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## Cohesion Summit 2024

Date and place: 18 April, 2024, University of Public Service Ludovika, Budapest

**Organisers:**

Faculty of Public Governance and International Studies and Europe Strategy Research  
Institute- University of Public Service  
Ministry of Public Administration and Regional Development  
Hungarian Development Promotion Office

Patron: Dr. Tibor Navracsics, Minister of Public Administration and Regional Development

Incorporating insights from the High-Level Group on the Future of Cohesion Policy's report from February 2024 and Enrico Letta's investigation into cohesion policy and the future of the single market, the Cohesion Summit delves into crucial areas, such as addressing regional disparities, fostering comprehensive cohesion, and adapting policies to evolving economic landscapes, with a focus on bridging the innovation gap in less developed regions. The summit aims to explore innovative strategies for sustainable growth, leveraging findings from the ongoing European discussions to shape a forward-looking dialogue on enhancing cohesion within the ever-changing framework of the EU single market. The Summit also highlights the significance of EU enlargement in cohesion policy, envisioning its role beyond 2027. This comprehensive approach reflects a commitment to collaborative efforts for a more cohesive Europe.

*The event is realized under the auspice of the EU Presidency Strategy of the University of Public Service.*

## Preliminary programme

08.30-09.00 Welcoming reception

09.00-09.05 Welcoming remarks

Speaker: Gergely Deli, rector, UPS

### **Cohesion in Action**

09.05-09.20 The evolution of cohesion policy and current challenges

Speaker: Tibor Navracsics, Minister of Public Administration and Regional Development

09.20-09.40 Fostering economic, social, and territorial cohesion

Speaker: Themis Christophidou, Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

09.40-10.20 Key milestones and objectives of cohesion policy

*The panelists will discuss the following topics: addressing disparities, enhancing competitiveness, promoting sustainable development.*

*Moderator: Viktória Lilla Pató, Associate Researcher, Europe Strategy Research Institute*

*Panelists: Tibor Navracsics, Themis Christophidou, Corina Crețu, Member of the European Parliament (TBC), Bernadett Petri, managing director Hungarian Development Promotion Office*

### **Addressing regional disparities**

10.20-11.00 Bridging the innovation gap

*The panelists will discuss the best practices, innovative approaches, case studies. This panel would focus on strategies to enhance innovation in less developed regions, leveraging direct EU funds. This roundtable discussion would delve into the challenges and solutions for reducing economic and social disparities across EU regions.*

*Moderator: János Matuz, Hungarian Development Promotion Office*

*Panelists: Carlos Mendez Co-Director, European Policies Research Centre (TBC), Rita Marques, Harnessing Talent Platform Territorial WG Leader, Laura Todaro, Executive Director EY (TBC), Arnault Morisson, Adjunct Professor at Sciences Po Paris (TBC)*

11.00-11.20 Coffee break

### **The future of cohesion policy**

11.20-11.40 Cohesion and EU enlargement

Speaker: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Professor, London School of Economics (TBC)

11.40-12.20 EU cohesion policy beyond 2027

Moderator: (TBC)

*panelists: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (TBC), Elke Dall Researcher, Centre for Social Innovation, Tamás Kiss-Gálfalvi Researcher CEPS (TBC), Sébastien Bourdin, Associate Professor at the Normandy Business School*

12.20- Networking lunch