



Scientific IRE-Symposium

**“Regionalisation and Decentralisation in
Eastern- and South-eastern Europe“**

Tuesday, 26th August 2008 in Salzburg

Wirtschaftskammer Salzburg, Main Building, Plenarsaal,
Julius-Raab-Platz 1, 5020 Salzburg, AUSTRIA

8.45 – 12:00

The economic and political importance of the regions, cities and municipalities is increasing continuously in eastern and south-eastern European countries. The formerly communist countries had a very centralistic structure and are keen on regionalising or at least decentralising these structures since the fall of the iron curtain. This important aspect of the transformation process in countries of the former Eastern bloc is the central point of the symposium that the Institute of the Regions of Europe organises. Constitutional amendments in various countries created regional and local structures, however, in practice those have to struggle with lacking competencies and insufficient funding. The symposium shall go in for consequences of Europeanisation of the new EU-member states and candidate countries for the regions and communes - especially also in context with the Lisbon reform treaty on the one hand. On the other hand an overview on the situation of regionalisation and decentralisation in selected Eastern and South-eastern countries should be given from a scientific point of view.

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 26th August 2008

08.45 Registration

09:00 **Opening Address by Franz Schausberger**, Professor of Contemporary History, President of the Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE), Committee of the Regions, Austria

09:15 Panell I:

The importance of regionalisation and decentralisation for the new EU member states and candidate countries

Gerhard Burian, Austrian Ministry for Economy and Labour, Head of Department "International Regional Policy and Financing", Austria

Jos Chabert, President of the Working Group Western Balkans, Committee of the Regions (CoR), Belgium

Istvan Sertő-Radics, President of RELEX, Committee of the Regions, Hungary

Peter Straub, President of the Parliament of Land Baden-Württemberg, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Institutional Affairs of the Assembly of European Regions (AER), former President of the Committee of the Regions, Germany

Luc Van den Brande, President of the Committee of the Regions (CoR), EU, Belgium

10:00 Coffee break

10:30 Panell II:

Reports about the situation in selected countries

Valentin Guznac, Minister of Local Public Administration, Republic of Moldova

Gyula Horváth, Professor of Regional Policy, Faculty of Economics, University of Pecs, Director General of the Centre for Regional Studies, Hungary

Jovan Komsić, Professor of Sociology, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

Mirko Pejanović, Professor of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Tudor Pendiuc, Mayor of Pitești, Vice President of the Association of Municipalities of Romania (AMR)

Michael Schwarzingger, Envoy, Ministry for European and International Affairs, Head of Department "EU-Principle Affairs, Institutions and Institutional Affairs", Austria

Józef Šebesta, Marshall of Opolskie Voivodeship, Poland

Ivan Žagar, Minister for Regional Development and Local-Self-Government, Slovenia (requested)

11:45 **Summary by Franz Schausberger**, Chairman of the Institute of the Regions of Europe (IRE), Austria

12:00 Lunchbuffet

12:15 Round Table of European Institutions and Associations of Regions and Cities

Kindly sponsored by:





● Wirtschaftskammer Salzburg, main building, Plonarsaal, Julius-Raab-Platz 1, 5020 Salzburg

*Host of the IRE Symposium
Foundation Board:*

Dr. Franz Schausberger
Dr. Stefan Eder
Karl Popp



www.institut-ire.eu