CONFERENCE BROCHURE

8th international evaluation
C O N F E R E N C E

23 May, 2019

Conference and arts centre "Arkangelas"
Maironio st. 11, Vilnius

CONFERENCE VENUE

**Arkangelo Conference
and Art Centre**

**23 May
8.00 a.m. – 5.30 p.m.**

**Maironio st. 11, Vilnius
http://www.arkangelo.lt**

EXCURSION

Church Heritage Museum

**Time:
5.30 – 6.15 p.m.**

**The excursion will take place
in the conference venue
http://www.bpmuziejus.lt**

You are invited to visit one of the most unique museums in Vilnius where you will have an opportunity to see the most valuable exhibits of the Vilnius Cathedral treasury on display in an impressive Renaissance ensemble.

The languages of the excursion will be English and Lithuanian. The groups will be formed from the number of participants who gave their confirmation at the early registration for the event. If you had no plans to take part in the excursion or the evening event, but have decided to joint in during the conference, please inform the staff at the registration for the event.

RECEPTION

**Mabre Residence Hotel,
Hazienda Restaurant**

**23 May
Beginning at 6.30 p.m.**

**Maironio st. 13, Vilnius
http://www.mabre.lt/lt/#taste**

ACCOMMODATION OFFER:

For your convenience, our offer includes hotels in the neighbourhood of the conference venue. A discount will be applied to your room reservations in these hotels.
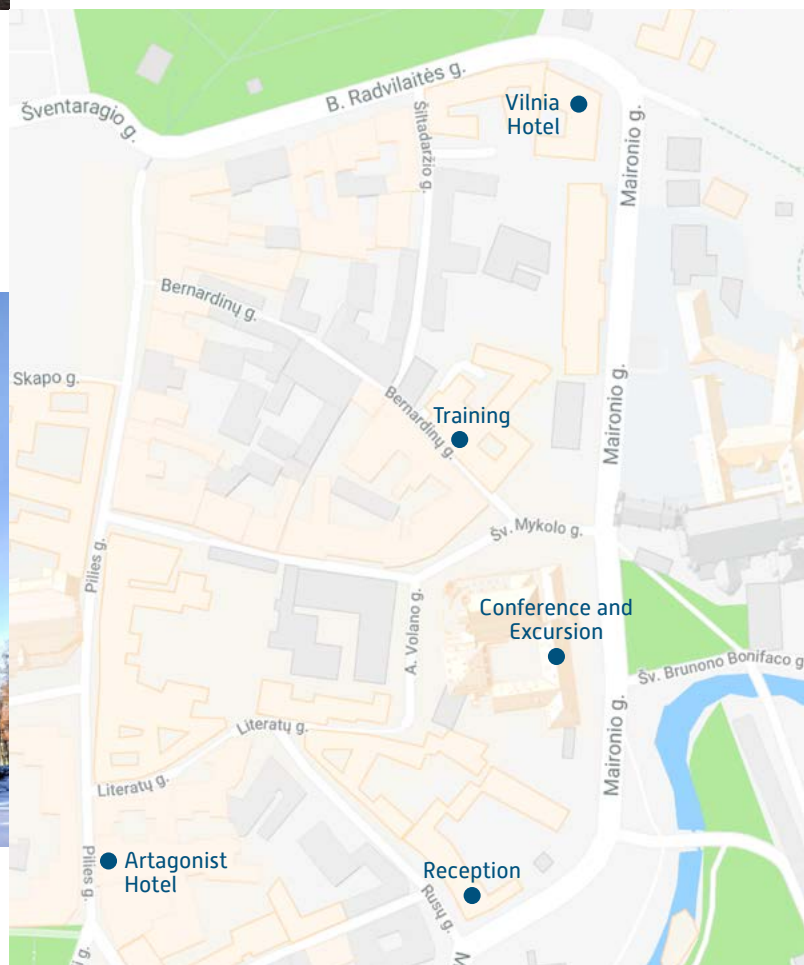Discount code: Evaluation Conference 2019.

