

**Second *fi-compass* ESF Conference  
'Financial instruments funded by the  
European Social Fund – boosting social impact'  
Brussels, 8 – 9 March 2018**

**Speaker Biographies**



## Day 1: 8 March 2018

### 10:00 – 10:45 Welcomes and introductions – Opening statements



**Ms Marianne Thyssen**

*European Commissioner for  
Employment, Social Affairs,  
Skills and Labour Mobility*

Marianne Thyssen is Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. Her portfolio includes overseeing European Union policy on employment, social affairs, vocational training, skills, labour market reforms and social inclusion, including workplace equality legislation. She is also responsible for the statistical office of the European Union (Eurostat).

She studied Law at the Catholic University of Leuven where she had her first job at the Law Faculty. Prior to her political career, she was working for UNIZO for more than 10 years (SME representative organisation). After that, she served as a Member of the European Parliament (1991-2014) and as Vice-Chair of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee.

Marianne Thyssen was also the party leader of the Flemish Christian-Democratic Party (CD&V) and the First Vice-President of the EPP Group in the European Parliament. She was elected Vice-President of the European People's Party in October 2015.



**Mr Georgi Pirinski**

*Member of the European  
Parliament*

Georgi Pirinski was elected a Member of the European Parliament in May 2014 (Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats – S&D) and currently serves on the Budgetary Control and Employment and Social Affairs Committees. Previously, he was the President of the National Assembly of Bulgaria (2005–2009) and Vice-President of the National Assembly of Bulgaria (2009–2013). His career in national politics started in 1990, with his election to the 7th Grand National Assembly that adopted in July 1991 the new Bulgarian Constitution, marking the return to multi-party democracy. He has also served as Minister of Foreign Affairs (1995–1996) and Member of the National Assembly (1990-2013).



**Mr Brando Benifei**

*Member of the European  
Parliament*

Brando Benifei, European Federalist, is one of the youngest MEPs and is from La Spezia, Italy. He has been chair of European affairs for the Young Democrats and Vice-President of ECOSY (youth organisation of PES) for 4 years and was part of the PES working group which originally drafted the European Youth Guarantee. His main fields of legislative work in the European Parliament are Employment and Social Affairs and Foreign Affairs.

He is co-chair of the Youth Intergroup and vice-chair of the Disability Intergroup. Among his parliamentary activities in the Committee of Employment and Social Affairs, he was responsible for key legislative and non-legislative reports on the social inclusion and integration of refugees into the EU labour market, youth employment policy such as the Youth Guarantee and the Youth Employment Initiative as well as digitalisation and rights of persons with disabilities.

**Speaker Biographies**

**10:45 – 11:30 Keynote speeches – why social impact**



**Prof. Miguel Poiars  
Maduro**

*Director of the School of  
Transnational Governance,  
European University  
Institute,  
Portugal*

Miguel Poiars Maduro is Director of the School of Transnational Governance at the European University Institute. From June 2016 to May 2017 he was Chairman of the new Governance and Review Committee of FIFA. Before, he was Professor at the Law Department and at the Robert Schuman Centre of the European University Institute where he was the Founding Director of the Global Governance Programme (from 2010 to 2013). From 2013 to 2015 he was Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister and Minister for Regional Development in Portugal. Until 2009 he was Advocate General at the European Court of Justice. He was a member of the EU High Level Group on Media Freedom and Pluralism. He has been a regular Visiting Professor at Yale Law School, the College of Europe and Universidades Católica and Nova in Portugal. He has also taught at the London School of Economics, the Centro de Estudios Constitucionales (Madrid) and Chicago Law School. He is a Doctor of Laws by the European University Institute (Florence). He has been Fulbright Visiting Research Scholar at Harvard Law School. He is Co-Director of the Academy of International Trade Law (Macao). He belongs to the editorial or advisory board of several law journals, including the European Law Journal and the Common Market Law Review and was founding editor of Global Constitutionalism. He has been honoured by the President of the Portuguese Republic with the Order of Sant'Iago da Espada for literary, scientific and artistic merit. In 2010 he was awarded the Gulbenkian Science Prize.



