

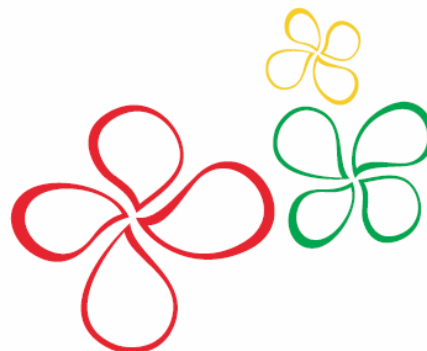
KONFERENCIJA / CONFERENCE

# ES struktūrinės paramos vertinimas: siekiant kokybės ir rezultatų naudojimo

## *Evaluation of EU Structural Funds: Reinforcing Quality and Utilisation*

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2009 m. kovo 26-27 d. | 26-27 March, 2009 | Vilnius



Organized by the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania



Europos socialinis fondas  
Europos regioninės plėtros fondas  
Sanglaudos fondas



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## **PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE**

Evaluation is a core component of the Structural Fund programming and management processes. The fundamental objective of evaluation is to contribute to the improved management of EU programmes, increased transparency, accountability and enhanced cost-effectiveness of public investments. For evaluation to be effective it must deliver good quality results which are put to good use. Achieving this is not straightforward. A process through which evaluations influence programme design and management and the policy process generally is a complicated one and under-utilisation of evaluation results continues to be of concern to managers and evaluators.

Against this background the purpose of this Conference entitled “Evaluation of Structural Funds: Reinforcing Quality and Utilisation” is to facilitate the exchange of experience and explore different ways of ensuring that evaluations are of high quality, their results are systematically fed into the strategic decision-making process and contribute to better results of Structural Fund interventions.

## **TARGET GROUP**

The Conference brings together people responsible for commissioning and managing evaluations and those who undertake evaluations as well as other stakeholders.

## **FORMAT OF THE CONFERENCE**

The Conference will have a combination of plenary sessions, parallel sessions, paper presentations and discussions. There will also be opportunities to interact, network and reflect during social events.

## **DATE AND LOCATION**

The Conference takes place in Vilnius, Lithuania on 26-27 March 2009.  
The venue of the Conference is the hotel “Artis”, Liejyklos Str. 11/23.

## **WORKING LANGUAGES**

The working languages of the Conference are Lithuanian and English.

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## CONFERENCE THEMES

The conference is structured around three key themes:

- Theme 1 Reinforcing Quality and Usefulness of Evaluations
- Theme 2 Strengthening Utilisation of Structural Fund Evaluation Results
- Theme 3 Embedding Evaluation in Wider Government

Each of these themes is described in more detail below.

### **THEME 1**

#### **REINFORCING QUALITY AND USEFULNESS OF EVALUATIONS**

A prerequisite for high-quality evaluations is the adequate evaluation capacity within Structural Fund administrations as well as the ability of evaluators to conduct evaluations with sufficient analytical rigour. Two parallel sessions of the conference will address different aspects of the evaluation capacity on the demand and supply side respectively.

#### **Parallel Session 1 - Building an Effective Capacity For Evaluation on the Demand Side**

Parallel Session 1 will focus on evaluation capacity building within Structural Fund administrations and discuss the following issues:

- How can evaluation capacity development needs be effectively diagnosed?
- What are the approaches to and strategies of building evaluation capacity within Structural Fund administrations? What evaluation capacity building tools, techniques and measures are working well (or not)?
- How can the success of evaluation capacity building measures be assessed?
- How can the evaluation capacity be sustained?

Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences concerning effective approaches to and challenges faced in evaluation capacity building.

The primary target group of this session is representatives of EU Member State administrations responsible for structural fund evaluation function. This session may also be of interest and is open to evaluators and other members of evaluation community.

#### **Parallel Session 2 - Producing Credible Evaluations: Methodological Considerations**

High-quality evaluations are based on rigorous methodologies producing credible and useful results. Parallel Session 2 is dedicated to exchange of information on evaluation approaches and methods used in Structural Fund evaluations with a special focus on the evaluation of impacts. Participants will be invited to share their experiences concerning successful and innovative approaches to evaluating Structural Fund interventions and discuss related challenges.