INFORMATION ABOUT TRAINING

24 May
8.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Šekspyras Hotel
Bernardinų st. 8, Vilnius

SITE MAP

Artagonist Hotel

Pilies st. 34, Vilnius
http://www.artagonist.lt/

Vilnia Hotel

Maironio st. 1, Vilnius
https://hotelvilnia.lt/?lang=lt

If you have any questions, please write to:
aiste@visionary.lt

WELCOME

Dear conference participants,

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania, which is responsible for management and evaluation of European and Structural Funds, is proud to host the 8th international evaluation conference in Vilnius.

The conference is organised every two years in Vilnius and focus on the evaluation of European Structural and Investment Funds. We are pleased that the conferences have established a reputation for thought provoking presentations, sharing of inspiring experiences, and networking.

*As the new programming period of 2021 – 2027 approaches, there is a need to revisit the ways and means of strengthening evaluation systems and increasing the impact of evaluative knowledge. Hence, this year's conference - **"Evaluation post 2020: evolution or revolution?"** - is dedicated to exploring the future of evaluation. The presentations and discussions will focus on the drivers of change.*

First, how can we improve the use of evaluation results in evidence–based policy making? While evaluations are invaluable source of information for improving public interventions, a number of challenges remain. On the one hand, there is a sense that the potential of evaluations is not fully utilised. How can we address this? On the other hand, the needs of policy makers have evolved over the past decade. For example, the ever growing pace of socio-economic and technological change implies that decision-making cycles have become shorter. As a result, evaluation systems need to be become more responsive and deliver the results faster.

Second, new analytical tools and sources of data have recently emerged. How can evaluation harness these opportunities? For example, big data could transform evaluation and monitoring. It could provide detailed, near-real-time information and facilitate counterfactual impact evaluations.

We hope that this conference will inspire and enable future improvements in evaluation practice and evidence-based decision making!

Welcome to Vilnius – the hub of knowledge!

Miglė Tuskienė

**Vice-Minister, Ministry of Finance,
Republic of Lithuania**

EVALUATION post 2020: evolution or revolution?

8.00 – 9.00	REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE
9.00 – 9.15	OPENING CEREMONY

Miglė Tuskienė
Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Finance, Republic of Lithuania

9.15 – 10.30	PLENARY SESSION 1: INVESTMENT EVALUATION: THE FUTURE VISION

Dr Agnė Paliokaitė Moderator. Director at Visionary Analytics

9.15 – 9.40	CONSOLIDATING THE 2014-2020 REVOLUTION WITH SIMPLIFICATION IN MIND

Mariana Hristcheva
Head of the Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General
for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), European Commission, Belgium

STREAMLINING THE ESF MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

Jeannette Monier
Deputy Head of Unit , European Commission Directorate-General for Employment
(DG EMPL), Social Affairs and Inclusion Evaluation and Impact Assessment,
Belgium

9.40 – 10.05	INSTITUTIONALISATION OF EVALUATION IN EUROPE: THE CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Dr Wolfgang Meyer
Vice-Director of the Centre for Evaluation (CEval) at Saarland University, Germany

10.05 – 10:30	THE FUTURE OF EVALUATION: 10 PREDICTIONS

Dr Žilvinas Martinaitis
Partner and Research Manager at Visionary Analytics, Lithuania

10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK
11.00 – 12.15	PLENARY SESSION 1: INVESTMENT EVALUATION: THE FUTURE VISION (CONT.)
11.00 – 11.20	METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES AND TRENDS FOR THE FUTURE OF EVALUATION

Dr Gustav Jakob Petersson
Senior Analyst at the Swedish Research Council, Sweden

11.20 – 11.45	BUILDING CAPACITY FOR EFFECTIVE USE OF QUALITY EVALUATION: LESSONS FROM THE OECD EXPERIENCE

Stephane Jacobzone
Head of Unit, Evidence, Monitoring and Policy Evaluation Governance Reviews
and Partnerships, OECD Public Governance Directorate, France

11.45 – 12.15	Q&A SESSION
12.15 – 13.30	LUNCH
13.30 – 15.00	PARALLEL SESSION A: METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES FOR EVALUATION POST 2020

