

First day - panels

● Registrations & welcome coffee

The official opening of the Forum!

Ionuț Bonoiu, Editor-in Chief Forbes Romania

Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania

Dacian Cioloș, Prime Minister of Romania

Mugur Isărescu, Governor of the National Bank of Romania

Special guests at Bucharest - international network of journalists Forbes.

● 1st Session

THE LARGER PERSPECTIVE: Leadership throw the uncertainty caused by global economic and geopolitical developments

More and more countries are facing political upheaval and constitutional crisis, the rise of the far right, government collapse. With the European Union in a state of crisis, clouds of uncertainty hang over the continent. The legacy of the financial crisis still lingers with the Eurozone struggling to survive.

European growth and competitiveness are under pressure. Renewed terror attacks in Europe and the refugee crisis have fueled the debate on immigration, and terrorism has led to demands for stricter border controls and a new, more intense security strategy. Hence the intense discussions about free movement of labour vs political pressure to restrain immigration.

Brexit, Turkey, intensifying conflict in Middle East, geopolitical impulses, Russia, the slowdown in China, a fall in world trade and the weaker commodity prices... and the list of unsettling global issues gets longer by the week.

We will try to complete the picture with all these jigsaw pieces and to foresee the implications of each of these trends for the CEE region.

● 2nd Session

Politics aside, the CEE countries should be pushing in making themselves more attractive to investors looking for the regions and countries with the strongest potential to thrive in the long term.

What are the new drivers of competitiveness?

Governance and the rule of law, regulatory systems that encourage competition and investment, good infrastructure, and an educated workforce are obvious building blocks.

Can the Government act as an Enabler to Accelerating Economic Growth?

What steps are required to resolve the region issues and establish new transformative models that will help develop higher value added growth, long-term social progress and competitive advantage required?

What lessons can be learned and what needs to change in order to go further the “export-led recovery” in the Central and Eastern Europe?

Can (Smart) Cities be acting as a catalyst for innovation? What about digital governance plans?

What is the regulatory landscape and how can the companies and organizations align their strategies and work with governments to take advantage of transformational changes?

How can public and private investment be boosted?

How can slow growth be boosted while EU states are struggling to reduce indebtedness?

How can the role of private capital be strengthened to enable more economic risk-taking and a long-term approach?

Foreign capital vs. local capital vs. attracting the local capital and workforce from abroad

Succeeding as an Emerging Market Multinational. What are the key lessons of the companies that have made their mark despite political uncertainty, economic uncertainty and infrastructure limitations?

Can CEE foster enough good quality startups to form hubs that can challenge London, Berlin or Tel Aviv?

COFFEE BREAK

● 3rd Session

THE QUEST FOR CAPITAL: Alternate Sources of Financing

A broad look at sources of equity and debt financing available to companies and organizations in the current financial climate.

Structural funds, (missed) opportunities

National programs for establishing/developing SME

What are the prospects of the banking sector in the CEE region? The new banking model.

The attractiveness of the CEE region for the banks vs the risks

The role of banks in financing the real economy (corporate borrowers, SME & infrastructure)

The changing role of funds and asset management in financing the real economy

The growth opportunities and challenges that funds/asset management face as they take center stage propelled by demographic and market changes.

What are the macroeconomic (Brexit, Negative interest rates, US Election, etc.) variables affecting portfolio returns in 2016?

The need for Capital Markets Union and the need to keep adequate liquidity in the financial system

What is the role of alternative investments in the region?

New vs. traditional sources and strategies for raising capital

Private equity and M&A

The entrepreneurs' view

Second day - panels

● 4th Session

FOCUS ON ENERGY

Global energy markets are now at an inflection point. The oil price has fallen by over 70% since 2014, resulting in the cancellation and deferral of new projects worth hundreds of billions.

The economics and efficiencies of alternatives, meanwhile, in the shape of renewables, electric vehicles and batteries for storage are challenging the oil and gas industry's traditional markets, including transport.

Geopolitical concerns are putting further pressure on various stakeholders within the energy sector. Nevertheless, the energy sectors need to accommodate the national strategies but also regional cooperation. What about investments in further exploration around Black Sea?

How are oil and gas companies redefining their long-term strategy? Can the oil and gas industry survive the current round of pressures? Where will future growth come from?

The future business model of the power utility in the era of the decentralization: Will they transform from monolithic structures to become the Amazon's of the energy industry?

The EU framework is changing, what is behind these changes?

Energy independence and the future of the domestic electricity production; energy import vs renewable energy
Development of the national utility services

COFFEE BREAK

● 5th Session

FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE

The past years were rich in unexpected changes for the agriculture sector, but this and the future years bring possibilities and challenges never seen before. Lots of unresolved questions, professional issues and challenges to be answered.

What promises do the Rural Development Programs hold? How can one apply successfully for the new EU funds?

How to set in motion new credit programs?

What is the outlook on food industry and livestock sectors?

How to succeed in a market full of M&A transactions among the biggest companies?

What effects will the technological explosion have on the agricultural sector?

Complex technologies and competitive crop production

Where will the grain prices go and what are the effects on the agribusiness?

What solution can be found for the Russian embargo?

● 6th Session

FOCUS ON INNOVATION: Agility in an Age of Ambiguity

The most disruptive and innovative companies tend to be relatively new. What about older, larger and more traditional companies? Will they be able to emulate the smaller innovators and reimagine themselves through developing in-house hubs of innovation?

For them, being big might mean having to be small again. But is this the right business model for success in a large corporation? It is too easily forgotten that big companies that are around today have successfully survived economic downturns and periods of massive change and disruption. Is it therefore really necessary to scrap the old model and build something new, or can you build innovation within the existing framework?

Digital Disruption: Innovative Technologies, New Players and Transformed Business Models

How new digital technologies are being used to improve profitability and restructure operations.

How are these technologies shaping the future of the industry?

In which key ways are they impacting customer relationship management, new product development and establishing new rules of competition?

Thinking small

The business of speed

Creating a creative culture

Innovation and the war for talent

With innovation now flowing from East to West and back again, what countries and sectors are investors looking at most closely in this space?

COFFEE BREAK

● 7th Session

FOCUS ON LEADERSHIP, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & FAMILY BUSINESS

Europe's workforce is being overhauled by the rapid pace of technological innovation, demographic change and globalization. Are the current models of organizational design and leadership still relevant for the evolving labour marketplace, the generation of Millennials, and the new skills necessary for sustained productivity?

What more could be done to stimulate entrepreneurship, SMEs and the environment for start-ups in economies where job creation, particularly for young people, is key to future growth and stability?

33% of S&P 500 companies and 40% of Europe's leading companies are family owned. But in emerging markets, many family business face rapid growth and the challenges of not having sufficient capabilities.