



**XL<sup>th</sup> Conference of the French-speaking Regional Science  
Association  
September 1-3, 2004, Brussels**

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**Regional convergence and disparities within the European space:  
regional policies at stake**

**Announcement and call for papers**

The forthcoming European enlargement to 10 new Member States characterised by far below European average levels of GDP per capita is expected to bring about important challenges especially for the future European regional policy. Despite the fact that none of the European countries draws up its regional policy disregarding the European Structural Funds, a recent report seriously questions the efficiency of the current European regional policy and suggests fundamental modifications for the future. Given these observations, it is not exaggerated to state that more than ever the European regional policy is at a crossroads. After the reform of the structural funds in 1988, a new reform is expected which fundamentally modifies the European regional policy. What should be the European Commission's regional policy of tomorrow? What are the likely consequences for the currently assisted areas? What are the stakes for the new acceding countries? To what extent scholars in Regional Science actually contribute to a better understanding and a resolution of the difficulties that regional policy is increasingly facing?

In the context of the in-depth revision of the European regional policy, it is of first interest that the scientific community as well as policy-makers exchange their views about the real impacts of Community interventions and put forth specific proposals about the structural actions that the European Union should promote in the future to strengthen the social and economic cohesion. To achieve this objective, it is suggested centering the XL conference of the ASRDLF on four sets of themes. For each one of these sets of themes, it is highly advised the contributions take into account the European context in order to stimulate the debate.

**I. Sessions linked to the theme of the conference**

- A. The effectiveness of the regional policy and perspective**
  - A1. Regional disparities: tendencies and perspectives
  - A2. Regional convergence and the enlargement.
  - A3. The CAP and its eco-space impact
  - A4. Local development
  - A5. Transborder co-operation

A6. Future of the European regional policy

B. Regional innovation policies

- B1. Technological diffusion and spillovers
- B2. Regional innovation policies
- B3. Innovation and regional development
- B4. Clusters and networks of firms
- B5. Transregional technology transfers

C. Infrastructures

- C1. Infrastructures and networks
- C2. Infrastructures and territorial cohesion
- C3. Material and immaterial infrastructures
- C4. Regional planning
- C5. Transeuropean infrastructures and local development

D. Human capital and social capital

- D1. Efficiency and effectiveness of institutions
- D2. Social dynamics of regional interactions
- D3. Demographic and perspective facts
- D4. Transregional co-operation
- D5. Mobility and market trends of work

II Sessions related to the recurring sets of themes of the ASRDLF:

E. Recurring sets of themes

- E.1. Methods and modeling
- E.2. Regional competition
- E.3. Urban economics and metropolisation
- E.4. Rural and peripheral spaces
- E.5. Transport and communication
- E.6. local public goods and local public finance

III Special session relating to the Austrian prospects in regional economics

F. Austrian prospects in regional economics

- F.1. Austrian Prospects in regional economics

**Agenda and instructions**

1. Deadlines

a) Submission of abstracts: To be communicated before the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2004 by e-mail to the following address: [asrdlf04@ulb.ac.be](mailto:asrdlf04@ulb.ac.be).

b) Complete text of communication: After acceptance, the contributions are asked to be sent before the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2004 by e-mail to the above mentioned address.

2. Formats

a) Abstract: The abstract (3 pages + references) are required to include the following information:

- address of author(s)
- objective of contribution
- reference to two sessions (please use the codes specified in this call for papers)
- originality of the contribution
- estimation method and / or methodology
- expected results
- references (limited to the 15 most important)

Abstracts that do not respect these requirements are not considered.

b) Complete text of communication: The communication must not exceed 15 pages including appendices and references. The following format should be respected: "Times New Roman" character 12, single space, 1 line between each paragraph.

### 3. Publication

It is intended to bring together selected papers presented at the conference within a special publication. The publication of a submitted paper can only be considered if the requirements in terms of formats and deadlines are respected.

### 4. Language

Contributions in English are accepted as long as the presentation is carried out in French. However, in the case of sufficient request, English speaking sessions can be organised.

### 5. Selection procedure

- the scientific committee is selecting the papers during March 2004;
- information about selected papers in April 2004;
- after the event, the scientific committee is transforming into an editing committee.