Dr Gustav Jakob Petersson Moderator

13.30 – 14.00	**EVALUATION OF ESF FUNDED TRAININGS: HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE THE NEW STRATEGIES OF DATA COLLECTION BEEN?** **Simonas Gaušas** Partner and Research Manager at Visionary Analytics, Lithuania
14.00 – 14.30	**PUBLIC INTERVENTIONS TO CREATE PUBLIC OUTCOME. HOW CAN EVALUATION HELP US?** **Dr Astrid Molenveld** Assistant Professor at the department of Public Administration and Sociology, Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Netherlands
14.30 – 15.00	**MONITORING AND EVALUATING COMPLEX INTERVENTIONS – USING INSIGHTS FROM SYSTEMS THINKING** **Richard Hummelbrunner** Independent Evaluator, Austria
13.30 – 15.00	**PARALLEL SESSION B: EVALUATION RESULTS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED PUBLIC INTERVENTIONS. LESSONS LEARNT** **Dr Agnė Paliokaitė** Moderator
13.30 – 14.00	**WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF EVALUATIONS? IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS: CONTENT VS FORM** **Vilija Šemetienė** Ministry of Finance, Republic of Lithuania
14.00 – 14.30	**LIFE QUALITY MEASUREMENTS AND THEIR BENEFITS FOR RESULTS-ORIENTED GOVERNANCE** **Jonas Jatkauskas** BGI Consulting" public policy expert, director, Lithuania
14.30 – 15.00	**LEARNING FROM EVALUATIONS TO SHAPE THE FUTURE: DEVELOPING KEY IMPACT PATH WAYS FOR THE EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION** **Nelly Bruno** Policy Analyst at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission, Belgium
15.00 – 15.30	**COFFEE BREAK**
15.30 – 17.00	**PLENARY SESSION 2: EFFECTIVE PUBLIC INTERVENTIONS: MISSION (IM)POSSIBLE?** **Dr Žilvinas Martinaitis** Moderator
15.30 – 15.50	**UNDERSTANDING POLICY IMPACT – IN-DEPTH EVALUATION OF THE OECD COMMITTEES** **Dr Bastiaan de Laat** Senior Evaluator at the In-Depth evaluation unit of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), France
15.50 – 16.10	**COORDINATION OF PUBLIC INTERVENTIONS: PREPARATION FOR 2021+ PERSPECTIVE IN LITHUANIA** **Dr Klaudijus Maniokas** Chairman of the Board of ESTEP, Lithuania
16.10 – 17.00	**DISCUSSION** DISCUSSANTS – SPEAKERS: **Dr Žilvinas Martinaitis** **Miglė Tuskienė, Dr Marius Skuodis,** Moderator **Dr Bastiaan de Laat, Dr Klaudijus Maniokas**
17.00 – 17.30	**CLOSING CEREMONY AND BEST SPEAKER AWARD**

PLENARY SESSION 1

Investment evaluation: the future vision

Agnė Paliokaitė

Moderator. Director at Visionary Analytics

Mariana Hristcheva

Head of the Evaluation and European Semester Unit, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), European Commission, Belgium

CONSOLIDATING THE 2014-2020 REVOLUTION WITH SIMPLIFICATION IN MIND

With this presentation the Commission intends to give insights on its approach to the elaboration of the regulatory provisions governing evaluation of Cohesion policy for the period 2021-2027. It will highlight the main challenges in balancing the consolidation of the qualitative advancements expected in the current programing period (2014-2020), on the one hand, and the overarching objective to simplify the future regulatory framework governing the funds, strongly supported by various stakeholders.

Finally, it will outline its proposal related to evaluation for the next programming period, concerning the Commission's role and obligations, as well as the role and obligations of the Member States, including the envisaged interplay between regulatory and soft measures. It will also present the benefits and expected outcomes of the chosen approach.