The primary target group of this session is evaluators. This session is intended to serve both as sharing of experience “exercise” and a milieu for networking among evaluators. This session may also be of interest and is open to evaluation commissionaires.

## **THEME 2**

### **STRENGTHENING UTILISATION OF STRUCTURAL FUND EVALUATION RESULTS**

Undertaking evaluation and ensuring its quality is only worthwhile if the activity leads to some use of evaluation findings and contributes to the improved knowledge. At the end of the day the utilisation of evaluation findings is the “yardstick of success”.

The afternoon plenary session will explore ways of ensuring that evaluation findings are put to good use. Presentations under this theme will discuss the following issues:

- What is meant by the evaluation "utilisation" and how can it be measured?
- What factors affect utilisation?
- What are ways to ensure that evaluations are used and make influence? What is the experience of the European Commission and EU Member States?
- What are the examples of influential evaluations and what lessons can be learnt from them?

Participants will be encouraged to discuss their experiences concerning challenges and promising approaches in promoting the utilisation of evaluations.

## **THEME 3**

### **EMBEDDING EVALUATION IN WIDER GOVERNMENT**

It is important to acknowledge that the Structural Fund evaluation capacity and degree of influence of evaluations are affected by the culture of the wider administration. It is unlikely that a strong evaluation capacity could be sustained where the wider governance environment was not conducive to evaluation practice. On the other hand, the Structural Fund evaluation practice has implications for a national evaluation system.

The plenary session held on the second day of the Conference will have a closer look at the aforementioned inter-relationships and will ask:

- To what extent evaluation is used in the national budgetary, legislative and policy development processes (with a special focus on Lithuania)?
  - How can good Structural Fund evaluation practices be “exported” to a wider governance system?
  - How can better linkages between Structural Fund evaluations and national policy/programme evaluations be ensured in order to increase effectiveness of public interventions?
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**Welcome to the Conference and Vilnius – European Capital of Culture 2009!**

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

# EVALUATION OF EU STRUCTURAL FUNDS: REINFORCING QUALITY AND UTILISATION

26-27 March 2009  
Vilnius, Lithuania  
Hotel "Artis", Liejyklos str. 11/23

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2009

#### Part 1

#### REINFORCING QUALITY AND USEFULNESS OF EVALUATIONS

**Chair:** Dr. Ana Stankaitienė, Director of EU Cohesion Policy and Structural Assistance Coordination Department, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania

09.30 Conference Registration and Coffee

10.00 **Official Opening and Welcome**  
Rolandas Kriščiūnas, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania  
Veronica Gaffey, Head of DG REGIO Evaluation Unit, European Commission  
Dr. Vitalis Nakrošis, Public Policy and Management Institute, Lithuania

10.15 **Evaluation System and Evaluation Capacity in Lithuania**  
Dr. Ana Stankaitienė, Director of EU Cohesion Policy and Structural Assistance Coordination Department, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania

11.00 – 13:00 **Parallel Sessions**

**Session 1**  
**Building an Effective  
Capacity for Evaluation on  
the Demand Side**

**Session 2**  
**Producing Credible  
Evaluations: Methodological  
Considerations**  
(In English only)

#### Chair

Dr. Ana Stankaitienė  
Ministry of Finance of the Republic of  
Lithuania

Haroldas Brožaitis  
Public Policy and Management Institute

#### Themes

**Evaluation Capacity Building  
Activities in the EU Member  
States: a Cross-National Overview**  
Dr. Martin Ferry, European Policies  
Research Centre, University of  
Strathclyde, UK

**Do Economic Models Tell us  
Anything Useful about Cohesion  
Policy Impacts?**  
John Bradley, Principal of EMDS  
Consulting, Ireland

## Themes

### **Evaluation Capacity Building in the EU Member States: Exchange of Experience**

#### **Evaluation of Structural Instruments in Poland. Experience in Evaluation Capacity Building**

Stanisław Bienias, Head of Evaluation Unit, Department of Structural Policy Coordination, Ministry of Regional Development, Poland