**Ms Madeleine Clarke**

*Chair of Board of Directors,  
European Venture  
Philanthropy Association  
(EVPA),  
Belgium*

Madeleine Clarke is the Chair of the European Venture Philanthropy Association, a membership association consisting of over 200 organisations interested in, or practising, venture philanthropy and social investment in 29 countries. She is also the founding Executive Director of Genio, which specialises in working with government and philanthropy to transform social services and support people in leading self-determined lives in their communities. Madeleine Clarke is currently working with Government and philanthropy in Ireland to implement this model in the areas of dementia, mental health, disability and homelessness, and is exploring its application in a wider European context. Prior to Genio, Madeleine Clarke worked for thirty years as a psychologist, senior manager and independent consultant with statutory, philanthropic and non-governmental agencies.



**Mr Filippo Addarii**

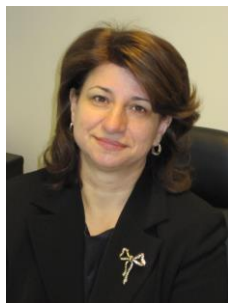
*Founding Partner and CEO,  
PlusValue,  
United Kingdom*

Filippo Addarii is Founding Partner and CEO of PlusValue, a London-based research and consultancy firm that provides original, bespoke solutions on turning social costs into investments. Over the last 15 years Filippo Addarii has advised national and international public institutions, corporations and not for profit organisations – e.g. European Commission, British Government, UN Fund for Democracy – on innovation strategy for socio-economic development. Since 2014 his main effort has been to scale impact investing up embedding it into urban regeneration: the main flagship projects being the impact investing strategy in the project finance for the new hospital of Treviso (value €250m) co-financed by EIB and EFSI, and the one for Lendlease's bid for Arexpo, the largest regeneration project in Milan (value €2bn). Filippo Addarii is co-author of "Vision and Trends of Social Innovation for Europe" report for the European Commission.



**Speaker Biographies**

**12:00 – 13:00 The role of the EU in social impact financing**



**Ms Andriana Sukova**

*Deputy Director General,  
DG Employment, Social  
Affairs & Inclusion,  
European Commission*

Andriana Sukova is the Deputy Director-General of DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. After Bulgaria's accession to the EU, she joined the Cabinet of Commissioner for Consumer Protection Meglena Kuneva. From 2010 to 2018 she was Director in DG EMPL, where she was in charge of all funds in the DG – ESF, FEAD, EaSI and EGF. Andriana Sukova is an economist with a long experience in the public sector (more than 15 years, from researcher to Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture) as well as in the NGO sector (5 years) and business management (chairperson of the Board of Directors of a big foreign company). Andriana Sukova has numerous post-graduate trainings in the UK, Italy, Japan, USA.



**Mr Krzysztof Balon**

*Vice-President, Section for  
Employment, Social Affairs  
and Citizenship,  
European Economic and  
Social Committee (EESC)*

Krzysztof Balon was appointed member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in 2010. In 2015 he was elected as Co-spokesperson of the Social Economy Category as well as Vice-President of the Section Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship of the EESC. Born in Kraków (Poland), he is President of the Programming Committee of the Working Community of Associations of Social Organisations (an umbrella for around 800 non-profit organisations), Vice-President of the Polish Committee of the European Anti Poverty Network as well as member of the National Committee of Social Economy Development. Since 2012 he has also been Co-President – representing non-governmental organisations – of the Public Benefit Council of the Republic of Poland (a consultative intersectoral legal body for the development of civil society). In Germany, he is Managing Director of EUROSOZIAL e. V., part of the German Parity Welfare Association with over 10 000 member organisations. He holds a degree in social management from Danube University in Krems (Austria).



**Mr Luis Fau Sebastian**

*Deputy Head of Unit, DG  
Economic and Financial  
Affairs, European  
Commission*

Luis Fau is Deputy Head of Unit "Coordination with the EIB Group, EBRD and International Financial Institutions" at the European Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN). He is coordinating a group in charge of social economy matters within his directorate. He started his professional career as a financial market dealer at the European Treasury Centre of GMAC, the financial arm of General Motors. He joined the European Commission in 1999, where he has been working in different departments within DG ECFIN. Over the past few years, he was Deputy Head of Unit in a team dealing with the analysis of monetary policy in the euro area and other major economies as well as of inflation and exchange rate developments and their drivers.