Jeannette Monier

Deputy Head of Unit , European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion Evaluation and Impact Assessment, Belgium

STREAMLINING THE ESF MONITORING AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

This presentation focuses on the specificities of the ESF and the proposals for the next programming period. Here also, the main aim was to streamline the evaluation and monitoring system, while building on the important achievements of this programming period, notably the focus on impact evaluation and a comprehensive common indicator set. Various avenues have been explored in a preparatory study and discussed extensively with specialists in Member States. The result is a legislative proposal that brings important simplifications, not only on the range of requirements to be met by Member States, but also on data collection methods.

Dr. Wolfgang Meyer

Deputy director of Centre for Evaluation (CEval) at Saarland University, Germany

INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF EVALUATION IN EUROPE - CURRENT STATE AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

During the last three decades, evaluation established as an important instrument for evidence-based policy making all over Europe. This impressive process started for various reasons in some pioneer countries like France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK in the early 1990s, more or less influenced by the global development initiated in North America and Australia. According to activities of transnational organizations like the EU, OECD and several UN-branches, evaluation spread over the whole world after the turn of the century. In Europe, the rules of the European Structural Fund played an important role and helped to develop rather fast an evaluation culture especially in the Central-Eastern European states.

In 2016, the Centre for Evaluation CEval at Saarland University started a research project on the institutionalization of evaluation in Europe and the results are about to be published in a book called the "Evaluation Globe". By using a comparative design, more than 25 authors from 18 countries describe the state of the art on implementing evaluation in the political system, the society and the academia, offering the broadest overview on the institutionalization of evaluation in Europe yet published. This presentation will report on the comparative results and address the question whether the institutionalization is already an indication for professionalization and the rise of a European Evaluation culture.

While looking into the future of evaluation on base of this stocktaking, the most interesting questions are about the stability of the already existing institutions and the development potentialities. The presentation will discuss some trends, pitfalls and perspectives that may influence the future of evaluation in Europe.

Dr. Žilvinas Martinaitis

**Partner and Research Manager at
Visionary Analytics, Lithuania**

THE FUTURE OF EVALUATION: 10 PREDICTIONS

The presentation explores the implications of probable shifts in three pillars of evaluation systems. First, the traditional justification for conducting evaluations – ensure accountability and improve welfare of citizens – assumes supremacy of (technocratic) knowledge over ideological divisions in formulation and implementation of public policy. Yet the aftermath of global financial crisis witnessed growing ideological polarisation within society, which has put public policy at the centre of political debate.

Second, evaluations are driven by theories of change that aim to establish causality in order to explain the past as well as to make educated guesses about the future. Yet, emergence of predictive analytics is challenging the link between the analysis of causality and predictions of future behaviour of individuals.

Third, traditional evaluations rely on a limited number of (expensive) data collection methods, such as interviews, surveys, monitoring data, etc. Yet all-encompassing digitalisation generates huge amounts of new types of data that could transform collection and analysis of evaluative data.

Dr. Gustav Jakob Petersson

Senior Analyst at the Swedish Research Council, Sweden

METHODOLOGICAL CHALLENGES AND TRENDS FOR THE FUTURE OF EVALUATION

How to best identify the true impacts of an intervention is arguably the most heavily debated concern among evaluators. How are we to know what actually works, here and there, today and tomorrow? While the debates have proven perennial, the approaches have developed over time.

This presentation discusses some present methodological opportunities and challenges for evaluation, such as the introduction of Big Data in evaluation, the increasing number of frameworks for systematic reviews and syntheses, and the increasing popularity of complexity theory.

This presentation also makes the following claim: When discussing the benefits of such methodological innovations, it is important to bear multiple causality theories in mind, as that is the recipe to avoid overly polarized debates.

