



## Call for papers

Second workshop

*“New territorial development model: macro-regions and cross-border cooperation”*

15 March 2012

CERI-Sciences Po, Paris

*Deadline for submission of abstracts: 05 January 2012*

## THE RESEARCH NETWORK

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EU cohesion policy, arguably one of the most visible and most debated of EU policies, provides assistance to disadvantaged regions and localities through an innovative multi-level and partnership-based approach. It has also been credited for generating 'added value' in terms of improvement of administrative capacity and triggering modernisation processes within territorial administration across the Member States. This is accomplished by diffusion of standards of 'good governance' and policy practices such as partnership, multi-annual programming, place-based approach to development policy, evaluation, cross-border cooperation, etc.

Nevertheless, given the current pressures on cutting public spending, it is increasingly difficult to justify EU cohesion's policy prominent position in the EU budget and the policy has come under close scrutiny. It is thus critically important to deliver a more effective and results-oriented EU cohesion policy, capable of achieving its aims, creating more added value and providing innovative policy instruments to tackle the new global economic challenges.

The rationale for establishment of this Regional Studies Association (RSA) Research Network is the need to bring together academics investigating the issues effectiveness, impacts and added value of EU cohesion policy, as well as practitioners working with this policy. This will allow for promoting dialogue and synergies between the two communities, exploring new exciting research avenues and contributing to the policy debate. The network addresses the following key issues for EU cohesion policy:

- Governance and partnership for delivering effective place-based interventions,
- Territorial cooperation and macro-regional approaches,
- Delivering a more results-oriented policy, which refers to issues such as conditionalities, enhancing programming and evaluation practice,
- EU cohesion policy and its role in achieving the aims of Europe 2020 strategy,
- Budgetary politics in the wake of a new programming period 2014-2020,
- New financial instruments.

The activities of the Network are structured around three international workshops: in Vienna (November 2011 - Institute for European Integration Research), Paris (March 2012 - CERI Sciences Po / CoesioNet) and Glasgow (Autumn 2012 - European Policies Research Centre). Each workshop has a particular focus: “Multi-level governance and partnership” (Vienna), “Macro-regions and cross-border cooperation” (Paris), “Delivering a more results-oriented EU Cohesion policy” (Glasgow). The aim of the workshops is to provide a platform for exchanging knowledge and debating the latest

research on the above topics. The workshops aim to encourage an open discussion and understanding between academics specialising in EU cohesion policy, while at the same time engaging with, and learning from, practitioners and policy-makers.

Research network organisers:

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## WORKSHOP FOCUS

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The second workshop organised as part of the Research Network will be hosted by the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches Internationales (CERI-Sciences Po) in the framework of the CoesioNet network launched in partnership between the CERI and DATAR – French ministry for spatial planning. It will take place on **15 March 2012 in Paris**. It will tackle the issue of the emergence of a new model of territorial development in Europe via the policy of macro-regions and cross-border cooperations. The workshop will also enhance the place of energy supply and markets in such cooperation and the challenges it raises for the European Union and the Member States. Cross-border dynamics refer not only to cooperation between actors but also synergy between developmental instruments and policies. This raises questions concerning both the relevance of the obstacles that remain within the EU (in particular those of a fiscal nature) and its frontiers. Policy in regards to new neighbors is for this reason privileged, as are relations with its counterpart in the South, the Union for the Mediterranean. The aim here is to assess the EU capacity to intervene when it is not able to use the tool of policy conditionality and so must find other means of negotiation to reach original consensus. In addition to its status as a policy objective, economic, social and territorial cohesion is an instrument that needs fine-tuning via harmonization of all available tools. The workshop will therefore raise the question of governance and conditionality that the cohesion policy needs to develop in order to stimulate and structure the regional capacities in order to build new models of territorial development in the framework of cross-border dynamics and especially leading to the creation of macro-regions or cross-border cooperation especially in a challenging sector such as energy based on adjustment, reciprocity and synergy. Moreover we will question the governance, conditionality and incentives the cohesion policy need to develop on the outer borders of the European Union especially to promote cross-border dynamics within the European Neighborhood Policy. Against this background, we propose to address the following issues during the workshop:

**1. Cross-Border Cooperation and European Integration:**

The difficulties encountered in European territorial cooperation (rupture of cohesion along borders, differential treatment in many domains from one country to the next) are indicative of the delays and procrastination bedeviling the project of European integration. How can the existing tools (in particular, European territorial cooperation) be better used in the service of a strategy of integration?

