

## LISBON 2007 – Additional themes for the Call for Papers

**ThemeO: Mediterranean and Balkan Regional Development**

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Regions in the Mediterranean periphery have gone through economic restructuring through the EU funding schemes the last 20 years. However, statistics show that some of these regions still “lag behind” with signs of low social capital, weak public administration and management and in some cases with low absorption rates of the EU funds, while other regions in the same territory have successfully managed to change their economic trajectory. On the other hand, regions from the Balkans are still through economic transition and democratisation since the 1990's, while some of them will soon enter the EU and they will go through an EU-driven economic restructure. Balkan regions share many of the problems of the Mediterranean regions most notably in the areas of capacity building and inefficient local and regional institutional structures. It is believed that an exchange of information, in the form of case studies, between academics and policy-makers that are working in these territories will spark fruitful discussions upon the future of regional development in these peripheries.

In more details the central aims of this gateway is:

- to unpack the role that local culture and spatial historical trajectories play upon regional economic development in the Mediterranean and Balkan regions,
- to understand the role that EU funding schemes played in the metamorphosis of regional socio-economic and institutional aspects,
- to understand why some regions still “lag behind” after more than 20 years of EU aid
- to unveil the actual dilemmas the local actors face when they promote development in relation to social capital and institutional building

Further, in order to unpack these issues we anticipate cutting across disciplinary boundaries and we welcome papers from different areas such as regional policy and development, local and regional planning, tourism studies, sustainability, culture and identities, governance.

**Gateway P: EURODITE (European Research Project)**

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The 'knowledge economy' has become a much-used expression in recent years and knowledge itself is regarded as the most important resource to drive economic progress and lead to improved standards of living. Thus governments seek policies to encourage the growth of knowledge intensive activities associated with business competitiveness. However, there is no clear definition of what the knowledge economy means, or how it differs from the 'old economy', For example, is it about new technology, the growth of services or about the different skills and qualifications needed in the modern world?

The EURODITE project, funded under the EC Sixth Framework Programme, brings together 28 partners to address these questions by examining the dynamics of knowledge in the economies of European regions within the wider contexts of business, economics, governance and society. Papers in this session will report on the work to-date.

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### Gateway Q (new)

#### Globalisation: Networking Regional Development and International Collaboration of Regions

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When there is discussion about globalisation, there are at least two areas that demand particular concentration: (i) such socio-economic processes are referring to particular regions or locations only; (ii) these locations are not evenly spread over the world but concentrate on Western Europe and North America. So, on the one hand globalisation is characterised by regional concentration and selection among regions and on the other hand it demands that particular activities continue socio-economic development in this situation. Regions are providing a clear picture of processes of globalisation, and the changes in the international division of labour can be identified within these locations.

While these processes take place, collaboration among enterprises and researchers from the regions take place, and also regions (or the regional governments) are increasingly involved in cooperation and develop their own international collaboration.

This session invites papers from scholars who have an interest in collaboration in innovation; locations that participate in International Production Networks, international collaboration among regions or related experiences and activities. The papers might be individual cases, comparative studies or presentations that focus on the region in relation to the global processes on a general perspective.

### Gateway R (new)

#### Labour for Regional Innovation: The Role of Researchers for Development and Patterns of Recruitment.

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With regard to several different aspects, labour has turned out to be the fundamental basis for regional socio-economic development. While in traditional industries (e.g. mechanical engineering or optical instruments) it is the local or regional labour force that provides a basis; in research based areas of development (e.g. biotechnology, nano-technologies) it is the academically trained labour that is of critical importance. In either case, the processes of regional development cannot take place without a labour force that is both ready and capable of contributing these processes. Also more traditional areas of industrial competence demand constant modernisation based on new technologies that might be applied.

In all cases there is an important contribution of researchers to the regional or local development. It is often said that such persons are extremely mobile and they spread over countries and continents no matter whether it is their home country or not. It was thought, that this area is extremely internationalised or globalised. But, on the contrary, recent research has indicated that there is much less movement of researchers to a place outside of the country where they had their university education. And it was also found that those who left the country or region very often returned to it during later periods of their professional careers.

This session invites papers from scholars who have an interest in research in this area where there is need for more empirical studies; who can contribute experiences for individual cases or who have already conducted comparative research. Also studies about recruitment of researchers and their role for a region's development are highly welcome.