



ASSEMBLÉE DES RÉGIONS D'EUROPE
ASSEMBLY OF EUROPEAN REGIONS
VERSAMMLUNG DER REGIONEN EUROPAS
ASAMBLEA DE LAS REGIONES DE EUROPA
ASSEMBLEA DELLE REGIONI D'EUROPA

Strasbourg, 25th August 1999

Press Release

4th Summer School on East / West Cooperation

29th August - 3rd September in Porec (Istra)

150 delegates from 65 European regions and 19 countries will participate in this 4th Summer School, organised under the aegis of the Assembly of European Regions from 29th August to 3rd September 1999 in Porec (Istra). The Programme of this 4th Summer School takes up key issues such as :

- The EU Accession process in Central and Eastern European countries : the impact of this process on the regions of these countries, their hopes in the framework of the East-West cooperation development and the training needs for the regional authorities.
- the EU Regional policies and the European programmes implemented in the context of the European Union enlargement process (Phare, Tacis), with interventions of European Commission representatives,
- the importance of partnerships at regional and interregional levels for strengthening social cohesion in an enlarged Europe,
- the responsibility of the regions in the peace keeping process and the protection of minorities. Representatives of the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) will address the participants.

Established in 1996, the AER Summer School is a training programme which encourages dialogue, the exchange of experiences and the implementation of cooperation between the regions of Central and Eastern Europe and those of the West. To organise the programme, the AER is assisted by the following regions: Essex (GB), Friuli-Venezia Giulia & Veneto (I), Istra (HR), Krakow (PL), Noord-Brabant (NL), Pest (H), Stockholm & Uppsala (S), Thüringen (D), Vlaanderen (B) and Vilnius (LT). The region of Vilnius will welcome the Summer School 2000.

As last year, this year's Summer School will welcome, among its participants, the AER Centurio Programme trainees. Established in 1994, Centurio is an AER Programme for government officers and political representatives from the regions of Central and Eastern Europe. Over 20 "Centurio" trainees from Poland, Romania, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldavia, Russia and Croatia will be taking part in the 1999 Summer School sessions. They will then go on to their work placements (1 or 2), each of four weeks, in two different regions in Western Europe.

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The AER is since 1985 the political movement of the Regions of Europe, which are committed to the promotion of regionalism in Europe and to the development of interregional cooperation.

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