**Mr Simon Barnes**

*Director of Advisory Services  
Department,  
European Investment Bank*

Simon Barnes is Director of Advisory Services at the European Investment Bank (EIB). He is responsible for delivery of the principal advisory programmes managed by EIB, including the European Investment Advisory Hub (EIAH). Previously, he has held various senior posts within EIB, including most recently Director of Lending Operations in Western Europe where he was responsible for EIB financing of projects in the UK, France, Ireland, Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg. His experience prior to EIB was in commercial and investment banking, having held diverse roles in financing and risk management positions in Europe and Asia/Pacific.



**Mr Ulrich Grabenwarter**

*Deputy Director, Equity  
Investment,  
European Investment Fund*

Ulrich Grabenwarter is Deputy Director at European Investment Fund overseeing Europe's largest fund of funds investment programmes in Venture Capital, Technology Transfer and Impact Investing. He is a visiting Professor at IESE University. He is a Member of the Global Steering Group on Impact Investing created in continuation of the G8 Impact Investing Taskforce in 2015. He is author of numerous publications on impact investing and venture capital and holds a Master's degree in Business and Finance of the University of Graz.

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## 14:30 – 16:00 Social impact investing – a way forward

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**Mr Frank Lee**

*Head of Division – Financial Instruments Advisory, European Investment Bank*

Frank Lee is responsible for EIB's contribution to the *fi-compass* platform, as well as the Bank's bespoke advisory services related to the design, set-up and implementation of financial instruments of Managing Authorities and other public bodies across Europe.

Frank Lee has been involved in the world of financial instruments since 2007, contributing to the launch of the JESSICA initiative, undertaking financial instrument feasibility studies across Europe, and eventually establishing the Bank's fund management activities in this regard.

Prior to joining the advisory department of the EIB, Frank was responsible for managing (as a fund of fund manager) and/or lending to financial instruments across Western and Northern Europe. Previous positions in EIB include senior debt investments in cities and social infrastructure projects in the UK, Ireland, Denmark, Croatia and Turkey.

Frank Lee is a Chartered Accountant and Chartered Financial Analyst.

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**Mr Tomas Bokström**

*Project Manager for RISE Social and Health Impact Center, Sweden*

*Project Manager for Social Investment at SALAR, Sweden*

Tomas Bokström is responsible for establishing a Social and Health Impact Centre at Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE) since February 2018. He is also continuing, part time, his role of leading the work on Social investment at the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR).

At SALAR, Tomas Bokström has worked together with pioneering local authorities and regions to develop the concept of social investment as an inter-sectoral strategic and operational tool for investment in early intervention. He has been part of the design and implementation of the first Swedish Social Outcomes Contract (Social Impact Bond). Tomas Bokström has been working with social investment since 2010.

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**Mr Mika Pyykkö**

*Project Director, Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra*

Mika Pyykkö leads Sitra's Impact Investing Assistance Unit. Mika Pyykkö has previously worked in leadership positions in organisations such as Finland's Slot Machine Association from 2008 to 2012 and the Finnish Centre for Health Promotion between 2003 and 2008. He has also worked in Finland and abroad, particularly as a champion of health and well-being promotion and preventative action. In addition, Mika Pyykkö has been engaged in the development of collaboration between the public, private and third sectors.

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**Mr François de Borchgrave**

*Founder & Managing Director, KOIS Invest, Belgium*

François de Borchgrave brings more than 15 years of experience in Private Equity investments with a specific focus on impact investing in the last 9 years. He holds various board positions in the private sector and not for profit sector. Prior to KOIS, he founded an internet start-up for business services and worked within large corporates in the technology sector.

Additionally, François de Borchgrave is co-founder of Toolbox, a non-profit that provides management services to NGOs, and was a volunteer for several NGOs such as Mother Theresa and Operation Thermos. He also lectures on social entrepreneurship at Solvay Brussels School of Business.

François de Borchgrave holds a Master's in Business Administration from Harvard Business School and a BA in Commercial Engineering from Solvay Brussels School of Business.

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**Speaker Biographies**

**16:30 – 17:30 Innovative financing instruments – experiences from the ground, ideas for the future**



**Mr Bruno Robino**

*Head of fi-compass,  
European Investment Bank*

Bruno Robino is Head of *fi-compass* at the EIB, leading the team implementing a unique advisory platform on financial instruments under the European Structural and Investment Funds. Combining the experience gained in the private sector, at the EC, at the EIF and at the EIB, Bruno Robino cumulates more than 28 years of direct involvement in financial instruments focusing on SMEs access to finance, innovation, venture capital, debt, guarantee products and microfinance.

