



EES 2018 – NEWSLETTER 5

EVALUATION FOR MORE RESILIENT SOCIETIES

13th EES Biennial Conference 1–5 October 2018

Dear colleagues and friends,

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.

This is how the first conference newsletter, about nine months ago, started. In the meantime, we have prepared for the birth of the conference: in less than two weeks time the conference will have started. Evaluation for more resilient societies remains a crucially important topic given current socio-economic and geopolitical dynamics. I am happy to see that submissions focused closely on the conference theme, yet yielding an enormous variety and wealth of contributions. I impatiently look forward to the debates and presentations on how evaluation can contribute to creating more resilient societies – and beyond.

The conference, I trust, will allow all of us to learn new approaches to evaluation, to learn from and exchange with each other, to make evaluation even more useful for policy making and programme management. I trust that, through the great variety and wealth of approaches and evaluation work presented, the conference will also help us to better understand and strengthen the role of evaluation in times of turbulence and crisis, and let the world know that evaluation is more than a tick-box exercise!

Apart from some finishing touches, the EES 2018 Conference is ready to welcome you. I am sure you will find plenty of your interest. With at present some 750 people registered, close to 300 sessions and 23 professional development workshops, “Thessaloniki” promises to be amongst the largest EES Conferences ever. Such even that, contrary to past practice, we will go on until well into Friday afternoon!

A great effort has been made to get the preparations done. Hard work over summer by an army of highly dedicated people has allowed us to finalise the preparation of the conference programme and poster sessions, the keynotes and the flagship symposia, the professional development workshops, the bursary programme, the yEES initiative, the social media campaign, the social programme, several other side events, and the logistics.

I take the opportunity here to already thank all those who worked on the preparation of the different parts of the conference so far, as well as our sponsors, donors and partners in this event, and our colleagues from the Hellenic Evaluation Society. **But now it is up to you all, EES members and other conference delegates, to make it really happen!**

I look very much forward to welcoming you in Thessaloniki! Enjoy!

Bastiaan de Laat
EES President
EES2018 Conference Coordinator