



## **Report of the First workshop of the:**

### **Research Network on Sub-national collaboration for regional development: the role of networking among regions**

On Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of June the first workshop of the *RSA Research Network on Sub-national collaboration for regional development: the role of networking among regions*, took place in Pisa at the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna.

#### **Numbers:**

The diffusion of the call for papers resulted in about 45 people contacting the organisers to express their interest in participating in the Workshop. This initial interest resulted in the submission of 28 abstracts. After careful consideration 19 abstracts were selected to be developed into papers of maximum 10 pages.

In the end 15 papers were submitted and 28 people participated in the workshop (see Annex 1: Participants with contact details and Annex 4 Questions and Programme Pisa Workshop 13-14 June RSA Research Network).

#### **Bursaries:**

Of these 19 potential participants 5 requested support for travel expenses for young researchers and PhD students. These five people came from Berlin (Germany), Zurich (Switzerland), Wroclaw (Poland), Tallinn (Estonia) and Budapest (Hungary). Each of these young researchers received a bursary of maximum 200 € (see Annex 2: Request reimbursement advanced bursaries).

**Logistics:**

Hotel rooms were blocked and a special price (-30%) was arranged for the participants at the Royal Victoria Hotel in order to allow for a group feeling to develop within the Network. Although booking the Royal Victoria Hotel was not obligatory, all 20 rooms blocked were effectively used by the participants.

**Coffee break, lunch and dinner:**

The Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna has contributed 2.000 € to pay for coffee breaks, lunch in the University restaurant and the special dinner in Trattoria La Grotta on Friday evening.



**Materials produced:**

Furthermore the contribution of the Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna has made it possible to create a “book of papers” which was handed out to all participants so the papers could be studied during presentation (see Annex 3: Cover of the book of papers).



**Focussed discussion:**

In order to stimulate the participants to focus on the key aspects identified as essential by the organisers of the workshop and to encourage the exchange of ideas, discussion was focussed on key questions. Participants were asked to include in their presentation the questions which were sent to them with the programme (after submission of the paper). (see Annex 4 Questions and Programme Pisa Workshop 13-14 June RSA Research Network).

**Guest speakers:**

The two guests speakers representing the Ministry of Economic Development and the Region of Tuscany made an important contribution to the discussion:

**Rossella Rusca:** Ministry of Economic Development, Department of Development Policies, Structural Funds Unit

**Fabrizio Pizzanelli:** Director of International Relations Region of Tuscany

**Future meetings of the Research Network:**

The second Workshop is to take place 31 October-1 November 2008 in Jena, Germany. The call for papers for this workshop is soon to be sent to all members of the RSA. In this call for papers the topic of the Research Network is further specified and focussed on the specific area of research.

Pisa, 2 July 2008

Annex 1: List of participants

Annex 2: Request for reimbursement of advanced bursaries

Annex 3: Cover of the book of papers

Annex 4: Questions and programme