

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Simona MOAGĂR-POLADIAN

***Professor, PhD, Director of the Institute for World Economy,
Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania***



Professor Simona Moagăr-Poladian's research focuses on areas of structural changes in the world economy, international economic relations, and European Economic and Monetary integration.

Since 2020, she has been a doctoral coordinator at the School of Economics of the Romanian Academy. She has been also a member of the Management Board of the Romanian European Institute, serving her third term. She has coordinated several national projects and participated in international projects too.

In 2020-2023 period she coordinated the Centre for Writing European Projects in the field of Climate Change funded by the Competitiveness Operational Program as project manager. She was the Manager for the Project of the “Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies, Horizon 2020: The Promoting of the National Interests Through Excellence, Competitiveness and Responsibility in the Romanian Fundamental and Applied Research”- under the European Structural Funds Programme, in 2014-2015 period.

Professor Moagăr-Poladian is the author of over 100 scientific publications and academic studies, and actively contributes to informing decision makers about the evolution of commodity markets, the economic evolution of states and regions, risks and opportunities in trade and investments, case studies.

Camelia GAVRILESCU

***PhD, Associate Professor, Senior Researcher
Institute of Agricultural Economics - Romanian Academy, Romania***



Dr. Camelia Gavrilescu is senior researcher and associate professor in agri-food economics and policies at the Institute of Agricultural Economics of the Romanian Academy. Her main areas of expertise include sustainable rural development, agricultural and rural development policies, farm economic and ecologic performance analysis, agri-food trade and competitiveness. She participated in many international projects (FP5, FP6, FP7, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe), as coordinator and/or expert.

Dr. Gavrilescu is the author of over 200 scientific publications (articles, working papers, books, book chapters, reports). She is actively participating in important scientific meetings (Conferences, workshops) in her area of expertise. She is also Chief Editor of the journal *Agricultural Economics and Rural Development* (ISSN 1841-0375), open access.

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Ion CERTAN

PhD, Senior Researcher, University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, Romania



Dr. Ion Certan is a scientific researcher at Laboratory of IT, Management and Econometric within the Research Center for Studies of Food and Agricultural Products Quality of University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest.

His main areas of expertise include rural development, rural financing, life cycle cost assessments, agri-food trade and competitiveness. He participated in many national and international projects as expert or evaluator.

Dr. Ion Certan is the author of more than 100 scientific publications (books, articles, guides, etc.). He is actively participating in different scientific events like conferences, workshops, round tables, debates

and so on.

Alexandru MONAHOV

***PhD in Economics, Expert Adviser,
National Bank of Moldova***



Dr. Alexandru Monahov's research interest lies at the intersection of quantitative finance and advanced technology, specifically in enhancing financial resilience through Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence techniques.

Dr. Monahov is an accomplished research economist and expert in financial stability, currently applying his expertise at the National Bank of Moldova, after having worked for the Bank of England and within the French academic sector, at the Universities of Nice and Nantes. He is also affiliated with the Technical University of Moldova and is a Research Lab member at Northeastern University, Boston, USA. Holding a PhD in Economics and Finance, alongside a Professional Certificate in Advanced Risk Management from the New York Institute of

Finance, he has developed a robust career focused on Central Banking, financial risk, and macro-prudential policy. Beyond his institutional role, he is also an experienced lecturer and course designer, contributing to the academic understanding of banking systems.

The research portfolio developed by *Dr. Monahov* includes papers on topics such as stress testing, inflationary shocks, borrower repayment capacity, and the empirical study of European credit markets; as well as software applications in the field of data science and finance. His work focuses heavily on developing prudential instruments, macroeconomic modeling, and risk monitoring with AI for better financial oversight.

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Olga GAGAUZ

***Habilitated Doctor in sociology, Associate Professor,
Head of the Centre for Demographic Research "Academician Gheorghe Paladi",
National Institute for Economic Research, AESM***



Dr. Olga Gagauz's research focuses on population dynamics, fertility, ageing, migration, and demographic projections. Throughout her career, she has coordinated numerous scientific projects, including those supported by UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, GIZ, and other international organisations. She is recognised as a national expert on population and development and actively contributes to evidence-based demographic policy in Moldova.

Dr. Gagauz is the author of more than 150 scientific publications, including monographs and articles published in ranked international journals. She is also the Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Economy and Sociology*. Under her leadership, the Centre for Demographic Research "Academician Gheorghe Paladi" has strengthened its role as a key national institution in

demographic analysis and policy advice. She actively collaborates with international research networks and contributes to comparative studies across Europe and beyond.