Stephane Jacobzone

Head of Unit, Evidence, Monitoring and Policy Evaluation, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR EFFECTIVE USE OF QUALITY EVALUATION: LESSONS FROM THE OECD EXPERIENCE

The presentation will outline the main trends across OECD countries for framing evaluation practices, and setting up systems for evaluation of public policies, including institutionalisation, as well as promoting quality and use of policy evaluation. This will provide an overview of the main institutions in charge of evaluation, their perceived challenges and the extent to which evaluation practices are embodied into legal and regulatory frameworks. It will discuss the role of various quality assurance mechanisms and the tools that can be used to promote evaluation, such as investing in civil servant skills, and its use at institutional level. It will discuss the obstacles that are faced in terms of promoting effective use of evaluation and the strategies that can be used to overcome there. It will also draw on comparative information drawing on country practices related to the use of evaluation in various areas, such as budgeting and improving performance of public programmes, as well as improving the quality of regulations through ex ante and ex post evaluation.

PARALLEL SESSION A

Methodological challenges for evaluation post 2020

Dr. Gustav Jakob Petersson

Senior Analyst at the Swedish Research Council, Sweden

Simonas Gaušas

**Partner and Research Manager
at Visionary Analytics, Lithuania**

EVALUATION OF ESF FUNDED TRAININGS: HOW SUCCESSFUL HAVE THE NEW STRATEGIES OF DATA COLLECTION BEEN?

The European Social Fund (ESF) has provided more than 1 billion euros to support human capital development in Lithuania for the funding period 2014-2020. The major part of this investment goes to the funding of various trainings. However, the evaluations of training interventions are usually based on 'soft' evidence, given the inherent difficulties in assessing the quality and outcomes. Our evaluation, among other things, aims to challenge this assumption.

The presentation will discuss the merits and challenges of three data collection innovations that were applied during the evaluation. First, it will present how real time labour market monitoring system can be applied for the assessment of relevance of practical skills acquired during labour market training. Second, we will outline the advantages and disadvantages of real time monitoring of provision of training to assess their quality. Third, we will discuss results and shortcomings of the large scale survey sent to all beneficiaries of trainings

Dr. Astrid Molenveld

Assistant Professor at the department of Public Administration and Sociology, Erasmus School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Netherlands

PUBLIC INTERVENTIONS TO CREATE PUBLIC OUTCOME. HOW CAN EVALUATION HELP US?

There are a few trends in evaluation land. Discussions on how to conduct policy evaluation are increasingly about numbers, algorithms, 'big data', proof, and the evidence base for policy interventions. The view on policy evaluation is ever more 'quantitative', both ex-ante evaluation, e.g. the evidence-base for a certain policy intervention, as well as ex-post evaluation. The recently deceased Ulrich Beck warned us about rationalizing new (or old) challenges and called for reflexivity. When we think about evaluation, we simply cannot calculate all the ways to an effective intervention or grasp its effects fully. An accumulation of all the available evidence about interventions is a good start of a possible intervention, however there are other factors at play. Context - especially in the public sector - matters, whether there is support, as well as advocates and boundary spanners present... This leave researchers and practitioners who are interested in developing the evaluation field further with a task: to look for alternative methods for policy evaluation, which smartly mix data, evidence and leave room to reflexivity and learning. New types of evaluation - which can assess interventions and public outcome are being developed (e.g. SROI, and QCA) and there is more work to be done.

Richard Hummelbrunner

Independent evaluator, Austria

MONITORING AND EVALUATING COMPLEX INTERVENTIONS – USING INSIGHTS FROM SYSTEMS THINKING

Programmes that are faced with complexity pose new challenges for M&E, for which insights and methods from the systems field might be useful. Based on an overview of these challenges the presentation will be structured in three parts:

1) The first part will outline the rationale for using Systems Thinking, explain three core concepts (Interrelationships, Perspectives and Boundaries) and propose some guidance for choosing appropriate systemic methods;

2) The second part will address the use of Systems Thinking for monitoring of complex situations, where monitoring based on predefined quantitative indicators is inappropriate or insufficient. Some alternatives are outlined, operating with or without programme theory;

3) The final part will be devoted to the implications of Systems Thinking for (impact) evaluation. Options for assessing causality in complex situations are proposed, which are based on a systemic understanding of impact.

The presentation is based on various writings by the author (notably the book "Systems Concepts in Actions. A practitioner's toolkit") and illustrated by examples from his evaluation practice.

