

TOPIC

EVALUATING EU COHESION POLICY: WHAT DO WE REALLY KNOW?

Supporting regional convergence is one of the long-standing, treaty-based priorities in the EU budget. With the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the flow of EU resources into Member States and regions has reached record levels. To justify this massive expenditure, an impartial and unbiased evaluation of policy outcomes is indispensable. This is all the more true as there is no common conclusion on the impact of Cohesion Policy.

Based on the latest ZEW research, this ZEW Lunch Debate will focus on the evaluation of Cohesion Policy, seeking answers to key questions: How impartial is the evaluation system and how developed are the methodological standards? Is there a discrepancy between scientific findings and evaluations conducted by beneficiary authorities and EU institutions? And how can the evaluation system be improved for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) to foster a greater focus on performance?

Our discussion will thus contribute to the ongoing reflections regarding the implementation of the current MFF and feed into considerations about the next generation of funding programmes.

TIME&DATE

Wednesday
18 October 2023
12:00–02:00 pm

VENUE

Representation
of the State of
Baden-Württemberg to
the European Union
Rue Belliard 60–62
B-1040 Brussels

THE PANEL



Stef Blok has been a member of the European Court of Auditors since 2022. Previously, he served as Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Policy as well as Minister of Foreign and European Affairs in the Netherlands. Blok graduated in business administration from the University of Groningen.



Lewis Dijkstra heads the Urban and Territorial Analysis Team at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. Prior to that, he led the Economic Analysis Sector of the DG REGIO. Dijkstra is a visiting professor at the London School of Economics. He holds a PhD in urban and regional planning from Rutgers University.



Friedrich Heinemann is the head of ZEW's "Corporate Taxation and Public Finance" Unit as well as an adjunct professor of economics at Heidelberg University. His research interests include empirical public finance and political economy with a focus on European integration, taxation and fiscal institutions in the EU and the euro area.



Dirk H. Kranen is Head of Division in the European Department of the German Federal Ministry of Finance. Kranen joined the Ministry of Finance in 1991 and has also worked for institutions such as the International Monetary Fund. He holds a master's degree in economics as well in business administration.

MODERATION



Alison Hunter is Director of Economic and Public Policy Consultancy. Her fields of expertise are EU regional and economic policy, where she has advised a wide range of institutional, national and regional stakeholders for over 20 years.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

- » 12:00 LUNCH
- » 12:30 WELCOME ADDRESS



Bodo Lehmann

Head of the Representation of the State
of Baden-Württemberg to the EU

PRESENTATION

Zareh Asatryan

ZEW

DEBATE (AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION WELCOME)

Stef Blok

European Court of Auditors

Lewis Dijkstra

COM-JRC

Friedrich Heinemann

ZEW

Dirk H. Kranen

German Federal Ministry of Finance

Moderation: Alison Hunter

Director of Economic and Public Policy Consultancy

About the ZEW Lunch Debates

The ZEW Lunch Debate series provides a politically-neutral platform for inspiring and spirited exchange on current challenges facing Europe. The quarterly debates in Brussels aim to shed light on different aspects of EU activities that have a particular impact on economic growth, welfare, social inclusion, and sustainability.

For enquiries, please get in touch with us at lunchdebates@zew.de

Upcoming ZEW Lunch Debate:

24 April 2024 Implementing the Artificial Intelligence Act (AIA)



**ZEW – Leibniz-Zentrum für Europäische
Wirtschaftsforschung GmbH Mannheim**

ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European
Economic Research

L 7, 1 · 68161 Mannheim · Germany
www.zew.de

