11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES 2016

Sharing the first experiences of the new programming period



SZÉCHENYI 2020

MINISTRY FOR NATIONAL ECONOMY



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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 became 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.

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 became 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.

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 became 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.

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

PROGRAMME

11th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF COMPETITIVENESS OPERATIONAL PROGRAMMES

09 June, 2016

THURSDAY

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

WiFi ZONE
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:
György NYIKOS
(Hungarian Development Bank)

Discussants:

- **Jana KOLARÍKOVÁ**
  (European Commission- DG REGIO)
- **Magdalena PRONOBIS**
  (Marshal Office of the Pomorskie Region, Poland)
- **Monika ŠUĆUR**
  (Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments)
- **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 DENCSŐ
(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 Comission, 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

Thank you for joining us.

12. 50 – 14.00 LUNCH - Cote Jardin restaurant

SECTION TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

SECTION 1
FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS WITHIN COMPETITIVENESS OPS

Topics to be discussed in the panel are the followings:

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)

What is the status of use of the 2014-20 financial sources? What kind of managing structure have you chosen? Do you use public procurement procedures?

What kind of external funding can you use on the different levels of implementation? How does the rate of the leverage effect looks like for distinct products?

Do you plan to use combined development programmes (between operational programmes or within two measures?) Will you use the 'technical support' parallel with the combined programmes within one construction?

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?

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?

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?

SECTION TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

PRESENTERS



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

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 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).

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 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.

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 trhough 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



Györgyi NYIKOS Ph.D.

(HU)

Hungarian Development Bank
Director

National University of Public Servicey
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 (2014-20120). I have been also following financial instruments 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

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 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.

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

Monika ŠUĆUR

(HR)

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



Monika Šućur has been working at HAMAG-BICRO since 2008, where she provides advice and strategic guidelines to the Board with special emphasis on the ESI funds. Currently, she coordinates the ESI financial instruments set-up. She has more than 15 years of experience in the field of SME development, environmental management and sustainable development. Ms Šućur earned master degree in public affairs at the Indiana University Bloomington, USA. She was professionally trained in Japan and across Europe.

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 department 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

Reiner KNEIFEL-HAVERKAMP

(GER)

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



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.

PRESENTERS

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 focusing 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.



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 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.

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 Intermediate 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

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.



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 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.

PRESENTERS

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 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.

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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