PARALLEL SESSION B

Evaluation results for evidence-based public interventions. Lessons learnt

Agnė Paliokaitė

Moderator. Director at Visionary Analytics

Vilija Šemetienė

Ministry of Finance, Republic of Lithuania

WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF EVALUATIONS? IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS: CONTENT VS FORM

This presentation extends the inexhaustible and periodically reviving theme or perhaps the problem which is still relevant for the evaluation community - what are the actual results of the evaluation, how to measure the use of evaluation results, how to determine the impact of the evaluations. The presentation will discuss, how do we understand, what are evaluation results and how do we measure their use: do we frame it as a recommendation and its implementation or/ and the knowledge and its adaptation to the change of the fundamental beliefs of the interested parties, the broad consensus on the fundamental changes and the empowerment of the owners of the change?

Does the narrow conception, which focuses on implementation of recommendations, really reveal the actual use of evaluation results? Do we sacrifice the content to form? Case study - implementation of recommendations and strategic proposals in Lithuania.

Jonas Jatkauskas

BGI Consulting" public policy expert, director, Lithuania

LIFE QUALITY MEASUREMENTS AND THEIR BENEFITS FOR RESULTS-ORIENTED GOVERNANCE

Public policy planning, as well as strategic decisions of cohesion policies, are exclusively based on the pursuit of economic and social convergence. This goal, in strategic planning documents, implementation programmes, and evaluation reports, is usually defined by macroeconomic indicators, such as GDP, employment levels, productivity, income, assistance. Life quality measurements are designed to broaden the concept of social and economic development by measuring the state of society's development in terms of life quality on the individual level. The presentation introduces the concept of life quality measurement and the set of new knowledge/evidence for public policy planning and evaluation based on life quality measurements.

Nelly Bruno

Policy Analyst at the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD), European Commission, Belgium

LEARNING FROM EVALUATIONS TO SHAPE THE FUTURE: DEVELOPING KEY IMPACT PATHWAYS FOR THE EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

In June 2018, the Commission submitted a proposal for Horizon Europe, the ninth European Framework Programme (FP) for research and innovation with a proposed budget of nearly EUR 100 billion over 2021-2027. Since 1984, the EU investments in the successive FPs contributed to key scientific advancements and discoveries for the benefits of society and the economy. These impacts have been documented in multiple evaluation exercises and dedicated studies but still such assessments face common method-ological challenges and limitations. A major difficulty is to identify and capture the direct and indirect effects that can be attributed to these risky investments in complex and open research and innovation systems over a long timeframe. Based on lessons from evaluations, the European Commission proposed a revamped monitoring framework for Horizon Europe built around a set of impact pathways to monitor progress towards impact in close to real time. The presentation will shed light on the origins of this new approach - based on lessons from the past - and how this is expected to contribute to the improvement of the monitoring and evaluation of the Framework Programme post 2020, and ultimately to evidence-based policy making.

PLENARY SESSION 2

Effective public interventions: mission (im)possible?

Dr. Žilvinas Martinaitis

Moderatorius.
Partner and Research Manager at
Visionary Analytics, Lithuania

Dr. Bastiaan De Laat

Senior Evaluator at the In-Depth evaluation unit of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), France

UNDERSTANDING POLICY IMPACT – IN-DEPTH EVALUATION OF THE OECD COMMITTEES"

The OECD works on a broad range of topics to help governments foster prosperity and fight poverty through economic growth and financial stability. The work of the OECD is driven by a tripartite structure involving the OECD Council, the Secretariat and the Committees. The Committees, composed of OECD members' delegates and sometimes other participants, play a crucial role in the work of the organisation. They give strategic guidance to the work programme for the different substantive areas. It is also under their auspices that most of the work of the organisation is performed and published. There are currently some 30 "Part I" Committees, and, taking into account their substructures, the OECD counts well over 200 bodies in a great variety of fields. Together these publish around 250 documents per year and organise numerous meetings, fora, workshops and other events.

