



The future belongs to us – but how should we handle it?

Meeting of Youth from the European Regions Assembly of European Regions (AER) Wiesbaden, 23-25 November 2008

Information paper

Assembly of European Regions is the largest independent network of regions in wider Europe. Bringing together more than 270 regions from 33 countries and 13 interregional organisations, AER is the political voice of its members and a forum for interregional co-operation. AER wants to make a new step towards the development of a genuine Youth Regional Policy and aims to create a new opportunity for young people to have a say on issues of their concern at regional level.

AER wants to launch and develop a sustainable network of young people from the AER member regions: AER Youth Regional Network. To found this project AER organises the starting conference, which will be the Founding Meeting of the AER Youth Regional Network: conceived as a common platform of youth regional organisations/councils/parliaments at a regional level in Europe.

At this significant and challenging moment for Europe, **AER Meeting of Youth from European Regions** is about bringing young people from European regions together in order to contribute to the policy-making in their regions, to share their experiences and hopes for the future and to learn from one another in order to make themselves stronger. In addition, it is crucial to mobilize together young people in the context of the Lisbon Treaty dilemma as it concerns the future of Europe, where the young people will live.

The Meeting of Youth from European Regions is practically a milestone not only for the AER, but also for the European youth work because this should be the starting point for a European platform representing for the first time, specifically, the youth from regions all over Europe.

The Meeting will be organised in **Wiesbaden** between **23-25 November**. During a 2 day conference entitled: **‘The future belongs to us – but how should we handle it?’** the young participants¹ will have the time to discuss important questions as well as to build the fundamentals of the Network. The conference counts on the participation of around 110 young people representing the most significant youth councils/parliaments/associations of each AER member region. The venue will be the regional parliament of Hesse (Hessische Landtag).

The conference will consist of two plenary sessions organised in the mornings, followed by a meetings of working groups on various topics related to youth such as demography and migration, education and professional life, social affairs, energy and ecology, culture and regional identity.

The main organisers of the conference are the AER, German Hertie Foundation and Region of Hesse. The Hertie foundation will pay for the stay, accommodation and travel of participants (the reimbursement of travel costs won't exceed 100 euro).

For further information, please see: <http://www.aer.eu/events/committee-3-culture-education-interregional-cooperation/2008/wiesbadenconference.html>

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¹ Profile of participants: young representatives from regional youth councils/ parliaments/ organisations between 18-30 who will represent their regions and will vote on behalf of the young people from their regions.