

First day - panels

- 8.00-9.00 - Registration & welcome coffee
- 9.00-10.30 - Official opening
Ionuț Bonoiu, Editor-in-Chief, Forbes Romania

Klaus Iohannis, President of Romania

Mihai Tudose, Prime Minister of Romania

Mugur Isărescu, Governor National Bank of Romania

Special guests - journalists and analysts from Forbes Network:

Regional Outlook by Forbes Editors in the CEE: Strengthening the Integration between Central and Eastern Europe Countries, as viewed by the Forbes Network

- 10.30-11.30 - SESSION 1

THE NEW RULES OF LEADERSHIP

FROM DONALD TRUMP TO BREXIT and elections across Europe, a wave of populism is challenging the status-quo. All over the world, there is a clear message for change. Global markets are paying a close watch to the US policies but also they are watching the critical developments in Europe, as the continent faces Brexit and its repercussions, the uprising of populism vs the influx of migrants and security challenges. The list of unsettling global issues gets longer by the week, but we will try to complete the picture with all these jigsaw pieces and to foresee the implications of the trends for the CEE region.

What are the challenges and opportunities for the coming year?

How will CEE's and Romania's economic, financial and social landscape change in view of these challenges?

Time for geopolitics: what will be the future of EU, NATO and Europe as a whole

Expectation vs reality in the game-changing political developments. How investors and managers respond to this environment?

Is the global economy at a turning point?

The "feeding population" challenge: can the advances in technology be adapted in agriculture, an industry with probably the highest price volatility in the last 10 years?

After a challenging two years, are energy giants emerging in better shape? Energy independence and the low-cost energy environment; energy market trends (imports, renewable energy, etc.) and their implications;

Challenges and opportunities in the new health economy that is emerging, from regulation and reforms to innovation and aging and longevity;

The rise of urban development in emerging cities and the pressures to their social, economic and political development: business development, smart infrastructure, pollution and long-term stability;

How will the leadership of the companies change in the next 10 years? What are the qualities we will value in our leaders and what will the long term impact be?

Jobs and leadership in the Fourth Industrial Revolution;

From fragility to resilience. How do you manage people in a risky and volatile environment?

What global risks must world leaders and policymakers understand and what actions must be made to ensure a safe and prosperous world?

First day - panels

● 12.00-13.00 - SESSION 2

FINDING GROWTH

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. 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 and will the EU structural & investment funds stimulate investments in CEE?

How can public and private investment be boosted?

Innovation, research & tech, as growth engines;

Can Smart cities and urban/regional development be the catalysts for innovation?

What are the the new drivers of competitiveness?

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

How to boost growth and still 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?

● 13.30-14.30 - SESSION 3:

FINANCING THE FUTURE

A broad look at sources of financing available to companies and organizations in the current financial climate. How can the financial infrastructure be improved to support growth and development?

Structural funds, (missed) opportunities;

National programs for establishing/developing SME;

Innovative finance, changing risk modelling techniques;

What is wrong with the traditional banking models? What are the prospects of the banking sector in the CEE region? The new banking model;

What are the most bankable sectors in 2017?

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 variables affecting portfolio returns in 2017?

What approach is more suited for the current investment environment: active or passive?

The liquidity issue in the financial system;

What is the the role of alternative investments in the region?

New vs. traditional sources and strategies for raising capital;

What are the latest financing tools available to investors who want to achieve social and environmental impact as well as financial returns;

The changing role of the CFO;

Private equity and M&A;

The entrepreneurs' view;

Financial regulation - the challenge of compliance in a world of complexity.

Second day - panels

● 8.00-9.00 – Registration & welcome coffee

● 9.00-10.30 – Sum-up of DAY 1

● 10.30-11.45 – SESSION 4

ENTREPRENEURIAL STATE OF MIND

In both developed and developing countries, SMEs and startups are important drivers of economic growth. How can their potential be unleashed?

The SME & Startup, from potential to results;

What can we learn from their success stories and their failures?

What are the specific opportunities and challenges they face (scaling up, internationalisation, digitisation, access to funding and investment, government support and talent recruitment)?

What 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?

What do angel investors, venture capitalists and bankers look at?

Serial entrepreneurs;

Small business vs intrapreneurship;

What roles do national, regional and metropolitan environments have in developing entrepreneurial ecosystems? In this interconnected world, is physical proximity still of importance?

Incubators vs accelerators, coworking vs part-time entrepreneurship;

Creative entrepreneurship vs social entrepreneurship;

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. What will the future of family businesses look like?

Next Generation – How to develop the managers and custodians of family wealth, the ones that will focus on good governance and a sustainable track for family growth?

Which sectors are more accessible for family businesses and what are the trends in the asset allocation of UHNW families around the world.

Second day - panels

● 12.00-13.15 – SESSION 5

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE BUSINESS MODEL

Digital transformation is shaping business models across every sector, and businesses from every country and in every industry face disruption. Digital transformation strategies must be driven from the top, while people, processes and technologies should be aligned to build capability and enable transformation across the business. Every company needs to know how digital tools and platforms can help engage with customers and employees - particularly millennials, provide value-added interactive services, drive efficiency, and lower costs.

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

How are these technologies shaping the future of the industry?

Thinking small, the business of speed, creating a creative culture, 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?

How to create digital experiences that transform the relationship between brand, consumer and employees?

Execution of digital strategies and lessons learnt on digital transformation programmes;

How can you remain agile and innovative whilst operating in a less risk-averse approach?

How can people, processes and technology be aligned and how do you manage disruption internally?

How can companies re-focus their business models and talent away from asset and operations, towards customers and information?

Innovation is now embedded into all business vocabulary. What lessons can the world's great innovators offer, and what ideas and insights can the region share in return?

How can Romania/CEE stay ahead of the innovation game?

How do innovative organisations balance risk and return?

What should governments do—or not do—to help businesses to thrive?

AI & Machine Learning;

Digital health: How much do patients accept it and what will be the role of advanced technologies in healthcare?

The metamorphosis of the of shop: what is the key to survival of the bricks and mortar businesses?

What do retailers need to do to ensure they are fit for the future and the everchanging role of the shop?

Technology has always disrupted the construction industry. How is technology changing the design and construction processes?

The development of smart farming;

How will digitalisation transform the traditional banking model?

● 13.30-14.30 – SESSION 6

NEXT 100

The entire world is being overhauled by the rapid pace of technological innovation, demographic change and globalisation. Are the current models of organisational design and leadership still relevant for the evolving marketplace, the generation of Millennials, and the new skills necessary for sustained productivity?

Increased diversity is correlated with superior company economic performance. What drives this link and what actions should companies take to capture the benefits from increased diversity and inclusion? As more women rise up through organisations and lead, how is power likely to evolve?

How will the leadership of companies change in the next years? What are the qualities we will value in our leaders?

Cyber security/Privacy

Putting Sustainability and Impact Investing at the Heart of the Business Model: What should be the relationship between the private capital markets and the well-being of society?

What is the relationship between impact investing and ethical investing? How to stop short-termism and begin to act with an eye to the future?

How can policy-makers better address market failings and encourage a move toward a circular economy?

Education as an investment for the future

Automation and machine that will replace work, an everchanging job market, with career paths with multiple employers and technology skills a requirement. Are we ready for the future of work? How do you succeed in a jobs market that's changing by the day?

Jobs and Leadership in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. What are the job categories and functions that are critical for the industry today? Which jobs are being substituted and which have the potential for upskilling?

● Closing remarks