Some OECD products can have a binding character (such as International Agreements like the anti-bribery convention or in the case of OECD Decisions) but – understandably – most of the time, for example in the case of Recommendations, Declarations or indicators, they lack a formal obligation to use them in national policy-making processes. Yet the expectation exists that OECD work contributes to policy making, and may do so in different ways: as supporting data or evidence, as new principles, guidelines or models for policy-making, by giving possible directions for policy reform, etcetera. The OECD work also has an important benchmarking function between countries and facilitates peer reviews (and the resulting peer pressure). It is expected that policy-makers in member countries are aware of relevant OECD products, use it in their own work, and that this ultimately leads to some sort of policy impact or in other ways contributes to policy making. Assessing the relevance, effectiveness and efficiency of this to a great extent "intangible" work of the Committees is the purpose of In-depth Evaluation at the OECD.

After a brief general introduction to the OECD organisation, the presentation will provide the objectives of the Committee evaluations at the OECD and describe past evaluation "cycles". It will then go on to discuss the In-depth Evaluation governance structure, the evaluation criteria and the tools used to support the evaluative assessments. It will finish with some reflections on the future.

Dr. Klaudijus Maniokas

Chairman of the Board of ESTEP, Lithuania

COORDINATION OF PUBLIC INTERVENTIONS: PREPARATION FOR 2021+ PERSPECTIVE IN LITHUANIA

The presentation will summarise the results of the evaluation on the financing of Lithuanian economic sectors after 2020, which is commissioned by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania. The evaluation is carried out in accordance with the service contract of 31 July 2018 between the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania and the economic entities' group - PricewaterhouseCoopers and ESTEP Vilnius.

The scope of the evaluation covers public interventions in 14 public policy areas: education and science, energy efficiency and housing, business, culture and tourism, public administration, information society, environment, employment and social inclusion, health, regional development, research and innovation, transport, energy, demography and migration.

The overall objective of the evaluation is to optimise public interventions in the said policy areas, in order to ensure the sustainable growth of the society's quality of life in the medium and long term. The evaluation has three tasks:

1. To identify the structure and the extent of public interventions in the aforementioned public policy areas by type of intervention (regulation, financing, production, income support) and funding sources (state and municipal budgets, EU or other support funds) and to evaluate the relevance, sufficiency, coherence, and effectiveness of all types of interventions in achieving the public policy objectives.

2. To examine the coherence and relevance of the public interventions for achieving sustainable growth in quality of life in the medium and long term.

3. To identify the potential directions for decreasing the dependency on the EU Structural Funds (EU SF) in 2021–2027 and to assess the possibilities of replacing the EU SF investments with non-financial interventions by the state or private funds in order sustain economic development and social welfare.

Methodologically, the evaluation is based on the analysis of secondary sources, inter-

views, and 28 (two discussions in 14 sectors) thematic discussions with the main actors.

The presentation will focus on the second task of the evaluation – assessment of the coherence of public interventions. Evaluation was based on the assumption that one of the main problems of the EU SF investments, and investments in general, is insufficient coordination with other types of interventions, including regulation, redistribution, etc. The assumption relies on the previous evaluations carried out in Lithuania in the areas of poverty reduction, waste, and competitiveness.

The preliminary results of the evaluation highlight the importance of coordination of interventions within the same policy areas as well as the importance of the coordination between policy areas. For example, improvements in the quality of public services such as education, health, and culture require faster optimisation of the network of service providers, which can lead to a cross-sectoral learning. One of the main preliminary conclusions is that the main obstacles to Lithuania's economic growth, such as poverty, inadequate skills of the labour force, insufficient level of innovation, and increasing regional differences are intersectoral, and Lithuanian public policy lacks effective interinstitutional cooperation instruments to address these challenges.

Dr. Žilvinas Martinaitis

Moderatorius.
Partner and Research Manager at
Visionary Analytics, Lithuania

DISCUSSION WITH
DECISION MAKERS

DISCUSSIONS – SPEAKERS:

Miglė Tuskienė

Dr. Marius Skuodis

**Dr. Bastiaan
de Laat**

**Dr. Klaudijus
Maniokas**