

Iași County Council

Ladies and gentleman

Dear guests from all over Europe

It is my great honour to be the one who welcomes you here in Iasi, in the historic capital of Romania, at this very important event, when our country holds the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union.

And because I represent Iasi County, let me tell you that you are in a region packed with history, on ancient lands, where our national establishment was initiated, as free and independent people.

We are pleased and honoured by the decision of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration to choose Iasi for organising these meetings.

You are in the second county of Romania by number of inhabitants after Bucharest, a county in which the problems are proportional to the population size, but which are tackled with ambition and resolution. Iasi is one of the six counties forming the North-East Development Region. This region is at the underlying base of the pyramid of European development areas, representing a region where the implementation of European cohesion policies is particularly necessary.

As President of Iasi County Council I highly appreciate the importance and usefulness of the themes promoted by the meetings organized these couple of days, considering that cohesion policy plays a crucial role in the sustainable development of the European Union and in closing the inequality gaps between regions in Europe.

The European Union economic policies should be carried out in full respect of the sustainability and subsidiarity principles across the implementation of the three pillars set out in the 2030 Agenda, that is economic, social and environmental. Therefore as we cross a period of challenges at European level, the extent of political intervention will have to be correlated with the development level through the use of functional areas. At the same time, it is necessary to establish a long-term vision of the role that cohesion policy will have over time and determine which will be the benefit for citizens and economy.

I am pleased to see that you have been able to bring together policy makers, practitioners and experts who are interested in understanding the challenges and the opportunities for territorial development in a wider context and in reflecting on the development processes as they happen on the ground.

I wish the event a great success, and all guests and participants a most rewarding and enjoyable time in Iași, hoping that you will return on other occasions. Thank you.