



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**

The Assembly of the European Regions (AER) invites you to a meeting of youth from the European regions. "The future belongs to us – but how should we handle it?" will take place between 23 and 25 November 2008 in Wiesbaden (Germany).

If you are afraid that your ideas might go unheard, you should present them to a larger audience. If you think you are not strong enough to have your individual voices heard, then you should join forces to make your voices a chorus.

And that is why we at AER are launching the very first platform of regional youth organisations, councils and parliaments in Europe. Finally, the young voices of the European regions will be heard. Because when our 270 regions from 33 countries and 13 interregional organisations join forces on a common subject, others cannot help but take notice.

Together, we want to develop a genuine youth regional policy to address the issues young people really care about. The conference will consist of two plenary sessions organised in the mornings, followed by meetings of working groups on topics such as education, the labour market, civil society, public life, global challenges and the future of regional democracy.

The founding meeting of the AER Youth Regional Network will take place on 23th-25th November 2008 in Wiesbaden, in our member region of Hessen, Germany. The venue is just 30 minutes away from Frankfurt airport and an hour away from the low-cost airport of Frankfurt-Hahn.

We have strong partners: the government and parliament of Hessen, which will open their administration and the plenary hall of the regional parliament for us, as well as the German Hertie Foundation, based in Hessen, which will fund your stay, accommodation and part of your travel costs (the reimbursement of travel costs will not exceed 100 euro).

If you are a member of a youth council, youth parliament or youth organisation in your region then come and join the hundred or more other young participants expected at our founding meeting. Together, we can show Europe that the future really does belong to youth.

I look forward to welcoming you in Wiesbaden.

Yours faithfully,

Michèle Sabban
AER President

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