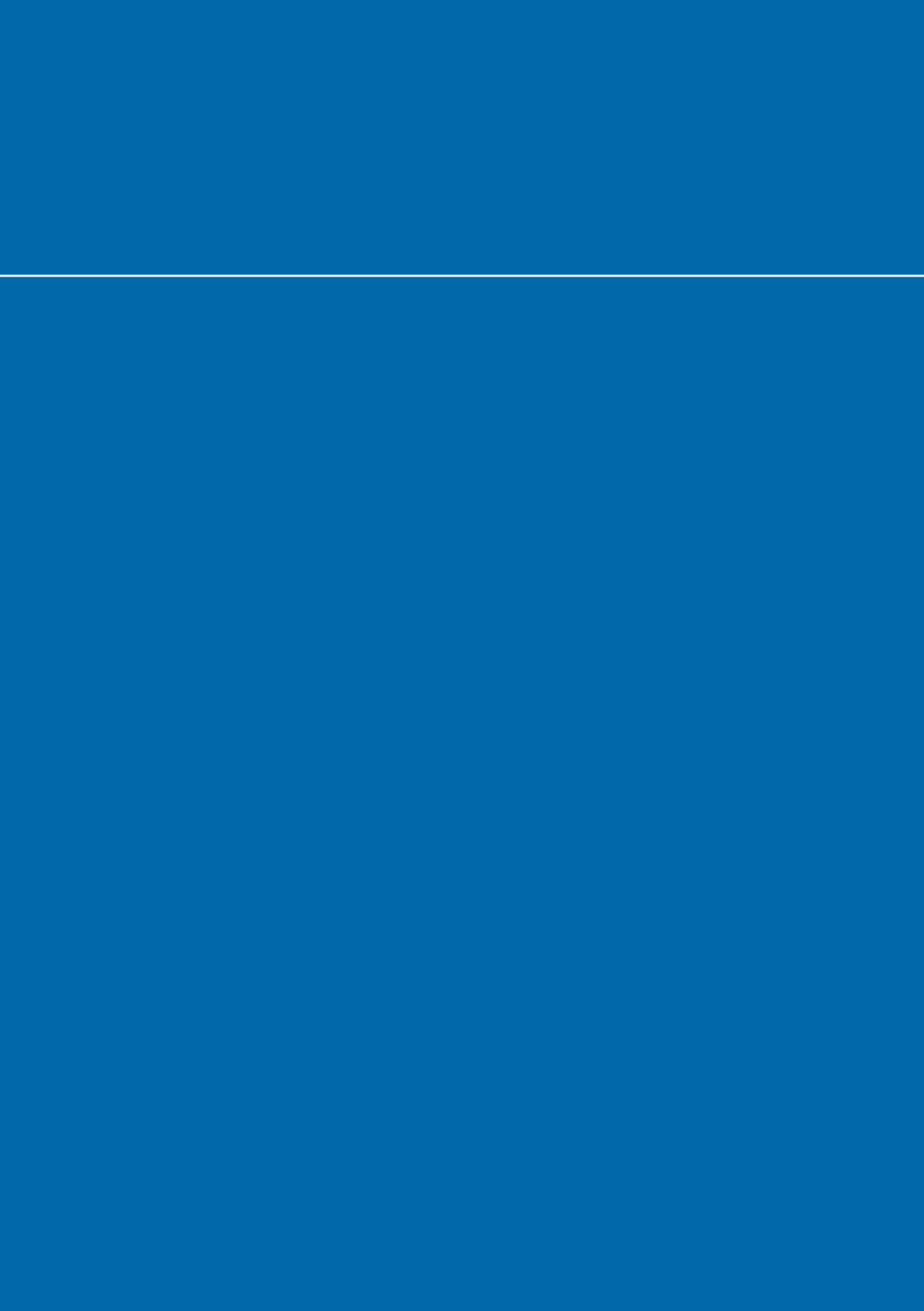
Topics to be discussed in the panel are the followings:

- What is your opinion regarding the success of the Operational Programmes (2007-2013) in reducing regional differences? Based on the available interim data did regional differences reduce, stagnate or increase as a result of measures of the last programming period?
- Economic performance has a tendency of concentration in central regions (capital cities), but only a small fraction of available financial resources can be used in these regions. How does this contrast affect the 2014-20 programming period and how can it be managed?
- Are you planning to use completely new methods to help less developed regions catch up? If yes what are they?
- Should less developed regions be supported by specific programmes to manage regional differences in a country or developed regions should be supported claiming that through the multiplier effect economic growth will follow in less developed regions?
- How will conclusions of S3 strategies be applied practically in the measures of the 2014-20 programming period? What is the relevance in using S3 strategies in the less developed regions?
- Can large companies have a special role in supporting less developed regions to catch up?





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Information about the conference and the presentations will be available at the website of the Ministry for National Economy:

<http://www.kormany.hu/hu/nemzetgazdasagi-miniszterium>

Please, send your questions, opinions, and requests to the following e-mail address:

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