Prior to the EIB, Bruno Robino spent eight years at the EIF acting as Head of Region for JEREMIE operations in Italy, France, Malta, Spain and Portugal: he has been involved in the launch and follow-up of nine JEREMIE Holding Fund operations. He joined EIF in 2000 and as investment manager carried out investments in venture capital and private equity funds in the Benelux, the UK, France, Italy, Greece and Spain, holding several advisory board positions in various risk capital funds.

In 2007, was appointed Adjunct Professor lecturing on Innovation Management at the Master of Business Administration programme of the John F. Welch College of Business – Sacred Heart University in Luxembourg. Bruno Robino holds a Master's Degree in Business Management and an MBA.



**Mr Luk Zelderloo**

*Secretary-General,  
European Association of  
Service providers for Persons  
with Disabilities (EASPD)*

Luk Zelderloo has been professionally active in the disability sector for more than 35 years. He is one of the founding fathers and the Secretary-General of the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD), an umbrella network representing about 15 000 service provider organisations for persons with disabilities.

Luk Zelderloo is also currently President and Board member of Social Services Europe and the chairman of EMINO, a disability service provider of reference in Flanders.



**Mr Oliver Gajda**

*Executive Director,  
European Crowdfunding  
Network*

Oliver Gajda co-initiated European Crowdfunding Network in 2012 and went on to establish it as an international NGO in 2013 as Founding Executive Director and Chairman. The past decade, Oliver Gajda has worked with venture capital, microfinance, technology and social entrepreneurship in both commercial and non-profit settings in Europe and the USA. Oliver Gajda is an Advisory Board Member at Förderkreis Gründungs-Forschung e.V. (FGF).

A former journalist, he started his career in the early 1990s in the publishing and business information industries. Oliver Gajda holds Master's degrees from Solvay Business School and from the University of Hamburg and studied at SEESS (UCL) in London.



**Mr Adriano Pallaro**

*Responsible for international  
funding and member of the  
General Management of  
Banca Etica, Italy*

Adriano Pallaro has been working in Banca Etica since 1999, with responsibilities in different offices, giving him the possibility of a global oversight of the bank. For several years he has been responsible of special and innovative projects. In particular, thanks to this experience he promotes and coordinates financial engineering projects for empowering credit to social economy and microfinance, with initiatives and tools given by EU (i.e. Jeremie, EaSI, EREM-CBSI, EIE, Equal, Global Subsidy).

His professional experience is in the non-profit, ethical finance and fair-trade field, with a strong focus on financial issues.

**Speaker Biographies**

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**Ms Laura Catana**

*Programme Manager,  
ASHOKA,  
Romania*

Laura Catana is a Change Manager at Ashoka, the largest network of social entrepreneurs in the world with 3,600 Ashoka Fellows in over 90 countries. Since 2016 she has led the launch of Ashoka's office in Romania, building a local team, strategy and raising the necessary funds.

Previously Laura Catana coordinated "THIS WORKS" initiative, a one million euro programme aimed at scaling international proven social innovations in employment and economic recovery in Italy, Spain and Greece. Through this programme she also supported the launch of Ashoka's offices in Italy and Greece. Laura Catana served as a member of GECES, an expert group of the European Commission on Social Entrepreneurship.

Before Ashoka, she worked at the European Commission where she implemented EU policies aimed at building a nurturing ecosystem for social enterprises, in particular through the set-up of new financing instruments.

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**17:30 – 17:45 Closing remarks for day 1**

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**Mr Jader Canè**

*Senior Expert,  
DG Employment, Social  
Affairs and Inclusion,  
European Commission*

Jader Canè is currently Senior Expert for the European Social Fund (ESF) in the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission, where he contributes to the development of the ESF policies, in particular in relation to the Macro-Regional Strategies, financial instruments and the links between the ESF and the Investment Plan for Europe.

He was previously Deputy and Acting Head of ESF Units covering several Member States, where he ensured the negotiation of programming periods and the ESF relevance for the reform priorities agreed in the European Semester as well as the monitoring of policy developments linked to employment and social affairs.

