



LETTER FROM THE EES PRESIDENT AND CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

Dear colleague,

I am pleased to invite you to the EES 13th Biennial Conference in 2018.

After a decade of turbulence in Europe and the world, we need to look toward the future and focus on the contribution of evaluation to creating more resilient societies. Crises inherently lead to change, positive and negative. What is the role of evaluation in understanding the multiple crises – economic, financial, humanitarian, social, political ... – currently ongoing? What responses does evaluation propose? **“Evaluation for more resilient societies”** will be the leading theme of the **#EES2018** biennial conference. At the same time, the conference will provide the traditional opportunities for exchanging on evaluation politics, capacity, systems, research, methods, communication, and use.

The overall format of the Conference is identical to previous editions: two days of pre-conference training workshops and three days of main conference. The main conference will see keynotes, paper, panel and poster sessions which will co-exist with newer forms of exchange such as fishbowls, a world café, and speed networking. There will be activities for **emerging evaluators**, and space for the **EES Thematic Working Groups** and for **national evaluation societies** to interact. Last but not least a social programme will foster networking.

Following up on the initial **announcement**, the preparation of the EES 2018 Conference is now coming up to speed. A call for expressions of interest has allowed to establish a programme coordination team (**May Pettigrew**, **Robert Stryk**, **Sebastian Lemire**). Together with a group of fellow evaluators for the abstract review, they will gradually give shape to the **conference programme** about which they will shortly **inform you**. The coordination of the **pre-conference workshops** is again in the hands of **Albine Guitard** and **Ian Davies**. **Julia Brümmer** is responsible for the **Emerging Evaluators** and **Buddy programme**. **Mariana Branco** and **Laura Tagle** are in charge of **social media** efforts. Local coordination is done in close cooperation with **Dimitra Ioannou** from the **Hellenic Evaluation Society**.

At the crossroads of continents, countries and cultures, and against the current political and economic backdrop, Thessaloniki is the perfect spot to organise a conference on evaluation in turbulent times. The very word crisis originates in Greek language, where it means judgment or decision. Hence, evaluation and crisis go hand in hand. We need good crisis, good judgment and critical thinking, to overcome the crisis. We need evaluation to deal with crisis. Greece represents the perfect stage to debate how evaluation may help societies in Europe and beyond respond to the challenges of crises and become more resilient.

Important upcoming dates are:

- The **Call for Abstracts** to be published before end 2017
- **Conference registration** opens early January 2018
- **Pre-conference workshops** can be proposed from end January 2018



We very much welcome contributions from anyone who has new ideas for the conference and introduce new features! There is also room for those who want to provide a more active support in the preparation and implementation of the conference. EES is an organisation of volunteers. Therefore, the more hands we get on deck the more we can do! Interested? Contact the [EES Secretariat](#) and we will get back to you!

Last but not least we are looking for sponsors, in particular, to sponsor bursaries for evaluators from developing countries and to sponsor any type of conference session. More information can be found [here](#).

You will be regularly informed through [newsletters](#) on the conference.

We look forward to welcoming you in Thessaloniki!



Bastiaan de Laat

EES President Elect, responsible for conference coordination