



Report of the Second workshop of the:

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

On Friday the 31st of October and Saturday the 1st of November 2008 the second workshop of the *RSA Research Network on Sub-national collaboration for regional development: the role of networking among regions*, took place in Jena at the Friedrich Schiller Universität.

Numbers:

Apart from the organisers 13 people participated in the Jena Workshop, two of whom had also participated in the Pisa Workshop which took place 13-14 June 2008. As the call for papers for this second Workshop was more focussed less abstracts were submitted, but those people who showed an interest were able to make a very valuable contribution to the ongoing discussion. Although the intention was to create a close-knit network unfortunately only two of the participants in the Pisa Workshop were also able to attend the Jena Workshop. We hope and expect that during the third and final workshop more participants from both Pisa and Jena will be able to come together again as the final Workshop is likely to be planned immediately before the RSA Annual Conference 6th-8th April 2009, Leuven, Belgium.



In total 10 papers were presented on Friday and Saturday morning.

Annex 1: List of participants Jena

Annex 2: Programme Workshop Jena RSA Research Network

Bursaries:

5 young researchers and PhD students requested support for travel expenses. These five people travelled from Munich (Germany), Barcelona (Spain), Pisa (Italy), Montreal (Canada) and Budapest (Hungary). Each of these young researchers received a bursary of maximum € 250. The amount of bursary was raised compared to the Pisa Workshop as travelling to Jena overall turned out to be more costly (see Annex 3 (1/2): Request reimbursement advanced bursaries Jena with receipts).

Logistics:

Hotel rooms were blocked and a special price was arranged for the participants at the IBIS hotel in Jena in order to allow for a group feeling to develop within the Network.

Coffee break, lunch and dinner:

The Friedrich Schiller Universität of Jena made arrangements for lunch and coffee-breaks on Friday. As it was impossible for the University to contribute financially to the social dinner on Friday evening and lunch on Saturday (due to administrative restrictions), part of the Grant made available by the Regional Studies Association to run the Network was used to pay for the bill at the Ratszeise Restaurant for the social dinner on Friday and for lunch on Saturday for those people who did not have to leave right away to catch a train to an airport.



Materials produced:

The Friedrich Schiller Universität of Jena has made it possible to create a “book of papers” which was handed out to all participants.

Virtual and real brainstorming:

At the start of the Research Network a number of questions were formulated which were considered key issues of the topic that was to be addressed with this initiative. As the Research Network brings together experts from many different countries and disciplines, it offers a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and brainstorm about the past, present and future of inter-regional collaboration for economic development.

Brainstorming questions were sent to all members of the Research Network (those having participated in the Pisa Workshop and those about to come to Jena for the second Workshop). 19 people send in their answers which were consequently compared and analysed to try to identify consensus, diversity and trends. The outcome of this analysis was used as input for the discussion/brainstorming which took place during the workshop in Jena. All participants received a copy of all the answers submitted and in this sense virtual brainstorming also facilitated real brainstorming and helped to identify which are considered the most important aspects of inter-regional collaboration and which questions need to be addressed. The outcome of the brainstorming session will provide a valuable contribution to a more accurate definition of the research questions and of the relationship between different empirical findings. (see Annex 4: Brainstorming questions).

Future meetings of the Research Network:

The 3rd and final Workshop is likely to be planned immediately before the RSA Annual Conference 6th-8th April 2009, Leuven, Belgium, either in Brussels or in Leuven. By planning the Workshop close to the annual conference we hope to unite the participants from the Pisa and Jena Workshops, to generate the interest of other experts working on inter-regional collaboration for economic development who have not yet joined the Network as well as to limit the costs for participants who also attend the RSA Conference.

Pisa, 2 December 2008

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Annex 3 (1/2): Request reimbursement advanced bursaries Jena with receipts

Annex 4: Brainstorming questions