Prior to the European Commission, he worked in the business schools sector as a tutor and a coordinator of research and innovation courses. He is author of sector-specific articles, particularly in the ESF area, and recently contributed to the publication of the book "Europa oltre le nazioni", Mimesis edition. Since 2009, he has been holding annual lectures on the Structural Funds at the European College of Parma, within the framework of the "Diploma in advanced European studies".

Jader Canè has an MBA from the Profingest Business School of Bologna (today Bologna business school) and a Master's degree in History from the University of Bologna. In addition, he studied social sciences at the University of Utrecht.

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**Ms Cathy Smith**  
*fi-compass expert*

Cathy Smith is a co-director of the Brussels-based communications company Speak-Easy. She specialises in conference moderating, media training and presentation training for a wide range of international organisations.

Cathy Smith worked for the BBC for many years as a reporter and presenter. She is a former Brussels correspondent for both the BBC and GMTV and was a presenter of Channel Four News in the UK. She also presented European Journal for DeutscheWelle TV from Brussels, fronted the BBC regional news programme Northwest Tonight and worked as a reporter for RTHK in Hong Kong and Radio New Zealand in Auckland.

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*Speaker Biographies*

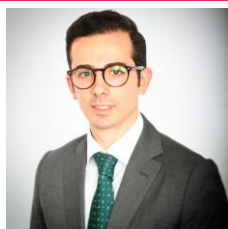
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**Day 2 – 9 March 018**

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**9:30 – 11:00 Promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship through microfinance**

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**Mr Roberto Estellés Colom**

*DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission*

Roberto Estellés Colom works at Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission, in the Unit in charge of managing Financial Instruments under the EU programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) for microfinance and social entrepreneurship.

Guest lecturer in the Master for microfinance and financial inclusion and member of the microfinance and entrepreneurship research center at Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Roberto Estellés Colom combines his academic knowledge with extensive experience in the field where he has assisted different microfinance institutions in the setting up and development of microcredit programmes.

Before joining the European Commission, Roberto Estellés Colom was also secretary of the Spanish Microfinance Network. Prior to his work in the European microfinance sector, Roberto Estellés Colom worked for the Republic of Colombia's Home Office in the development of national schemes to foster social and financial inclusion of ex-paramilitaries and ex-guerrillas.

Roberto Estellés Colom holds a Bachelor and Master's Degree in Political Sciences from Sciences Po Paris, as well as two Master's Degrees from Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, one in Economic Development and Public Policies and the other in Microfinance and Financial Inclusion.

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**Mr Nicola Benaglio**

*Policy and Research Officer, European Microfinance Network*

Nicola Benaglio works as Policy and Research Officer at the European Microfinance Network as from 2015. Starting as a financial analyst Nicola Benaglio then joined the social economy sector dealing for three years with the management of a start-up project in the social inclusion field. He then moved his attention to EU funds, working in Brussels for a business federation and a network promoting the development of social economy. In 2014 before joining European Microfinance Network he gained field experience in Peru joining a cooperative that provides financial services and technical assistance to rural microfinance institutions.

Nicola Benaglio holds a Master's degree in International Economic Integration and a Complementary Master from Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management.

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**Ms Rūta Dapkutė-Stankevičienė**

*Deputy Director of the EU Investment Department, Ministry of Finance, Lithuania*

Rūta Dapkutė-Stankevičienė is Deputy Director of EU Structural Investments Department in the Ministry of Finance, Lithuania. She started working with EU structural funds 13 years ago and currently is dealing with programming and planning of sectoral investments, establishment and management of financial instruments, preparation for post 2020, etc.

Rūta Dapkutė-Stankevičienė has participated in the establishment of EU financed funds of funds and financial instruments for energy efficiency, urban development, business access to finance and self-employment. She also holds the position of board member of national promotional institutions – Invega and Public Investments Development Agency.

Rūta Dapkutė-Stankevičienė holds a degree in political science and public administration from Vytautas Magnus University and a degree in law from Mykolas Romeris University.