**2. Cross-Border Dynamics as regards the knowledge economy:**

The operation of territories featuring business clusters raises the question of how they will be connected together into a network. How (with what tools and form of governance) is this mode of transnational cooperation, whether cross-border or macro-regional in form, to be promoted?

**3. Cross-Border Dynamics as regards the energy challenge:**

Energy markets are currently characterized by a structural shift towards a more competitive internal market and 'green energy'. More efficiency in energy consumption and production can increase the

energy security of Europe from the inside. The EU-27 will be heavily dependent on external hydrocarbon imports from a small number of producers and foremost Russia in the mid-term, but also States from the Caspian sea and Algeria. The internal and external dimensions of the EU energy policy are crucial in order to attain the objective of security of supply. In such a context, to what extent can the cross border relations secure the energy supply? What are the conditionalities and incentives? How can the European governance guarantee both the energy supply and the transition to low carbon economy?

#### **4. Macro-Regions:**

What justifies delimiting a transnational territory (integrating portions of the territories of various states) in order to build a shared development strategy there? Historical, sociological and political reasons? The type and extent of common issues? Which of these considerations triggers a macro-regional dynamic? What are the main ingredients for its success?

#### **5. Cooperation along the Union's External Borders:**

Developmental and cohesion discontinuities along the borders of the Union have important consequences within it (immigration, energy provision, commerce, etc.). What policy should be developed on the basis of the experience of ENPI/cohesion policy if neighboring countries are to be treated on an equal footing in practical terms, thereby avoiding systematically thinking in terms of enlargement?

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### ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

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We invite paper proposals addressing the above issues. However, we would also welcome contributions investigating other aspects of macro-regions and cross-border cooperations. All interested researchers, PhD students and practitioners are invited to submit, by email, an abstract of around 1,000 words to following email address: [rsanet.cohesion.policy@gmail.com](mailto:rsanet.cohesion.policy@gmail.com)

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**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS: 05 JANUARY 2012**

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Abstracts must be in English and include full contact details. Acceptance of abstracts will be confirmed by mid-January.

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### WORKSHOP FORMAT AND OUTCOMES

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The paper-givers will be asked to submit full papers by **March 1 2012**. The papers will be circulated before the event and the participants will be invited to read them in order to ensure lively discussions and provide the paper givers with an in-depth feedback.

The workshop will start organised on the basis of one-day workshop on **15 March 2012**. It will include four sessions. Each of the sessions will include two paper presentations and have one or two discussants (academics and practitioners) leading the debates. There will also be a closing session allowing for a summary of debates and conclusions.

The authors of the best papers to the workshop will be invited to contribute to a proposal for a journal special issue focused on macro-regions and cross border cooperations. In addition, all of the papers presented at the workshop will be published online on a dedicated website hosted by the Regional Studies Association.

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### PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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- Participation in the event is free of charge.
- The workshop will take place at CERI-Sciences Po, Conference room, 56 rue Jacob, 75006 Paris in the Saint-Germain des Prés area.

- Between the sessions light refreshments and beverages will be provided. A lunch buffet will be offered to all participants.
- The working language of the workshop is English.
- Thanks to the financial support from the RSA we will be able to offer several modest travel bursaries (up to 150 Euro per person) for attending the workshop. Bursaries can only be offered to participants who are members of the RSA and fulfill one of the following eligibility criteria:
  - are student or early career members of RSA,
  - are associate (retired) members of RSA,
  - are RSA member working in a Band B, C or D country.

For the purposes of clarity, only student and early career members in Band A may make a claim for expenses, while members in any other category of Band A are not eligible. Any claim for expenses being made by a corporate member (Bands B, C and D only) should note that their expenses can only be refunded to the organisation holding the corporate membership. Bursaries can be used towards travel and accommodation expenses only. The bursary is redeemable on presentation of receipts for eligible expenses. Applicants are encouraged to minimise their costs by using economy fairs, budget airlines, sharing accommodation, booking economy hotels/hostels. Priority will be given to PhD students and early-career researchers as well as the participants having difficulties in securing their own travel funding. Bursaries will be offered on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Rachel Guyet ([rachel.guyet@sciences-po.fr](mailto:rachel.guyet@sciences-po.fr)), the local organiser for the Paris workshop, if you have any questions regarding your eligibility for the bursary.