

Simona Milio

Dr. Simona Milio brings over 25 years of combined experience in academia and EU consulting, bridging the worlds of evidence-based research and strategic policy advice. For 15 years at the **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)** she built a distinguished academic career in **European Political Economy**, earning her PhD and leading the **Social and Cohesion Policy Unit at LSE Enterprise**. Her academic work focusing on regional policy has produced an extensive portfolio of **books, peer-reviewed articles, and high-profile policy studies**, many of which have informed debates on European governance, regional development, and social cohesion.

Transitioning from academia to policy consulting, Dr. Milio spent over a decade at **ICF**, where she rose to **Senior Director and EU Market Lead**, managing a team of 70 experts. In this capacity, she led more than 100 complex comparative studies and evaluations for European institutions—spanning **social policy, digital transformation, education, and regional development**—while driving consistent business growth and maintaining full P&L responsibility.

Today, her leadership is recognised for uniting **academic rigour with practical policy insight**, enabling governments and EU institutions to design, evaluate, and implement more effective public policies. Her work aims to shape European policy thinking—combining deep analytical expertise, strategic leadership, and a passion for social impact.

Additionally, Dr. Milio now channels her dual-sector expertise into mentoring PhD students ready to break out of the ivory tower and thrive in the fast-paced world of consultancy. Her writing blends strategic insight with lived experience, offering a roadmap for scholars to turn their analytical rigour into real-world influence.