

The 8th International Conference on Economics and Social Sciences
Exploring Global Perspectives:
The Future of Economics and Social Sciences
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Foreword

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The International Conference on Economics and Social Sciences (ICESS) represents one of the most important and prestigious research events organised by the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, reflecting the collaborative efforts and academic excellence of the university, based on international cooperation with academic and business partners. Having already reached its 8th edition, the conference continues to provide a valuable framework for communication, research dissemination, and interdisciplinary dialogue on the major economic and social challenges of our time. Held on 5–6 June 2025 in Bucharest, under the theme *Exploring Global Perspectives: The Future of Economics and Social Sciences*, the conference brought together researchers, academics, practitioners, and students from Romania and abroad.

By fostering communication and collaboration among relevant stakeholders, the main goal of the event is to identify intelligent tools, innovative approaches, and relevant solutions that can contribute to economic development, social equity, and sustainable growth. The conference highlights the interconnected economic and social dimensions of contemporary development and emphasises the importance of interdisciplinary approaches in generating impactful and applicable knowledge.

The opening plenary session included prestigious invited guests whose professional achievements and international careers offered valuable insights to the participants. Among the keynote speakers of the 2025 edition were Dr. Wargha Enayati, founder of the Regina Maria Private Healthcare Network and of Enayati Medical City, Romania; Andrei Zlate, Group Manager at the Federal Reserve Board, United States of America, and ASE alumnus; Petru Sandu, Professor and Director of the Family Business and Entrepreneurship Program at Elizabethtown College, United States of America, and ASE alumnus; and Cristina Galalae, Associate Professor at the Open University, United Kingdom, and ASE alumna. The plenary session was moderated by Sabina Iosub, journalist and ASE alumna. A distinctive feature of this edition was therefore the strong presence of ASE graduates who are currently pursuing outstanding careers in prestigious international institutions, offering an inspiring example for the academic community and especially for younger generations of researchers and students.

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Every year, the conference benefits from distinguished invited speakers who inspire academics, researchers, and students in their professional and scientific development. The 2025 edition confirmed once again the growing relevance of the conference both in quantitative and qualitative terms, while strengthening its role as a forum for debate, academic exchange, and research dissemination.

The scientific programme of the conference included 14 minitracks, covering a wide range of topics such as agrifood and environmental economics, sustainability, strategy and engagement, business and tourism, management and public administration, entrepreneurship, data science, international business and economics, innovative marketing, labour and social welfare, accounting and management information systems, applied economics, communication, finance and banking, and applied macroeconomics and finance. These themes reflect the diversity of current research interests and the need for integrated perspectives in understanding contemporary economic and social transformations.

Also, the conference hosted the ***Workshop for Young Researchers*** and the workshop ***Integrating Sustainable Development Goals into Real World: Challenges and Opportunities***, which reunited specialists from the academic area together with representatives of the economic and social environment in order to debate the real challenges faced by public and private institutions within a dynamic and uncertain international context. At the same time, these workshops offered important support for doctoral students and early-career researchers, providing them with opportunities to present their ideas, receive feedback, and improve their research in progress.

The conference offered networking opportunities for national and international specialists from different partner institutions, as well as for academics, researchers, and PhD students from various universities and research environments. A significant part of the scientific papers presented within the conference are the result of collaboration between national and international authors, which further confirms the international profile and academic relevance of the event.

Given the large variety of participants and topics, ICESS can be considered an international forum for debate, a research platform, and an important tool for the dissemination of scientific results. More importantly, it is a valuable learning experience for PhD students and young researchers, who can use this opportunity to refine their work, strengthen their academic networks, and increase the visibility of their research.

The publication opportunities associated with the conference are another major asset. The proceedings volume contributes to the dissemination of the research outcomes presented during the event and supports the visibility, validation, and impact of scientific work in the field of economics and social sciences. In this way, the conference strengthens its contribution to the development of a vibrant academic community connected to both theoretical advancement and practical relevance.

The collaboration between academia and the socio-business environment remains a very important dimension of university research, and we aim to further consolidate this sustainable partnership in order to produce effects in the long run. The outcomes of academic research should strongly contribute to the identification of relevant and practical solutions for the business environment and for society as a whole.