

Business & Economics Society International (B&ESI)

44th B&ESI Conference **Tallinn, Estonia** **Kreutzwald Hotel, July 14-19, 2027**

Conference Hotel Details:

Kreutzwald Hotel, Endla 23, Tallinn 10122, Estonia

Telephone: +372 666 4800

Web: <https://www.kreutzwaldhotel.com/>



SCHEDULE: Wednesday, July 14 – Monday, July 19, 2027
Daily Networking Educational Activities (at extra cost, subject to change)
[Details here](#)

Wednesday, July 14, 2027

- Pre-Conference, Day-Long Networking Educational Activity:
Lahemaa National Park
- Pre-registration (5:00 PM – 6:00 PM)
- Welcome Reception (6:00 PM – 7:00 PM)

Thursday, July 15, 2027

- Registration & Sessions: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Afternoon / Evening Networking Educational Activity (after Sessions):
Explore the Old Town on foot

Friday, July 16, 2027

- Registration & Sessions: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Keynote Speaker: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
- Afternoon / Evening Networking Educational Activity (after Sessions):
Keila Waterfall Park

Saturday, July 17, 2027

- Registration & Sessions: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Afternoon / Evening Networking Educational Activity (after Sessions):
Olde Hansa Medieval Restaurant – music show with medieval

Sunday, July 18, 2027

- Registration & Sessions: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
- Afternoon / Evening Networking Educational Activity (after Sessions):
Beer House Restaurant

Monday, July 19, 2027

- Post-Conference, Day-Long Networking Educational Activity:
Helsinki, Finland (by boat)



KEYNOTE SPEAKER
(Friday, July 16, 2027, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM)

Professor Ricardo Lopez Murphy
Former Minister of Defense & Minister of Economy
Federal Government of Argentina

Title of Talk:
**The Rise of Public Debt in Advanced and
Emerging Economies: Causes, Consequences, and
Policy Challenges**

Professor Ricardo Lopez Murphy is a leading authority in Economics and Latin American Affairs. Probably best known as a former consultant with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund whose vision and foresight as Argentina's Finance Minister found support from a large section of the International Business Community.

With a long history of experience in the financial world Professor López Murphy began his prestigious career at the Ministry of Economics in 1975 before becoming chief advisor for the Central Bank of Argentina and shortly thereafter advisor to the Central Bank of Uruguay. In 1984 he became a consultant with the IMF, IDB, UNDP and the World Bank.

During his political career he was Minister of Defense (1999-2001) and briefly Minister of Economy (2001) for the Federal Government of Argentina. He was presidential candidate in two opportunities.

He was Senior Economist at the Latin American Economic Research Foundation. He was professor of economics in the University of La Plata, University of San Andrés and UCEMA in Argentina. He was also professor of economics in the University of Montevideo and in the University of República in Uruguay. He was also professor of economics in the University of St. Gallen, in Switzerland.

His topics include: Monetary Policy, Economic and Fiscal Policy Making, Latin American Economic Perspective, Argentinian Economy, The World Bank Policies in Latin America, Privatization and De-regulation.

Abstract of Talk: Over the past two decades, public debt has risen dramatically in both advanced and emerging economies. This development was initially driven by efforts to counter the effects of the 2008-09 global financial crisis and was later amplified by the extraordinary measures adopted to mitigate the economic and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

In both episodes, governments resorted to substantial fiscal expansion, financed largely through increased borrowing. At the same time, central banks implemented exceptionally accommodative monetary policies, significantly expanding monetary aggregates and facilitating the absorption of the large volumes of public debt issued during these periods.

Beyond these short-term shocks, however, structural forces had already been placing growing pressure on public finances. Chief among them is population aging, which has led to steadily rising expenditures on pensions and healthcare. Healthcare spending, in particular, tends to increase more than proportionally with age, reflecting the strong relationship between longevity and demand for medical services.

These pressures emerged in a context where tax burdens were already historically high, especially in countries with extensive welfare states. The expansion of these systems had been facilitated for decades by the reduction in defense spending following the end of the Cold War. In many cases, however, taxation reached levels at which further increases could generate significant economic costs by discouraging investment, reducing productivity, and weakening the efficient allocation of resources.

At the same time, the resurgence of geopolitical tensions and armed conflicts is creating new demands for defense and security spending. While part of these expenditures has been financed through additional borrowing, such an approach is unlikely to be sustainable over the long term, particularly in an environment characterized by rising real interest rates worldwide.

These developments also raise the risk of renewed inflationary pressures stemming from persistent fiscal deficits and elevated debt levels. In parallel, the technological transformation associated with artificial intelligence is generating unprecedented demand for capital to finance digital infrastructure, data centers, and new productive capacities. This growing competition for global savings may contribute to keeping interest rates higher for longer.

Failure to address these imbalances in a timely manner could eventually trigger a crisis of confidence. Given the scale of current debt levels, any deterioration in perceptions of fiscal solvency could result in abrupt adjustments, carrying significant economic and social costs.

In emerging economies, the prolonged period of exceptionally low nominal and real interest rates enabled governments to finance similar imbalances through extensive access to international capital markets. Narrow sovereign spreads allowed even relatively vulnerable countries to borrow at favorable terms for an extended period.

However, the ongoing normalization of monetary policy and the rise in global interest rates are likely to force more rapid adjustments. In countries with shallow financial markets, financing pressures can quickly spill over into the external sector, leading to sharp currency depreciations and increased stress on the balance sheets of households, corporations, and governments. Likewise, domestic financial systems may be exposed to contagion dynamics similar to those observed during previous crises.

Fiscal consolidation, however, is inherently difficult. Governments are often required to implement adjustment measures in environments characterized by political fragmentation, declining trust in institutions, and growing difficulties in building durable social consensus. These constraints frequently delay necessary decisions and increase the eventual cost of adjustment.

Nevertheless, postponing recognition of fiscal realities can be extremely costly. The magnitude of the monetary expansion accumulated in recent years, combined with the high degree of global financial integration, has increased economies' vulnerability to sudden shifts in market expectations.

Addressing these challenges will require a comprehensive and multifaceted strategy. First, pension systems must be reformed to reflect longer life expectancy, including gradual increases in contribution periods and effective retirement ages. Second, tax systems should be strengthened by eliminating unjustified exemptions, broadening tax bases, and improving revenue administration. Multilateral institutions should also be equipped with sufficient resources and instruments to support countries facing severe crises arising from difficult but unavoidable consolidation efforts.

In addition, governments will need to reassess and reduce subsidies whose economic or social benefits are limited, particularly those that impose significant fiscal costs or generate negative environmental externalities. The ultimate objective should be to restore a sustainable path for public finances, rebuild policy buffers, and foster an environment in which interest rates are consistent with stable and durable economic growth.

Conference Sessions

(forthcoming)

