



# EREF 09 | EUROPEAN REGIONAL ECONOMIC FORUM

## Developing Human Capital and Managing Migration for more Competitive European Regions

8-9 June 2009, Nova Gorica, Slovenia

# Invitation & Programme



## Join us for the European Regional Economic Forum 8–9 June 2009, Nova Gorica, Slovenija

Dear Sir/Madam,

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to join us at EREF 2009.

As on previous occasions, this year's event will focus on a key aspect of achieving the Lisbon Agenda. The challenge facing participants this year is: **Developing Human Capital and Managing Migration for more Competitive European Regions.**

Though we are generally aware that human capital is the European region's strongest asset, our development strategies, policies and everyday performance seem largely to ignore this important, basic fact.

Given today's climate of global economic crisis and the interdependence of economies, the need for a highly developed human resource base – one that can create knowledge value and is mobile – has grown all the more critical if Europe is to become more competitive.

It is not our target to simply become globally more competitive but also to make Europe attractive for worldwide talent.

### **Can Europe go from brain drain to brain gain?**

The European workforce is less qualified for **innovative and creative performance** than that of the US and for some other of our global competitors (RTD staff represents 5.4% of total workforce in the EU and 9.0% in the US). Our **educational systems** are not sufficiently in tune with the requirements of modern service economies, and progress on the Bologna process is slow.

This inability to create the right conditions is costing Europe's regions some of their finest minds (more than two thirds of European PhD students decide to stay in the US – even worse: only 13% of European researchers working currently abroad intend to return home).

As if this were not enough, annually, Europe welcomes around 1 million immigrants; however 85% of them are poorly qualified. In the US the picture is exactly the opposite: only 5% of immigrants are poorly qualified.

Numerous studies and surveys have shown that EU countries and regions need to create the conditions to move from brain drain to brain gain.

### **How will EREF 2009 address these challenges?**

Policy makers, knowledge stakeholders and media will openly explore and discuss ways to resolve these problems. They will try to understand how Europe can learn from worldwide best practice.

On the afternoon of **Sunday 7 June** – the day before the event opens – the members of the **RIBN Network** will already be discussing how EU support could be used more effectively to address human capital and migration issues in South Eastern Europe in the framework of RIBN annual meeting.

On **Monday morning – 8 June** – The Forum will start by exploring these issues in the context of South Eastern Europe – which has recently suffered from significant brain drain.

There will be plenty of opportunity to take part in plenary sessions and working groups, as well as to shape the content by taking part in **preparatory workshops: 24 April in Graz** (e-learning for SMEs), **7 May in Ottawa** (on migration management) and **7 June in Gorizia** (linking brains from diaspora). Please find attached the recommendations on researchers mobility and the role of hosting institution, compiled at the first EREF preparatory workshop held in Ankara on 12 February.

These workshops are going to prepare draft-recommendations which will be discussed and adopted in Nova Gorica in the afternoon of 9 June.

**Prepare your joint-project discussions.**

Regional policy makers, business people and knowledge stakeholders will meet to discuss possible jointprojects, including those to be co-financed by the EU. To prepare for these meetings, please feel free to send us your project fiches, as well as to indicate who you would like to meet in private. The list of participants will be available at the **EREF Portal** ([www.eref.si](http://www.eref.si)).

**Booking, planning and attendance details.**

Once again, thanks to our generous sponsors, there is **no fee** for EREF-2009 participants.

As in previous years, EREF participants will enjoy **special rates** on Adria Airways flights from all European destinations to Ljubljana. The 4 star Hotel Perla in Nova Gorica (conference hotel) is providing EREF participants

with special rates (EUR 79.00 for bed and breakfast).

EREF Network member regions/countries support EREF through memberships, while those organising preparatory workshops are partners of the Forum. They have kindly agreed to sponsor **the Gala Dinner** on 9 June to which all participants are warmly invited.

The Forum is co-organised by the Slovenian Government and the Municipality of Nova Gorica, under the high auspices of the Committee of the Regions.

Sincerely

Prof.dr. Boris Cizelj  
Chair, European Regional Economic Forum

PS: For us to organise all aspects of the events in Nova Gorica to the highest possible standards we invite you to **register early**. On-line registration is already open at: [www.eref.si](http://www.eref.si) but you can also register by fax: +322 645 19 17. For queries please contact: [ales.sifrer@sbra.be](mailto:ales.sifrer@sbra.be).

