



ROMANIAN ACADEMY
National Institute for Economic
Research "Costin C. Kirilăscu"



National Bank of
Romania



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The 13th International Conference - ESPERA 2026

Mapping out a route towards a paradigm shift focused on competitiveness and well-being against the backdrop of a challenging economic and social context at the global, European, and national levels



**Bucharest
15th – 16th October 2026**



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Mapping out a route towards a paradigm shift focused on competitiveness and well-being against the backdrop of a challenging economic and social context at the global, European, and national levels

The aim of the international conference "Economic Scientific Research - Theoretical, Empirical and Practical Approaches"- ESPERA, initiated in 2013 by the National Institute for Economic Research "Costin C. Kirițescu" (NIER), is to present and evaluate the economic scientific research portfolio, to argue and substantiate the Romanian development strategies - including European and global best practices. The 2026 edition of the Conference will be held on 15th - 16th October, under the title: **"Mapping out a route towards a paradigm shift focused on competitiveness and well-being against the backdrop of a challenging economic and social context at the global, European, and national levels"**.

The event program addresses a wide diversity of themes, bringing together researchers from all NIER institutes and centres, members of the Romanian Academy and also guests, from Romanian universities and from other countries, including master, PhD and post PhD students.

Under the circumstances of multiple economic challenges facing the whole world caused by political instability, weaker global and national macroeconomic growth prospects, oil shock adversities and persistence of energy-driven spikes in inflation, trade flows unpredictability vs supply chains disruptions, financial markets volatility, geopolitical tensions heightening due mainly to Middle East war escalating, new policy levers and tools to surmount them are required, focused on competitiveness boost and productivity gains, people's daily life and well-being improvement through technological advances accelerating, investments enhancing, including in human capital, energy strategies resetting, expanding access to domestic capital markets and offshore financing.

To this end, redefining the analytical framework of metrics and indicators that capture increasingly complex and interconnected challenges, experienced at global and national levels is proving to be of crucial importance, with the aim of identifying the most appropriate policy macroprudential tools and actions, based on an in-depth understanding of key sectoral trends, the factors driving rapid changes of the actual complicated internal and external context, as well as foreseeable developments in the short and medium term.

Researchers are encouraged to present papers of scientific research regarding, as much as possible, the topics presented above.

Even if many of the papers deal with these aspects from the perspective of the impact and relevance of the analyzed aspects from the point of view of the Romanian economy and society, through the significant number of foreign authors participating in each of its previous editions, the ESPERA International Conference has proven its worth to act as a conducive forum for debating, sharing of knowledge and good practices with representatives of the academic environment,



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researchers and teaching staff from other countries, both from the European Union and non-EU countries.

The International conference proceedings is dedicated mainly for professionals, researchers, decision makers, but also for all interested parties - academia, practitioners, PhD and post PhD students and a broader public audience - providing valuable knowledge about the world economy latest developments and its foreseeable evolvement, understanding transformational drivers of national economies and developing strategies, policies and tools adequate to the related reforms.

The Conference is intended as a thought-provoking exercise for researchers and it is organized in such a way as to provide a wide-ranging platform for debates, covering the broadest approaches, enabling an interactive exchange of ideas and the most recent scientific results and findings, including those emerged in economic science arising from both fundamental and empirical researches and promoting evidence-based policy making new vision under crisis circumstances.

The contributions and views that will be expressed, on a meritorious and wide-ranging level, will be disseminated, as in previous years, in a volume - Proceedings of the International Conference ESPERA 2026, that will be submitted to EBSCO and also for evaluation and inclusion in Conference Proceedings Citation Index by Clarivate, Web of Science and SCOPUS.

The Conference includes an additional section dedicated to master, PhD and post PhD students, thus providing a conducive framework for scientific debate and their training.

The Conference will be held in a hybrid format (on site and online). The correspondence with the authors will take place using the email address: **espera@ince.ro**.



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Conference parallel sessions

- 1. Romania's sustainable economic and social development. Models, scenarios, evaluations***
- 2. Natural resources patrimony - costs and benefits of its valorisation***
- 3. Knowledge, innovation, smart development and human capital***
- 4. Economy dynamics and structural changes for a competitive growth***
- 5. European integration and globalisation - new challenges***
- 6. Economic instability and stabilisation policies***
- 7. Development and improvement of economic and social forecasting tools***
- 8. Food safety and security – challenges for agriculture economic development***
- 9. Assessment of economic-social and political experiences and thoughts***
- 10. Contributions to the New Encyclopaedia of Romania***
- 11. Quality of life and social policies evaluations***
- 12. Demoeconomic cycles and transitions***
- 13. Mountain areas sustainable development***
- 14. Master, PhD and post PhD students debates***
- 15. Business ethics and corporate social responsibility***



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Conference schedule

Abstract submission	10 th September 2026
Notification of acceptance/rejection	10 th October 2026
International Conference	15 th October 2026 – Plenary Session 16 th October 2026 – Parallel Sessions
Paper Submissions	20 th January 2027
Notification of: - acceptance; - acceptance with minor changes; - acceptance with major changes; - rejection.	20 th February 2027
Paper Submissions - final version after review	10 th March 2027

Paper Submission

Authors are invited to submit full text papers that report original unpublished research, which are not under consideration for publication elsewhere. For Romanian contributors, the Romanian language version of the paper is also required. The official languages of the conference are English and Romanian.

The **abstract** should be submitted until **10th September 2026**, to the following email address: espera@ince.ro. In the e-mail message accompanying the paper the author must submit the **registration of participation**, including:

Name and Surname of the author/authors:

Affiliation:

Paper title:

Conference section:

Contact address (for corresponding author):

The **final paper** should be submitted until **20th January 2027**, according to the ESPERA 2026 Conference paper Template and following the Guide for Authors recommendations available on the International Conference ESPERA website www.conferinte-ince.ro.



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Publication of papers

All the submitted papers will go through a double-blind review process, with the help of the Conference Scientific Committee.

The most valuable papers will be published in an Open Access volume - Proceedings of the International Conference ESPERA 2026, that will be submitted to EBSCO and also for evaluation and inclusion in Conference Proceedings Citation Index by Clarivate, Web of Science.

For the editions ESPERA 2013 and 2014, after the evaluation, the most valuable 100 papers were selected for the Proceedings of the International Conference ESPERA, published on-line by Elsevier in "Procedia Economics and Finance" (vol. 8/2014 and vol. 22/2015); for the editions ESPERA 2015-2019, the most valuable papers were published at Peter Lang International Academic Publishing Group; for ESPERA 2020 the papers were published by Sciendo De Gruyter; for ESPERA 2021 - 2024 the papers were published at Springer and for ESPERA 2025 most valuable papers are now in the final stage of evaluation at Springer and will be submitted to EBSCO and also for evaluation and inclusion in Conference Proceedings Citation Index by Clarivate, Web of Science.



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Partners for 2026 edition



**Real Academia de Ciencias Económicas y
Financieras (RACEF)**



**European Academy
of Management and Business Economics**

**European Academy of Management
and Business Economics**



**European Marketing and
Management Association**



**Association of Faculties of
Economics from Romania**



**Institute of Economic Development
and Social Research, Turkey**



**Research Network on
Resources Economics and
Bioeconomy Association**



Association Business Ethics - RO



**Gestion y Planificacion Research
Group (GESPLAN), Spain**



**Bank Deposit Guarantee
Fund, Romania**



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**Romanian National Committee -
World Energy Council**



**Excellence Center PH2-CE,
Prahova Hydrogen Association**