



COUNCIL OF TAMPERE REGION

Paris and Tampere, 01st June 2008

Dear President,
Dear Members, Dear Friends,

We hereby invite you to the forthcoming AER General Assembly (GA), which is being held this year in Tampere, Finland on November 13th and 14th.

We hope that you will be among the hundreds of participants tackling this year's highly political topic:

“From Migration to Integration: Regional solutions to a European challenge”

We will argue that the current trends in migration are no different from those of decades and centuries past. We will also look beyond the standard question of whether or not increased *migration* is a desirable objective to explore how our regions actually address the challenge of *integration*.

Integration is a two-way process, in which regional authorities ensure equal opportunities for all of their citizens, the latter abiding by community rules and playing an active role within the territory they inhabit.

Based on AER's pragmatic and results-oriented method, we will explore how our regions' innovative approaches translate diversity into strength. This process calls on a variety of regional competences, including territorial development, employment, education, linguistic and cultural diversity, equal opportunities, social inclusion, political participation and the media.

Since AER's membership consists of both “regions of origin” and “regions of destination”, our GA will be uniquely placed to debate some diverse policies and explore a broad range of experiences and best-practices. In so doing, we will once again demonstrate how our members are finding citizens-centred solutions to a European challenge.

Following the success of last year's innovative GA format, we will offer a variety of activities and forums to encourage our members to express their opinions and relate their experiences to fellow-members, experts, EU officials and the media.

Also note that we will be holding elections this year to renew our Bureau and Presidium. These elected representatives have a direct influence on AER's strategic direction, and we encourage all our members regions to start thinking about their respective nominations.

Online registrations are already opened! Please make sure to register before September 10th on the following website: <http://www.pirkanmaa.fi/aer2008/index.html>. The AER Secretariat remains at your disposal for further information.

Yours Sincerely,

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