

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Youth on the Move: The perspective of regional and local authorities

Conference of the Committee of the Regions
Brussels, 13 December 2012 (tbc), 11:00-17:30, JDE 52

Europe 2020, Europe's growth strategy, puts young people at its centre. It has a special agenda for improving their education and employment, since the economic crisis in several EU member states puts youth in a very difficult situation. On average, over 22% of those under 25, who are available to work, cannot find a job. The percentage is over 50% in the worst-affected member states.

The event will be **the first in a series of seven CoR conferences in 2012/13 on the seven flagship initiatives, which are part of the Europe 2020 Strategy**. A few days after the planned adoption of the "Youth Employment Package" by the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) will address the topics of employment, apprenticeships, training and mobility of young people from the perspective of Europe's regional and local governments.

The conference will involve representatives of regional and local authorities in order to discuss the flagship initiative "Youth on the Move" both from the EU and from the local and regional point of view. Participants will assess the state of play on the implementation of the Flagship, whilst regions and cities showcase best practices. Eventually, the conclusions of the conference will feed into the **CoR's contribution to the European Commission's mid-term evaluation of the 2020 Strategy**. This CoR contribution is to be adopted at the 2014 European Summit of Regions and Cities.

The event will provide for:

- Political input from regional and local authorities on the delivery of the flagship initiative
- Debate on EU activities linked to it such as the Youth Employment Package
- Exchange of experience and good practice on how to fight youth unemployment
- Highlighting the relevant CoR opinions and ongoing consultative works on the topic
- Additional visibility of the works of the CoR Europe 2020 Monitoring Platform

Opening session 11:00-13:00

Keynote speeches

- **Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso**, President of the Committee of the Regions
- **Emilie Turunen**, Member of the European Parliament (The Greens/EFA)(tbc)
- **László Andor**, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (tbc)
- **Androula Vassiliou**, European Commissioner for Youth, Education, Multilingualism and Culture (tbc)
- **Michel Delebarre**, CoR political coordinator on Europe 2020
- **N.N.**, Minister for Employment and/or Education, Representative of Cyprus EU Presidency

Presentation

- Results of the CoR survey on Youth on the Move (tbc)

Moderator: **Mark Rogerson**

12.15 - 13.00: Debate with the audience

13:00 – 14:30: Networking lunch in the Atrium on the 6. floor

14:30 – 16:00: Parallel workshops:

Workshop 1: Improving youth employment at local level

The objective of this workshop is to discuss in particular:

- Youth Guarantees – What role for regional and local authorities?
- Youth Employment Package (YEP): How will it work in the regions and cities?
- Results of 'Youth Opportunities Initiative', examples from 'Your first EURES job'

Chair: **Simone Beissel**, Municipal Councillor of the City of Luxembourg, Chair of the CoR Commission for Economic and Social Policy (tbc)

Keynote: **Jean-Louis de Brouwer**, Director, European Commission, Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion; Europe 2020: Employment policies (tbc)

Academic comment: Expert from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions, Dublin (tbc)

Project examples on local and regional level: tbc

Workshop 2: Education, training and apprenticeships: The role of regional and local authorities

The objective of this workshop is to discuss in particular:

- Preventative measures against early school leaving on local and regional level
- Reform of education systems to improve employability/access to apprenticeships
- Alternative learning systems: Adapt school to pupils, not pupils to school

Chair: **Anton Rombouts**, Mayor of the City of 's-Hertogenbosch, Chair of Commission for education, youth, culture and research (EDUC), (tbc)

Keynote: **Antonio Silva Mendes**, DG EAC, Director (tbc)

Panel: **Ulrike Wisser**, Youth for Europe, National Contact Point, Bonn, other panelists will represent local and regional administrations; academic comment tbc

Project examples on local and regional level: tbc

Workshop 3: Youth mobility in education and the workplace

The objective of this workshop is to discuss in particular:

- The "Quality Framework for Traineeships" and its local impact
- Leonardo da Vinci, Erasmus: How to promote mobility?
- Enhance graduate employment on local and regional level

Chair: **Marc Schaefer**, Member of Vianden municipal council, CoR rapporteur 'Youth on the Move' (tbc)

Keynote: **James Higgins**, European Youth Forum (tbc)

Panel: Young Entrepreneurs' Movement (tbc),
Representatives from Assembly of European Regions, (AER) and Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions, CPMR

Project examples on local and regional level: tbc

16:15 – 17:30 Closing session

Chair: Mercedes Bresso, First Vice-President Committee of the Regions (tbc)

The **chairs of the three workshops** report briefly to the closing session (15 min.)

16:35 – 17:30

Reaction to the conclusions of the workshop

Koos Richelle Director-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (tbc)

Jan Truszczyński Director-General for Education, Training, Culture and Youth (tbc)

More information and registration: www.cor.europa.eu/europe2020