



OPEN DAYS 2015

Master Class on EU Cohesion Policy

Programme outline

Objective

The aim of the OPEN DAYS Master Class is to improve the understanding of EU Cohesion Policy and its research potential among selected European PhD students and early-career researchers. Organised for the third time during the OPEN DAYS 2015, its objectives are:

- to present recent research on European regional and urban development and EU Cohesion Policy;
- to enable PhD students and early career researchers to exchange views with EU politicians, officials and senior academics;
- to facilitate networking among participants from different countries and with the wider EU policy and academic communities; and
- to raise awareness and understanding of the research potential in the field of EU Cohesion Policy.

The Master Class will be held between 12 and 15 October in Brussels during the 13th European Week of Regions and Cities-OPEN DAYS.

Participants

30 students from the EU Member States and some non-EU countries, will be selected to attend the Master Class, based on



- 1) their academic background and achievements;
- 2) the quality of the paper outline they submit; and
- 3) geographical and gender balance.

Candidates will be requested to submit applications to the Regional Studies Association (RSA) to participate in the Master Class by the deadline of **5 May 2015**. The application must include the outline of a paper (1,000 words), a declaration of interest, a description of the impact the applicant expects from his/her participation in the Master Class and an academic referee statement. Applicants should focus their paper outline on one of the following themes:

- EU Cohesion Policy and the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth;
- Institutional relations, governance and EU Cohesion Policy;
- Places and spaces: the contribution of EU Cohesion Policy to integrated urban, rural and territorial development.

The successful participants will be notified on **26 May** and need to submit their full paper with a maximum of 3,000 words to the RSA by **7 September 2015**. The scholarship will include coverage of travel and accommodation expenses by the European Commission

Organisation

The Master Class will be organised by the European Commission, DG for Regional and Urban Policy, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), the Regional Studies Association (RSA), the European Regional Science Association (ERSA) and the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP). A selection panel drawn from the five organisations will be responsible for reviewing the applications and selecting participants. The programme of the Master Class will include the following:

- Lectures, debates and networking sessions and social events on 12 and 13 October;
- Attendance at other OPEN DAYS sessions and/or meetings organised by the participants on 14 October;
- A 'World Café' session on 15 October.



Programme

Sunday, 11 October

19:00-21:00, Brussels' market place (Grand Place)

For participants arriving on 11 October in Brussels, there will be an informal get-together in the centre of Brussels.

Monday, 12 October

9:00-11:30 Guided tour from the city centre to the CoR

City walk with Brussels-based town planners (tbc, ending at CoR)

11:30 – 12:00 Welcome by the organisers, CoR

12:00-14:00 Get-together

Light sandwich lunch followed by paper presentation in the form of speed dating in small groups

15:00-17:30 OPEN DAYS Opening Session, European Parliament

The session will gather 800 participants and launch the OPEN DAYS 2015.

Tuesday, 13 October

9:00-11:30 Implementing EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020: the state of play

Presentations by and discussion with colleagues of DG REGIO and DG EMPL

11:45-12:30 Debate with Commissioner Corina Crețu (to be confirmed)

15 minutes speech by the Commissioner, followed by a Q+A session with the Master Class students

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-16:00 Research projects and feed-back

Paper presentations by participants and debate with EU officials and researchers

16:15-18:00 Current and future research on EU Cohesion Policy

Roundtable discussion with senior researchers



19:30-22:00 OPEN DAYS official reception including RegioStars 2015 Awards
Bozar, Brussels Centre of Fine Arts

Wednesday, 14 October

OPEN DAYS seminars and/or meetings organised participants

On Wednesday, participants are free to either attend other OPEN DAYS seminars and/or to organise meetings, which they wish to plan themselves. With regards to the latter, participants are invited to interact and send suggestions for meetings to the organisers.

Thursday, 15 October

9:00-12:45 World Café

This session will take the form of managed discussions in six small groups (two per thematic priority). Each group will be allocated a table manager and a facilitator, possibly European Commission and CoR officials according to their areas of expertise. Participants will change tables two or three times and will finally return to the table of their initial field of interest in order to have an exchange on lessons learned. The exercise will be closed with short presentations by each table and a final wrap-up by the coordinator.

12:45-13:30 Feed-back

Final exchange on the Master Class between organisers and participants

Follow up

The Master Class will be evaluated by an online survey, the results of which will be published and used to develop the format further.

Certificate

Participants, who attend all the modules, will receive a certificate of having been awarded and completed the OPEN DAYS scholarship. A minimum level of participation will be specified. ODU-MC participants will be given access to other OD events, such as the opening session, social events and workshops during the specified time-schedule.



Venue

European Parliament and European Committee of the Regions' buildings.

Application procedure

A maximum of 30 participants will be selected by the organisers. The aim would be to include participants from as many EU Member States as possible as well as some from non-EU countries. Applications must include

- 1) a document confirming that the applicant is a PhD student or has completed his/her PhD thesis within the last five years;
- 2) a document of a recognised academic institution confirming that the applicant is a registered PhD student and/or holds a position in the certifying institution;
- 3) the outline of a paper (1,000 words) referring to one of the three thematic priorities;
- 4) a declaration of interest and a description of the impact the applicant expects from his/her participation in the Master Class;
- 5) an academic referee statement;
- 6) the completed application form.

Applications must be sent to daniela.carl@regionalstudies.org by 5 May 2015.

Selected and non-selected applicants will be notified in writing no later than 26 May 2015. They must confirm their participation in writing to the RSA.

Those selected to participate in the Master Class will have their travel and accommodation (3-4 nights) booked and covered by the European Commission. It is a requirement to attend all modules of the Master Class.

