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EU-BASED REGIONAL POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will illustrate social and economic problems and trends in Europe and the reaction of the EU by the structural and regional policies. Detailed aspects will include European development strategies for different sectors (agriculture, industry, transport, environment), and different regions (urban, peripheral, border areas), including the transformation processes in the future member countries and the consequences of an EU-enlargement. Frameworks and perspectives of EU spatial policies on regions, communities and enterprises will be discussed, including instruments and programs of the Structural Policy period 2000-2006 as well as an evaluation of the period 1994-1999.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The basic goals of the module are

- to provide actual information about EU-Regional Policies and instruments
- to discuss the application of policy instruments
- to give Good-Practice-Examples of regional development in Europe
- to make the individual knowledge of participants accessible for other students

The personal benefits include

- State of the art knowledge and skill-oriented information
- Competence to apply EU policy instruments

3. COURSE SCHEDULE AND OUTLINE

1. Economic and social situation in Europe and actual trends
 - 1.1. Economic cohesion
 - 1.2. Social cohesion
 - 1.3. Territorial cohesion: towards a more balanced development
 - 1.4. Factors determining real convergence
2. The European Union
 - 2.1. EU at the glance
 - 2.2. Institutions of the European Union
 - 2.3. The European Union integration process (treaties)

- 2.4. Social policy agenda
- 3. European structural and regional development
 - 3.1. Frameworks and perspectives of EU spatial policies 1994-1999 and structural and Regional Policy 2000-2006
 - 3.2. INTERREG
 - 3.3. Leader II: Development of disadvantaged rural areas of the EU
 - 3.4. Urban II
 - 3.5. Equal community initiative
 - 3.6. The accession countries and EU regional policies

4. REFERENCE BOOKS AND COLLATERAL READING

James R. McDonald: The European Scene. A Geographic Perspective. Prentice Hall, NJ, 2nd. Ed. 1997.

European Commission: Europe 2000+. Cooperation for European territorial development. Luxembourg, 1994.

A.. Jacqemin, D. Wright: The European Challenges Post - 1992. Shaping Factors, Shaping Actors. Edward Elgar, Brookfield, Vermont, 1993.

D. R. Hall: Transport and Economic Development in the New Central and Eastern Europe. Belhaven Press, London - New York, 1993.

D. Perrons: The Regions and the Single Market. In: M. Dunford and G. Kafkalas: Cities and regions in the new Europe: The global-local interplay and spatial development strategies. Belhaven, London, 1994.

A. M. Williams & A. Montanari (Ed.): European Tourism: Regions, Spaces and Restructuring. John Wiley & Sons Ltd., London, 1995.

European Commission, 2001: Unity, solidarity, diversity for Europe, its people and its territory,

http://www.inforegio.cec.eu.int/wbdoc/docoffic/official/report2/contentpdf_en.htm

European Commission: The European Union at the Glance, <http://europa.eu.int/abc-en.htm>

European Commission: Institutions of the European Union, <http://europa.eu.int/inst-en.htm>

European Commission: The European Union at the Glance – European treaties, http://europa.eu.int/abc/treaties_en.htm

European Commission: Social Exclusion: Commission Takes First Step Towards EU Poverty Strategy,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/employment_social/news/2001/oct/socpolag/social_pol_ag_en.html

European Commission: Regional Policies Info regio - Guides, 2003

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docgener/guides/guide_en.htm

European Commission: Regional Policies Info regio – Interreg III documents, 2003

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/interreg3/doc/docu_en.htm

European Commission, 1998: European Community Measures - Agricultural Policy and Rural Development – Leader II,

<http://www.rural-europe.aeidl.be/rural-en/euro/p1-1.htm>

European Commission, 2000: Regional Policies Info regio – Guidelines on the URBAN Community Initiative 2000-2006,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/guidelines/urban_en.htm

Community EQUAL initiative: EQUAL Programme Documents, <http://www.equal-ci.ie/res/pd.html>

European Commission: Regional Policies Info regio – Studies, 2002,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docgener/studies/study_en.htm

European Commission, 2003: Regional Policies Info regio – Commission thematic Communications,

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/communic/comm_en.htm

6. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to work through all assigned texts and to attend the discussion forum. There will be small projects as group exercises. Timely completion of exercises is required. The results of the exercises will be discussed in a chat room. A final written version of the projects is required.

7. GRADING

Based on the interactive concept of this class, grading will be based upon the results of the group projects and the individual contributions to the discussion.