



European Week of | Brussels
Regions and Cities | 10-13 October 2016

Master Class 9-13 October 2016

**European Week of Regions and Cities 2016
Master Class on EU Cohesion Policy
Brussels, 9 -13 October**

Programme outline

Objective

The aim of the Master Class during the European Week of Regions and Cities (EWRC) Master Class is to improve the understanding of EU Cohesion Policy and its research potential among selected PhD students and early career researchers. Held for the fourth time as part of the EWRC University from 9-13 October 2016, the objectives of the Master Class are:

- to present recent research on European regional and urban development and EU Cohesion Policy;
- to enable PhD students and early career researchers to exchange views with EU politicians, officials and senior academics;
- to facilitate networking among participants from different countries and with the wider EU policy and academic communities; and
- to raise awareness and understanding of the research potential in the field of EU Cohesion Policy.

Participants

30 students from the EU Member States and some non-EU countries will be invited to attend the Master Class based on

- 1) their academic background and achievements;
- 2) the quality of the draft paper they submit; and
- 3) the aim of broad geographical and gender balance in the Master Class 2016.

Participants will be requested to submit applications to the Regional Studies Association (RSA) to participate in the Master Class by the deadline of **9 May 2016** with a justification for participation based on their research interests/studies and the contribution it would make to their career. The successful participants will need to submit their full paper with a maximum of 3,000 words to the RSA by **5 September 2016**.

Applications will need to demonstrate a research interest in one of the following themes:

(1) Promoting inclusive growth and social cohesion, including the territorial dimension and the integration of urban and rural development.

(2) The significance of the network economy: policy learning; transfers between regions and cities; knowledge spillovers.

(3) Improving the Cohesion policy delivery system: performance, simplification and accountability.

Organisation

The Master Class will be organised by the European Commission, DG for Regional and Urban Policy, the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR), the Regional Studies Association (RSA), the European Regional Science Association (ERSA), and the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP). A selection panel drawn from these organisations will be responsible for reviewing the applications and selecting participants. The programme for the Master Class will include the following:

- research presentations and feedback sessions, lectures, debates and social events on 10 and 11 October;
- attendance at other European Week of Regions and Cities workshops and meetings organised by the participants on 12 October;
- a role-play session on 13 October.

Programme

Sunday, 9 October

15:00-18:00 Informal meeting of participants (Hotel St. Catherine) with short paper presentations by participants to get to know each other's research area

19:00-21:00 Get-together of participants - Brussels' market place (Grand Place)

Monday, 10 October

9:00-11:30 Guided tour from the city centre to the CoR

City walk with Brussels-based town planners (tbc, ending at CoR)

11:30 – 12:00 Welcome by the organisers, CoR, fifth floor, Atrium

12:00-14:00 Sandwich lunch with paper presentations by participants and debate with EU officials and researchers (1)

14:30-16:30 EWRC Opening Session, European Parliament
The session will gather 800 participants and launch the EWRC 2016.

17.00-19.00 Cocktail reception, CoR

Tuesday, 11 October

9:00-11:30 Implementing EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020: the state of play
Presentations by and discussion with DG REGIO and DG EMPL officials

11:45-12:45 Paper presentations by participants and debate with EU officials and researchers (2)

12:45-14:00 Lunch break
Participants may use the CoR's self-service restaurant

14:00-16:00 Paper presentations by participants and debate with EU officials and researchers (3)

16:15-18:00 Current and future research on EU Cohesion Policy
Roundtable discussion with senior researchers

19:30 – 22:00 EWRC official reception including RegioStars 2016 Awards
Bozar, Centre of Fine Arts

Wednesday, 12 October

EWRC workshops and/or meetings organised by participants
On Wednesday, participants are free to either attend other EWRC workshops and/or to organise meetings, which they wish to plan themselves. With regards to the latter, participants are invited to interact and send suggestions for meetings to the organisers.

18:00-21:00 Informal debate: Title (TBC)
Discussion with EU senior officials and academics about the prospects of EU Cohesion Policy post-2020.
Brussels University Club, Rue d'Egmont/Egmontstraat 11 **(TBC)**

Thursday, 13 October

9:00-12:45 Role play
This session will take the form of a role play on key aspects of EU Cohesion Policy

12:45-13:30 Feedback
Final exchange on the Master Class between organisers and participants

Timeline

01 April: Call for paper proposals made public

09 May: Deadline for submission of paper proposals

30 May: Selected Master Class participants will be informed

17 June: Master Class programme sent to all participants, speakers and facilitators

05 September: Full papers to be submitted by Master Class participants

Follow up

The Master Class will be evaluated by an online survey, the results of which will be published and used to develop the format further.

Applications from potential attendees must be submitted **by 9 May 2016**.

All details of the application process, funding support offered (travel and accommodation) and a draft programme can be found at: www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/european-week-of-regions-and-cities-2016-master-class

NB Master Class begins on 9th October.