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**Speaker Biographies**



**Ms Laura Penna**

*Deputy Head Social Impact Banking,  
UniCredit S.p.A.,  
Italy*

Laura Penna is Deputy Head Social Impact Banking for UniCredit S.p.A. Previously, from 2007 to 2016 she was founder and Head of UniCredit Management Consultancy, the first Italian Internal Consultancy Firm set up within a Bank and specialised in strategic and managerial consultancy services. Between 2012 and 2017 she was Member of the Supervisory Board and Member of the Audit Committee and the Financial Committee of Bank Pekao, Member of the Board of Directors of Fineco Bank, Member of the Board of Directors and Member of the Internal Control and Risks Committee of UBIS (UniCredit Business Integrated Solutions) and Member of the Board of Directors of YAPIKREDI and KFS (Koç Financial Service). From 1999 to 2005 she was firstly Head of Planning and Control in a bank of the Group, becoming in 2001 Head of Group Planning and Control for the whole UniCredit. From 1990 to 1999 she worked for Accenture as Senior Engagement Manager - Strategy - Financial Services Italy. Laura Penna has a Degree in Economics at Commercial University L. Bocconi.

**11:30 – 13:00 Supporting social entrepreneurship and social inclusion**



**Ms Aleksandra Dmitruk**

*Deputy Director,  
European Social Fund  
Department, Ministry of  
Economic Development,  
Poland*

Aleksandra Dmitruk is Deputy Director in the European Social Fund Department in the Ministry of Economic Development in Poland. She is responsible for financial management of ESF co-financed programmes. Within her competence is also designing and monitoring financial instruments for unemployed and social economy entities. Since 2003 she has dealt with ESF management in the government institutions. Prior to this, she worked for the non-government sector. She graduated from the University of Economics in Kraków, Poland, with a Master's degree in international economic and political relations.



**Mr Luca Galassi**

*Managing authority of the  
ESF Regional OP, Sardinia  
Region, Italy*

Since January 2017 Luca Galassi has been General Manager of the Regional Department of Employment for Sardinia Region. This implies also the role of Managing Authority for the Sardinian Programme of ESF. Luca Galassi was Director of the ESF Managing Authority Service from September 2012 until May 2017 and Director of Vocational Training Service from April 2011 until June 2015. Before that he was Director of the Social Policies Service. Since 1999 Luca has been working as a public servant in Sardinia Region in the ESF area, either in vocational training or in employment policies.



**Mr Gabriele Pazzola**

*Head of the ESF Financial  
Instruments working group  
of the Support Service to the  
ESF FGA, Sardinia Region,  
Italy*

Gabriele Pazzola is Head of the ESF Financial Instruments working group of the Support Service to the ESF FGA of the Sardinia Region. From 2002 to 2008 he worked for the University of Cagliari in the "Orientation Paths" Project financed by the ESF under the National Operational Programme 2000-2006. Since 2008 Gabriele Pazzola has been an official of the Sardinia Region involved in the implementation, management and monitoring of the Regional Operational Programme Sardinia ESF 2007-2013, to support the Managing Authority, the coordination of the budget and personnel management of the Labour Department of Sardinia Region. Currently he is responsible for the planning, implementation and monitoring of the ESF Financial Instruments of the Sardinia Region.

**Speaker Biographies**



**Ms Lilia Stoyanovich**

*Director General for European funds and International Programmes, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Bulgaria*

Lilia Stoyanovich for the past two years has been Director General for European funds and International Programmes at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy in Bulgaria, Managing Authority of Human Resources Development Operational Program HRDOP. She is also a member of the ESF Committee and the Monitoring Committee of the Partnership Agreement in Bulgaria.

Before that for 7 years she was Head of the Technical Assistance department, and as such she ensured day-to-day management of the HRDOP.

Another 6 years experience was in the UNDP Business Support Project as a Regional Manager in charge of management and overall performance of 15 business centres across Bulgaria. From 1997 through 2003, Lilia Stoyanovich was part of the Project Management of the USAID long-term consultancy program.

Lilia Stoyanovich holds a Master's degree in Electronic Engineering and a specialisation in International Economic Relations from the Technical University Sofia.



**Mr Dmatar Cherkeзов**

*Head of Unit, EU Operational Programmes, Fund Manager of Financial Instrument in Bulgaria (FMFIB)*

Dimitar Cherkeзов is Head of EU Operational Programmes Unit at the Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria (FMFIB).

He is responsible for design and set-up of financial instruments in accordance with relevant operational programme and ex-ante assessment, ESIF and State aid rules as well as for coordination of FMFIB's operations with the managing authorities of four Bulgarian operational programmes, providing ESIF funding to the FMFIB.

