

CDLR-Workshops on Local and Regional Democracy

Workshop II:

**“Regional Finance Adapted to Regional Competences:
Assuring Coherence on a Long Term Basis”**

11 - 12 May / St.Gallen (Switzerland)

Draft programme 31/03/2009

Monday, 11th May 2009	
Morning	Arrival of participants Meeting Venue: <i>Kantonsratssaal, Regierungsgebäude St.Gallen</i> Meeting room of the Cantonal Council, Governmental Building St. Gallen
13:00 hrs	Registration and coffee, <i>Ratsstübli</i>
13:30-14:45	Welcome and introduction
13:30 hrs	Welcome Canton of St.Gallen: Kathrin Hilber, Minister of Inner Affairs Council of Europe/CDLR Secretariat: Maren Lambrecht-Feigl, Administrator Swiss CDLR Delegation: Rolf Vorburger, Head of the department for international and federal affairs, Canton of St. Gallen
14:00-14:45 hrs	Prof. Dr. G. Kirchgässner, <i>Schweizerisches Institut für Aussenwirtschaft und Angewandte Wirtschaftsforschung</i> - Swiss Institute for International Economics and Applied Economic Research (SIAW-HSG) Theoretical introduction to the topic: The distribution of competences and finances between different administration levels in the Swiss institutional System
14:45-18:00	Focus on Switzerland
14:45-15:15 hrs	Rolf Vorburger, Canton of St.Gallen Role and responsibilities of cantons in the Swiss Federal State
15:15-15:45 hrs	Coffee Break, <i>Ratsstübli</i>
15:45-16:30 hrs	Karin Wittmer, Ministry of Finance, Canton of St.Gallen Financial federalisms in practice
16:30-17:00 hrs	Representative of the Federal Finance Administration (tbc.) Operation of the financial equalisation system in the Swiss Federal State

Monday, 11th May 2009	
... continued:	Focus on Switzerland
17:00-17:30 hrs	Prof. Dr. Urs Müller, Director and Chief Economist, BAK Basel Economics The impact of financial federalism on regional economic performance Klaus Klipp, Secretary General of the Assembly of European Regions (AER) Financial federalism: the AER perspective
17:30-18:00 hrs	Discussion
19:30 hrs	Dinner hosted by Canton of St.Gallen Venue: <i>Restaurant Schlössli</i>
	Overnight stay in St.Gallen <u>The list of pre-reserved hotels will be communicated to participants at the moment of registering to the workshop.</u>

Tuesday, 12th May 2009	
09:00-13:00 hrs	Focus on different national situations, challenges and developments
09:00-09:15 hrs	Summary of the discussion of the first day
09:15-09:45 hrs	Roland Fischer, Federal Finance Administration Tax autonomy, financing (taxes vs. grants) and spending power of sub-central governments
09:45-10:00 hrs	Representative of the European Union (Mathias Brinkmann, Head of Unit, DG RELEX, European Commission, to be confirmed): Financial federalism as seen by the European Union
10:00-10:15 hrs	Nattalino Attard, Department for Local Government Office of the Prime Minister, Malta Focus on the national situation, challenges and developments of Malta (highlighting the differences between federal and unitary states as far as State-local government relationships are concerned)
10:15-10:30 hrs	Contribution by a Council of Europe member State Tbc
10:30-10:45 hrs	Contribution by a Council of Europe member State Tbc.
10:45-11:00 hrs.	Coffee Break, <i>Ratsstübli</i>
11:00-11:15 hrs	Bernd Semmelroggen, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (expert) <i>Precise theme of intervention to be confirmed</i>
11:15-11:30 hrs	Contribution by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) - Tbc.
11:30-12:30 hrs	Exchange of views and experiences, discussion
12:30 hrs	Conclusions of the discussion
12:45 hrs	Summary and conclusion of the workshop

Tuesday, 12th May 2009

13:00-16:00	Lunch and optional programme
13:00 hrs	Lunch hosted by Canton of St.Gallen Venue: <i>Ratsstübli</i>
14:30 – 16:00	Guided tour of the old town of St.Gallen (optional)