#### **Developing Evaluation Capacity in Romania: from Theory to Practice, Present and Future**

Aneta Stoica and Anton Enachescu, Evaluation Central Unit, Ministry of Public Finance, Romania

#### **Building an Effective Evaluation System – the Hungarian Approach**

Dr. Tamás Tétényi, Head of Department for Strategy and Evaluation, National Development Agency, Hungary

#### **Multilevel On-going Evaluation Approach: Experiences from the Swedish Approach**

Göran Brulin, NUTEK analyst, Sweden

### **Questions and discussions**

### **Methods for Assessing Impacts of Structural Interventions: Lessons From Ex Post Evaluations**

Veronica Gaffey, Head of DG REGIO Evaluation Unit, European Commission

#### **Ex post evaluation of the ESF (2000-2006)**

Anna Galazka, Evaluation Officer, Evaluation and Impact Assessment Unit of DG EMPL, European Commission

#### **Methods for Evaluating Structural Fund Employment Effects**

Mark Whittle, CSES

#### **Methods for Evaluating Structural Fund Employment Effects: Methodological Alternatives and the Empirical Case of Lithuania**

Dr. Virmantas Kvedaras, Vilnius University, Lithuania

### **Questions and discussions**

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

## **Part 2**

### **STRENGTHENING UTILISATION OF STRUCTURAL FUND EVALUATION RESULTS**

**Chair:** Elliot Stern, Professor of Evaluation Research, Editor of International Journal “Evaluation”

14:00

#### **Summary and Conclusions from the Parallel Sessions**

Dr. Ana Stankaitienė, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania, Haroldas Brožaitis, Public Policy and Management Institute

14:15

#### **What is “Utilisation” and How Can It be Measured?**

Dr. Karol Olejniczak, Warsaw University, Poland

14:45

#### **Use of Evaluation Results in the European Commission**

Veronica Gaffey, Head of DG REGIO Evaluation Unit, European Commission

15:10

#### **Strengthening Utilisation of Evaluation Results in Lithuania**

Danutė Burakienė, Head of Evaluation Unit, EU Cohesion Policy and Structural Assistance Coordination Department, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania

15:35

Coffee Break

- 16:05 **ESF Evaluation Partnership as an Arrangement for Mutual Learning and Supporting Quality and Usefulness of Evaluations**  
Anna Galazka, Evaluation Officer, Evaluation and Impact Assessment Unit of DG EMPL, European Commission
- 16:30 **Using the Results of Evaluation to Inform ESF Programming: ESF in England - a Case Study**  
Duncan Carnie, Policy Manager, European Social Fund Division, Department for Work and Pensions, UK
- 17:00 **Concluding Remarks**
- 17:15 **Close**
- 17:45 **Reception**  
Hotel "Narutis", Pilies str. 24, Vilnius

## FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2009

### Part 3

#### EMBEDDING EVALUATION IN WIDER GOVERNMENT

**Chairs:** Dr. Ana Stankaitienė, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Lithuania and Dr. Ramūnas Vilpišauskas, Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania

- 09:00 Conference Registration and Coffee
- 09:30 **Role of Evaluation in Public Policy**  
Elliot Stern, Professor of Evaluation Research (Lancaster University), editor of International Journal "Evaluation", UK
- 10:00 **Integrated Approach to Evaluation of Structural Fund and National Expenditure: Lessons from the Irish Experience**  
David Hegarty, Indecon International Economic Consultants, Ireland
- 10:30 Coffee Break
- 11:00 **Role of Evaluation in the Programme of 15<sup>th</sup> Government of the Republic of Lithuania**  
Rimantas Večkys, Director of the Strategic Planning and Public Administration Department, Office of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania
- 11:30 **Assessing Public Expenditure: Evaluation of EU Structural Funds and Budget Programmes**  
Dr. Vitalis Nakrošis, Public Policy and Management Institute, Lithuania
- 12:00 **Discussion. Structural Fund Evaluation and Evaluation of National Programmes/Policies – Possibilities for Linkages?**  
**Chair:** Dr. Ramūnas Vilpišauskas, Office of the President of the Republic of Lithuania
- 12:45 **Concluding Remarks and Closing of the Conference**
- 13:00 Lunch