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**EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES 2017**

**Master Class on EU Cohesion Policy**

Application form

**Deadline for submissions: 9th May 2017**

**Applications received after this date will not be accepted.**

Applications are being sought from PhD students and early career researchers *(defined as being within five years of the date on their PhD certificate)* undertaking research related to European Cohesion Policy to attend the EUROPEAN WEEK OF REGIONS AND CITIES 2017 University Master Class.

The Master Class will be organised and led by the European Commission, DG for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Regional Studies Association (RSA) in cooperation with the European Regional Science Association (ERSA) and the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP). A selection panel composed by these organisations will be responsible for reviewing the applications and selecting participants.

The Master Class is a unique format to connect young researchers and will include presentations of papers by the participants as well as lectures and panel debates with policy makers, EU officials and senior academics to improve understanding of and research on EU Cohesion Policy. In particular, it will serve to

* discuss recent research on European regional and urban development and EU Cohesion Policy;
* enable PhD students and early career researchers to exchange views and network with policy makers, EU officials and senior academics;
* raise awareness and understanding of the research potential in the field of EU Cohesion Policy.

This year, the Master Class will focus on EU Cohesion Policy’s implementation, the debate about its future post-2020 and EU and international research programmes and projects.

**Participants**

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

1. their academic background and achievements;
2. the quality of their application and the abstract they submit; and
3. the broadest possible geographical and gender balance.

Interested PhD students and early career researchers are requested to submit applications to the Regional Studies Association (RSA) by the deadline of **9 May 2017**. Applicants must present the necessary documents, their research interests and the contribution that participation would make to their career. Applications must be accompanied by abstracts of papers to be developed on one of these themes:

1. **Resilient regions and cities:** What local and regional strategies have proved successful in addressing the economic crisis and providing resilience? What lessons have regional and local authorities learned from the crisis and how has EU Cohesion Policy contributed to these lessons?
2. **Governance of regional local development:** How does EU Cohesion Policy influence “good governance” and innovation in the public sector?
3. **Sharing knowledge across borders:** How does EU Cohesion Policy facilitate learning between regions and cities and what are future directions in this respect?

Additionally, to the application form, the following elements are needed:

* a CV;
* a certificate proving the PhD student status or a copy of the PhD certificate; and
* a portrait photo (separate file).

Please note that candidates who have participated in a previous edition of the Master Class are not eligible to apply.

The successful applicants will be notified by **30 May 2017** and invited to submit their full paper with a maximum of 3,000 words to the RSA by **11 September** **2017**.

The organisers will cover travel and accommodation expenses of all participants. Participants are expected to attend the full programme and to engage actively in all aspects of the Master Class.

Please submit the completed form and additional documents to Daniela Carl at daniela.carl@regionalstudies.org by the **9 May 2017, 3pm BST.**

Applicants must fill in the application form below in **English**:

**I. Contact Details:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Full name and title** |  |
| **Position** |  |
| **Department** |  |
| **Institution** |  |
| **Country** |  |
| **Address** **(Inc. post code)** |  |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Phone no. (work)** |  |
| **Mobile** |  |
| **Passport or ID card number**  |  |

**II. Please attach to your application as an electronic file:**

- a current photo;

- your CV;

- a certificate proving your PhD student status or a copy of your PhD certificate; and

- a portrait photo (separate file).

**III. Please tell us how your current research relates to European Cohesion Policy? (max. 250 words)**

**IV. What are your future research plans? (max. 250 words)**

**V. How do you think the participation in this Master Class could benefit your professional development? (max. 100 words)**

**VI. Please add your paper outline with a title (1,000 words) here:**

**VII. Which of Master Class themes does your paper focus on:**

1. Resilient regions and cities
2. Governance of regional local development
3. Sharing knowledge across borders

**VIII. Academic reference**

An academic reference in support of your application must be sent separately by the referee to daniela.carl@regionalstudies.org and be received by the closing date.

**Please indicate:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of referee** |  |
| **Institution** |  |
| **Country** |  |
| **Contact details of the referee (address, email address and telephone number)** |  |
| **Relationship to the applicant (PhD supervisor, lecturer etc…)** |  |

# IX. Indicate how you heard about this opportunity

# X. Signature of applicant and date

*Signature:*

*Date:*

Please submit the completed form and additional documents to Daniela Carl at daniela.carl@regionalstudies.org by the **9 May 2017, 3pm BST.**