

# HARNESSING TALENT – SHAPING FUTURES

*Securing prosperity through regional empowerment*

 28 May 2026, 10:00 - 16:30

 Brussels

## AGENDA



## Agenda

*Moderator: Sasha Twinning*

**09:30 – 10:05** Welcome, Registration and networking breakfast

**10:05 – 10:15** Opening speech

- **Hugo Sobral**, Deputy Director General, DG REGIO, European Commission

**10:15 – 11:25** Demographic change and prosperity in cohesion policy of today and tomorrow

- **Hugo Sobral**, Deputy Director General, DG REGIO, European Commission
- **Antonella Sberna**, Vice-President, European Parliament
- **Lovro Novoselac**, Head of the Sector for Programming, Coordination and Strategic Monitoring of European Union Funds, Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, Croatia
- **Kieran McCarthy**, Representative of the European Committee of the Regions
- **David Sventek**, EESC Member, Confederation of Industry of the Czech Republic
- **Eduardo Medeiros**, Geography Professor and Integrated Research Fellow at Life Quality Research Center of Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal

**11:25 – 11:50** Networking break

**11:50 – 13:00** Experiences from Talent Booster Mechanism regions – safeguarding competitiveness and quality of life in the face of demographic change

- Introduction by **Kadri Uustal**, Head of Unit Cities, Communities, People, DG REGIO
- **Ricardo Bento**, Vice-President of the Northern Regional Coordination and Development, Commission, Norte Region, PT

- **Arleta Siwek**, Director of Strategy, Development and Funds Department, Stalowa Wola Regional Development Agency, PL
- **Sorin Maxim**, Director of West Regional Development Agency, RO
- **María Ángeles Muriel**, Director-General for Rural Development of the Regional Government of Extremadura, ES

**13:00 – 14:00** Lunch break

**14:00 – 15:10** The role of multi-level governance in supporting regional attractiveness

- **Peter Berkowitz**, Director for Policy, DG REGIO, European Commission
- **Kristiina Kokko**, State Secretary to the Minister for Local and Regional Government, Finland
- **Michele Palma**, Head of Department for Cohesion Policies and for the South, The Italian Republic
- **Dorothee Allain-Dupré**, Head of the Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, OECD
- **Jeroen Jutte**, Director for Employment and Social Governance Analysis, DG EMPL, European Commission

**15:10 – 15:20** Closing speech

- **Kadri Uustal**, Head of Unit Cities, Communities, People, DG REGIO

**15:20 – 16:30** Networking cocktail and family picture