Emilia GOGU (LUCA)

***PhD, Associate Professor, Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE),
Research Expert, Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
(ARACIS)***



Dr. Emilia Gogu (Luca) is an Associate Professor at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE), with over 25 years of experience in higher education. Her main research and teaching interests include macroeconomic statistics, econometric modelling, international business statistics, Sustainable Development Goals and indicators, and quality assessment in higher education.

Since 2013, she has served as an evaluator for the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) and, since 2017, for the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova (ANACEC). Since 2021, she has also been a Research Expert at ARACIS, contributing to national methodologies, external quality assurance guidelines, institutional evaluation frameworks, and research

studies on higher education and doctoral education.

Dr. Emilia Gogu (Luca) has participated in numerous national and international conferences and has authored or co-authored over 100 scientific publications. Her work includes several studies and volumes on the development and quality of higher education in Romania. In 2020, she co-authored the Statistical Monograph of the Bucharest University of Economic Studies: 100 Graduating Classes, a research work awarded the "Petre S. Aurelian" Prize by the Romanian Academy.

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Alexander DAVCHEV

PhD, Professor, Head of the Department of "Management and Sustainable Development", University of Agribusiness and Rural Development (UARD), Plovdiv, Bulgaria, Member of Scientific and Technical Union and The Union of Scientists in Bulgaria



Prof. Dr. Alexander Davchev completed his doctorate at the University of Food and Technology - Plovdiv. His work experience began in the National Commodity Exchange in 2003, and today he is its administrative director. Since 2011 he has been working as an assistant professor at UARD and teaches in disciplines such as: "Exchanges and Exchange Operations", "Sales Management", "Marketing", "Labor Market", "Business History" and others.

In 2018 he was appointed as an Associate Professor at UARD – Plovdiv and later in 2025 as a professor. His fields of interest are related with the sustainable development of urban and rural areas, marketing, sales promotions, labor market and tourism.

Currently, *Professor Davchev* is the Head of the Department of "Management and Sustainable Development". His scientific publications include studies, articles and reports in various specialized publications, co-author of two textbooks, participant in international and regional conferences, round tables and more. Member of Scientific and Technical Union and The Union of Scientists in Bulgaria.

Solveig ARGESSEANU CUNNINGHAM

Professor, Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute / Emory University, Netherlands



Professor Solveig Argeseanu Cunningham is a demographer and sociologist and Theme Leader for Health, Ageing and Longevity at the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI). She is also Professor at the Hubert Department of Global Health, Emory University, Atlanta, USA. She holds a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, an MSc in International Development from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and completed postdoctoral training in Chronic Disease Epidemiology at Emory University.

Her research focuses on global health, chronic diseases, obesity and diabetes, health across the life course, child health, and the contextual determinants of population health. A particular strand of her work examines how early-life conditions and social environments influence health trajectories and chronic disease later in life. She employs both quantitative and qualitative methods and has extensive experience in population-based data collection and analysis. Her research has been conducted across the United States, Europe, South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East, including research undertaken as a Fulbright Scholar.

Professor Cunningham has published widely in leading international peer-reviewed journals, including *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *Demography*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Population Studies*, *Epidemiology*, and *The Journals of Gerontology*. Her current affiliations also include the St Andrews Centre for Critical Sustainable in Scotland, the Federal Institute for Population Research in Germany, and Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium.

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Alina BOTEZAT

PhD, Senior Researcher (CS I), “Gheorghe Zane” Institute for Economic and Social Research, Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, Romania



Alina Botezat is a senior researcher at the Romanian Academy, Iași Branch, where she actively contributes to the fields of migration, economics of education, health, and policy impact evaluation. She holds a degree in Economics from the University of Mannheim and has successfully completed her PhD in Applied Microeconomics and Economics of Education at the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi, Romania.

In her recent research, *Alina Botezat* been particularly focused on high-skill migration, with a specific emphasis on the migration of health professionals and international student mobility. She also dedicates her efforts to investigating the impact of parental labor migration on left-behind children, shedding light on the multifaceted consequences of migration. In her work, she employs the latest statistical and econometric methods in an effort to identify causal effects.

Her research is accepted for publication in various international peer-reviewed journals like World Development, Population, Space and Place, Journal of Economic Psychology, Globalization and Health, International Regional Science Review. In the past decade, *Dr. Alina Botezat* has had the privilege of serving as the Principal Investigator for various research grants. Between 2013-2016, she was fellow of the College for Interdisciplinary Educational Research (CIDER, Berlin). *Dr. Alina Botezat* is also an expert member of the Expert Network on Economics and Sociology of Education and Training (ENESET).