His experience prior to FMFIB was in the Managing Authority of the Bulgarian Operational Programme Regional Development 2007-2013 related to management of financial engineering instruments for urban development under the JESSICA initiative as well as financial instruments providing loans and guarantees for energy efficiency.

**14:30 – 15:45 Parallel session: FI-Lab A – How much impact do you expect from microfinance?**



**Mr Andrea Da Pozzo**

*Policy Officer, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission*

Andrea Da Pozzo works as policy officer in the coordination unit of the European Social Fund (ESF) in the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion of the European Commission. He is in charge of financial instruments, of the Investment Plan for Europe and of the implementation of the *fi-compass* advisory platform – ESF work programme.

Prior to the European Commission, Andrea Da Pozzo worked both in the private sector as management consultant and in the public sector, where he dealt with European Affairs for Italian regional and local authorities.

Andrea Da Pozzo holds a Master's Degree in Business Economics from the University of Parma, a complementary Master in Facility Management from the Italian National School of Transports and Logistics, and a post-university specialisation course in European Affairs, management of EU projects and Fundraising.



**Mr Andrea Limone**

*CEO PerMicro, Italy*

Andrea Limone is CEO of PerMicro, the first microfinance institution in Italy specialised in small loans for the start-up and development of small enterprises as well as for primary needs of families (housing, health, education).

Before launching PerMicro in 2007, he worked for Banca Etica, Mag2 Finance, and was a researcher for Fondazione Giordano Dell'Amore. He has published two volumes on microcredit and the banking system: "Banche e Microfinanza" and "Otto modi di dire microcredito". He graduated in Economics at the University of Turin and he attended the Master in Microfinance in Bergamo.

**Speaker Biographies**



**Ms Giulia Boioli**

*Communications Manager,  
PerMicro,  
Italy*

Giulia Boioli is Communications Manager at PerMicro, where she has worked since 2015. She previously worked in the Press Office and Radio of the University of Turin. She was a teacher of Italian to refugees and asylum seekers in Italy and for more than 10 years has been volunteering in associations involved in social integration and community development.

**14:30 – 15:45 Parallel session: FI-Lab B – Brainteaser session – State aid and financial instruments**



**Mr Ando Siitam**

*Financial Instruments  
Advisor,  
Advisory Services  
Department,  
European Investment Bank*

Ando Siitam is Financial Instruments Advisor at the EIB. He is chiefly responsible for delivery of the *fi-compass* European Social Fund work stream advisory programme managed by the EIB but also involved in various social impact related initiatives.

Previously, he held various posts within the Estonian national promotional institution KredEx, primarily responsible for the management of financial instruments for SMEs and energy efficiency co-financed under the European Structural and Investment Funds. His experience prior to KredEx was in Cohesion Policy and other foreign assistance, having held diverse roles in the managing authority of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund in the Ministry of Finance of Estonia.



**Ms Barbara Cattrysse**

*Legal Counsel,  
Legal Department,  
European Investment Bank*

Barbara Cattrysse is Legal Counsel at the EIB, where she is advising as a State aid and financial instruments expert. In particular, she advises on the design of project finance involving co-financing from Member States, State aid-related policy developments, as well as counselling on financial instruments managed by the EIB.

Previously, Barbara Cattrysse worked for 9 years at Directorate-General Competition of the European Commission in the areas of banking, development banks and SME financing, as well as law firms in Brussels. She regularly speaks and has published on these State aid subjects.

**15:45 – 16:00 Closing remarks for day 2**



**Mr Loris Di Pietrantonio**

*Head of Unit for the  
European Social Fund (ESF)  
and the Fund for European  
Aid to the Most Deprived  
(FEAD): Policy and  
Legislation, DG Employment,  
Social Affairs & Inclusion,  
European Commission*

Loris Di Pietrantonio is Head of Unit for the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD): Policy and Legislation at European Commission. The unit promotes the ESF, the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI) and the FEAD as effective instruments for the delivery of a critical mass of investments to cope with key employment and social challenges.

He was previously Deputy Head of the Unit dealing with employment and social aspects of the European economic governance, focusing on economic policy coordination through the European Semester cycle as well as the design and implementation of employment policies. In the past, he has also been involved with the design of policies, evaluations and impact assessments in the areas of information technologies addressing societal challenges and digital inclusion. Before joining the European Commission in 2004, he worked in the business sector, establishing research and innovation strategies for the sustainable transport industry.

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