## Programme\*

8–9 June 2009, Nova Gorica, Slovenija

### **DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPITAL AND MANAGING MIGRATION FOR MORE COMPETITIVE EUROPEAN REGIONS**

MONDAY 8 JUNE

08.30 **Registration**

09.00 **Opening – Welcome Addresses**

*Mirko Brulc*, Mayor of Nova Gorica,  
*Minister Plauštajner or State Secretary Vesel-Valentinčič*  
Government Office for Local Self-Government and Regional Policy (tbc)

09.15 **Keynote Address**

*Zoran Stančič*, Deputy Director General, DG RTD, European Commission  
European Research Area and countries of Western Balkans

*Borut Pahor*, Prime Minister  
Education and Migration Management for a more Competitive Europe

09.45 **Short Topical Addresses by senior representatives of Host Regions**

#### **PREPARATIONS OF ACCESSION FOR COUNTRIES OF SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE**

10.00 **Challenges of Enlargement** – supporting the preparations of the countries of South Eastern Europe –  
*Jan Truszczyński*, Deputy Director General, DG Enlargement

10.30 **Challenges of Accession** – preparing for future membership – Evaluation of Candidate Countries’  
Experience – *Mladen Dragašević* Head Human Capital Building., Regional Cooperation Council

11.00 **National and regional efforts in human capital development and prevention of brain drain**  
Panel on education and training in South Eastern Europe (reports of regional workshops) – chaired by  
representative of European Training Foundation, ETB

12.00 **Contribution of international and regional entities towards human capital development and a more  
balanced brain circulation in the region**

- International Labour Organisation (ILO - invited)
- European Commission, Tania Friedrichs, DG RTD
- Task Force for Human Resource Development in Western Balkans – Jürgen Schick
- Agency for Education Reform Initiatives of South Eastern Europe -Aspasija Hadžišiče

13.00–14.30 **Lunch**

## HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT IN EU

### 14.30 Education & Training Systems for the Knowledge-based Competitive Economy and Society

Human Capital Situation: Europe versus our Global Competitors - David White, European Commission, currently at European University Institute, Florence; Measuring the Regional Dimension of Human Capital, Christian Dreger, DIW, Berlin

Bologna Process – why is it imperative and an overall assessment of achievements and problems, prof.Pavel Zgaga, University of Ljubljana; Juan Cajiao, International President AIESEC

Achieving Lisbon Agenda targets in Engineering profiles – dr.Paul Jackson, President, Engineering and Technology Board, London

Possibilities and Challenges of Corporate HR Development – Steven Price, Executive Director EUIL; Patrick Bouts, Vice President Human Capital Development, ING Bank

16.00 – 16.30 Coffee Break

### 16.30 Strategies and Management Schemes for International Migrations of the highly skilled personnel

From brain drain to brain circulation: Major Trends and Impact on Europe's Competitiveness - dr.Silva Mežnarić, Senior Research Fellow, IMIN, Zagreb

The Proactive International Migration Policies and the role of Regions, Klaus Klipp, Secretary General Association of European Regions, Strasbourg

Panel on selected cases of regional immigration policies by regions members of ERLAI Network

17.30–18.00 Discussion

20.00 Dinner offered by EREF-2009 Partner Regions: Styria, Turkey, Ottawa, Friuli Venezia Giulia

## TUESDAY 9 JUNE

### 09.15 **Keynote Address**

Achievements and Challenges of Slovenian Policy on Higher Education and Science –  
Minister Golobič, or State Secretary Gyorkos, Ministry for Higher Education, Science  
and Technology

### 09.30 **Towards Comprehensive and Sustainable Human Capital Policy**

Prof. Bjorn Asheim, Centre for Innovation, Research, and Competence in the Learning  
Economy, CIRCLE, Lund university (tbc)

Lessons to be learnt from Success Stories at Regional and National Level:

- Success Story No.1
- Success Story No.2
- Success Story No.3
- Success Story No.4
- Success Story No.5

### 10.45 – 11.00 **Discussion**

### 11.00–11.30 **Break**

### 11.30–13.00 **Parallel Events**

- A** - Second Meeting of Regional Lisbon Coordinators (chair: Andreja Jerina, State Secretary, Slovenian Government - tbc )
- B** - Potential and Challenges of Corporate HR Effort (chair: Steven Price, Executive Director EILL)
- C** - Public Funding for Development of RTD Staff –  
Follow-up of BIS-RTD Project (Prof. Stane Pejovnik,  
University of Ljubljana)
- D** - Challenges for Intersectoral and Geographical Brain Circulation  
(Dr. Suhail Luka, DG RTD)

### 13.00–14.00 **Lunch**

### 14.00–14.40 **Towards Forum Conclusions and Recommendations**

Reports from Preparatory Workshops and Presentation of Draft-Recommendations by  
the Workshop Rapporteurs

- Ankara Workshop:** Role of Host Institutions in Researcher Exchange  
Programmes – Rapporteur Mehmet Gokgoz, TURBO, Brussels
- Graz Workshop:** E-Learning for SMEs – Rapporteur Michael Azodanloo, ICS
- Ottawa Workshop:** Lessons of Canadian Migration Policy – Rapporteur prof. Peter  
B. Phillips, University of Saskatchewan, Canada
- Gorizia Workshop:** Communication with Brains and Business in Diaspora –  
Rapporteur prof. Alberto Gasparini, ISIG, University of Trieste

### 14.40–15.00 **Discussion**

### 15.00 **Comments on draft Recommendations by a senior representative of the European Commission**

### 15.15 **Adoption of Forum Recommendations and Nova Gorica Resolution**

### 15.30 **Topic and date of EREF-2010 and Closure**