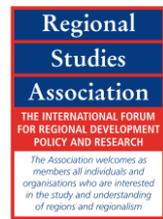




UWS UNIVERSITY OF THE
WEST of SCOTLAND



Research Network Seminar Report

The first Seminar of the series of events organised by the RSA Research Network on 'Regional Development and the Changing Geography of Outsourcing Business Services in an Enlarged Europe' took place at the University of the West of Scotland in Paisley on 4-5th of September 2008. The event was hosted by the Centre for Contemporary European Studies (CCES) of the UWS Business School.

The Seminar, entitled '*Outsourcing and Offshoring Business Services: Theoretical Perspectives and Global Trends*', proved to be a very successful event and was attended by a diverse audience including established academics, young researchers and practitioners.

Speakers from across Europe (including The Czech Republic, England, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Scotland), presented eleven papers on issues ranging from methodological dilemmas in offshoring and outsourcing research to 'knowledge' aspects of business services, and to project management as a guarantee of successful outsourcing implementation. Equally, the papers presented covered diverse geographical areas including Bangalore, Celtic fringe and Central Eastern European Countries (CEEC). Key notes addresses were delivered by Ross Brown of Scottish Enterprise who explored the meaning of outsourcing for Scotland, and Zoltán Gál of Hungarian Academy of Sciences who discussed significance of CEEC as global destinations for internationally traded business services.

Auréliane Beauclair, RSA Development Manager, also addressed the Seminar with the talk exploring the nature of the association and membership related benefits.

Two days of debates were concluded with the Roundtable Discussion which enabled the participants to sum up the key points raised during the seminar and identify the directions for future research. Furthermore, the coordinators of the Research Network suggested publishing a selection of papers as a special issue of one of the leading journals¹.

Formal academic proceedings constituted main part of the Seminar, however thanks to the generosity of the sponsors the event comprised also social sections. The seminar dinner, co-sponsored by the CCES and the RSA, presented the participants with an important networking opportunity in an informal setting, while the tour of the Paisley Abbey allowed the partakers to learn more about the past of the town where the seminar was held.

The next meeting of the Research Network has been scheduled for Summer 2009. Prior to this, however, the RN will organise a session at the forthcoming RSA Annual Conference in Leuven. To stay up-to-date with the developments and the activities of the RN all participants have been encouraged to join the RN mailing list at bpo-geography@jiscmail.ac.uk

The organisation of the seminar was made possible thanks to support of number of organisations. Thanks to the RSA Research Network grant it was possible to offer travel and accommodation bursaries to all the contributors who have requested it. Financial contribution offered by the UWS Business School and the Innovation and Research Office covered the hospitality expenses, while the support granted by the Centre for Contemporary European Studies contributed to organisation of the seminar and hosting of the seminar dinner. To all the sponsoring institutions the seminar organisers would like to express their most sincere thanks.

¹ Regional Studies has expressed initial interest in the publishing a special issue in this subject area.