

► **PROFEEDBACK** ◀

 **cost**
EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY


HETFA
RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Funded by
the European Union



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS



**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT,
SMEs, ENTREPRENEURSHIP,
COMPETITIVENESS**

Athens, Greece

19-20 September 2024

**Department of Economics,
National and Kapodistrian
University of Athens**

6TH PROFEEDBACK CONFERENCE

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, SMES,
ENTREPRENEURSHIP, COMPETITIVENESS

19-20 SEPTEMBER 2024 ATHENS, GREECE

IMPORTANT DATES

- 🕒 **SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: 15 JUNE 2024**
- 🕒 **ACCEPTANCE FOR APPLICANTS: 7 JULY 2024**
- 🕒 **REGISTRATION: 2 AUGUST 2024**
- 🕒 **SUBMITTING FULL PAPERS: 15 OCTOBER 2024**

ABOUT PROFEEDBACK

Policy evaluation is a key tool in understanding, developing and modernising EU policies, thus there is a growing demand for EU-wide and high quality evaluation services. The main challenge is that currently there is no bottom-up platform for European researchers and professionals working in policy evaluation. They have limited possibilities to discuss common problems, assess country specific practices and share their knowledge in a mutually beneficial and effective way.

The PROFEEDBACK Action aims to foster the networking of the policy evaluation community at EU-level, raise awareness on the importance of evaluation policy research and improve its impact on policy-making. The Action, following a bottom-up and open approach, gathers researchers and professionals from various scientific fields and sectors to present and evaluate theories, topics, tools and methods of policy evaluation. Results of the Europe-wide assessment of good practices provide direct and high-quality inputs for national and EU bodies responsible for policy evaluation.

ABOUT THE CALL

As part of the **PROFEEDBACK COST ACTION 20112**, the Department of Economics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens is glad to announce the **6th PROFEEDBACK Conference “Business Development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship, Competitiveness”**. The official language of the Conference is English. The Conference will be held in Athens on **19-20 September 2024**. There is no conference fee. Each participant will be expected to arrange and pay for their own travel and accommodation. A full abstract submission is a prerequisite for reimbursement.

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The Conference aims to create the opportunity for researchers, evaluation experts and civil servants to share ideas and examples of good practices and innovative methods used in evaluation in the areas of Business Development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness. The Conference maintains a balanced interest in both theoretical and applied research, with a particular interest in lessons learned and innovative research methods applied in evaluation. We especially welcome abstract submissions based on novel econometric techniques, original and extensive datasets, rigorous study designs, or important policy implications. The event is designed to allow time for a full presentation and discussion of each contribution. Doctoral students and young researchers are particularly encouraged to submit their papers.

The Conference will be held in a hybrid setup. While we hope that most participants will be able to attend the conference in person, an option to present and follow the Conference online will also be available.

There is no conference fee, but each participant will be expected to arrange and pay for their own travel and accommodation. After the conference these expenses being reimbursed, following COST rules, available at ([ANNOTATED RULES FOR COST ACTIONS](#)).

IMPORTANT: Traveling costs will be reimbursed within the limit of 350 Euros, but exceptions may be made in justified cases with prior notification. As per COST rules, the daily allowance rate set for Athens is 193 Euros.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The primary objective of the Conference is to gather academics, professionals, policymakers, and policy evaluators from Europe and around the world and create a facilitating context for sharing ideas and good practice examples regarding the evaluation of public policies and programmes addressing competitiveness, in particular business development, SMEs, startups, cluster and ecosystem creation, global value chains. The aim is to showcase the latest knowledge and developments in the aforementioned fields, as viewed through an evaluation lens. As a secondary purpose, the conference aims to facilitate discussions on how the evaluation, through the evidence that it can gather, the conclusions that it may formulate on the effects and impact of a public intervention and the recommendations addressed to policy-makers, can contribute to the improvements of public policies and programmes in the area of regional and global competitiveness.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

Main areas covered by the conference will be:

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & SMEs

- Funding schemes (venture capital, private equity, grants, financial instruments)
- Cluster creation and functioning
- Ecosystem promotion
- Competition rules
- SME policies
- Simplification of Doing Business

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Women entrepreneurship
- Youth entrepreneurship
- Social entrepreneurship
- Spin-offs/Spin-outs
- Startups and Scaleups

COMPETITIVENESS

- Innovation policies
- Access to skills
- Business transformation (digital, green)
- Foreign direct investment (Greenfield, Transborder M&As)
- Interregional cooperation
- Smart Specialization

All the above topics need to be discussed under the angle of evaluation and identification of good practices.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We encourage and highly welcome critical, multi and interdisciplinary abstracts related to the topics of Business Development, SMEs, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness.

The paper abstract should not exceed **500 words** (including references) and should include:

- title of the paper
- contact to the author
- the conference's thematic line addressed (not obligatory, only if the abstract links with defined lines)
- the main argument of the paper
- a statement of the main conclusions and their relevance to an international audience.

Who should apply?

The call is open both to members of the PROFEEDBACK COST Action and the widest possible community of researchers and evaluation professionals. Members of the Management Committee and the Working Groups of PROFEEDBACK are strongly encouraged to submit their abstracts.

How to apply?

You can submit your abstract by email to:
entrepreneurshipconference@hetfa.hu

The deadline for submitting abstracts is 15 of June 2024.

Selected participants will be informed by 7 of July 2024.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

The reviewed conference proceedings (extended abstracts and bios) will be published in a PROFEEDbook. The PROFEEDbook will be published at the PROFEEDBACK website and at the COST website. Please see previous versions of PROFEEDbooks here: <https://profeedback.eu/deliverables/>

VENUE

The event will take place in **Athens, Greece at the 'Kostis Palamas' Building (Address: Akadimias 48, Athens, Greece).**

REGISTRATION

This event is free of charge for all participants. However, registration is required. Participants must follow the steps below:

1. E-COST invitation

Participants must accept the e-COST invitation to the conference to be eligible for reimbursement. E-COST invitations will be sent out to everyone registered in the PROFEEDBACK Action.

2. Conference registration (Google Form)

A conference registration will be sent out by the Local Organiser by email to everyone who accepted the e-COST invitation. Registration (Google Form) will be **open from 1st of July**. The deadline for registration is **31 of July**.

REIMBURSEMENT ELIGIBILITY RULES

Online participants are not eligible for reimbursement.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- **Stelios Kotsios**, Professor of Applied Mathematics and President of the Department of Economics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- **Lena Tsipouri**, Professor Emeritus at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, member of Profeedback Cost Action
- **Yiannis Bassiakos**, Professor at the Department of Economics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, member of Profeedback Cost Action
- **Sofia Liarti**, Consultant at OPIX PC and member of Profeedback Cost Action

CONTACT

Should you have any further question, please contact entrepreneurshipconference@hetfa.hu
tsipouri@econ.uoa.gr
slarti@econ.uoa.gr

NEXT PROFEEDBACK CONFERENCES

In the framework of the PROFEEDBACK COST Action, there will be more conferences organized.

1st of October 2024	7th Profeedback Conference in Tirana, Albania Participatory Evaluation Evaluation Practices
4-6th of December 2024	Cooperation between PROFEEDBACK and the Revaluation Conference, Vienna, Austria
2025/1	Research and Innovation, Digitalization
2025/2	Public Education, Youth Policy

This publication is based upon work from COST Action CA20112 PROFEEDBACK, supported by COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology). COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) is a funding agency for research and innovation networks. Our Actions help connect research initiatives across Europe and enable scientists to grow their ideas by sharing them with their peers. This boosts their research, career and innovation. Visit www.cost.eu