



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2004

31 AUGUST – 01 SEPTEMBER, 2004, BERLIN/ GERMANY

### URBAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN A GLOBALISING WORLD



Local economies in cities and urban regions in both the North and the South are suffering weaknesses resulting in high incipient unemployment and hence the growth of informal economies and the spread of poverty. Urban regions are failing to work as in the past as integrated providers for the needs of their citizens.

Initiatives designed to build stronger local economies, improve chances of remunerative employment and thus reduce poverty, are very fragmented.

This conference aims to bring together people concerned with these issues, to shed light on the roots of these problems and bring about a more strategic and coherent approach to initiatives designed to strengthen local economic development.

## VENUE

European Academy of the Urban Environment

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## CONTACT DETAILS

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8.30 - 9.00	<b>Participants Register</b>	
9.00 - 9.45	Welcome and Introduction	<b>Dr. Hanns-Uve Schwedler</b> European Academy of the Urban Environment
	Welcome	<b>Prof. Dr. Kurt Kutzler</b> President TU Berlin, tbc
	Welcome	<b>A representative of the Berlin City and State Government, tbc</b>
9.45-10.45	Chances for Urban Economic Development in a Globalising World	<b>Prof. Dr. Adrian Atkinson</b> Technische Universität Berlin
10.45-11.45	Realities of the Urban Economy, 'Formal' and 'Informal'	<b>Dr. Bettina Musiolek</b> Evangelische Akademie Meissen
11.45-12.15	Coffee	
12.15-13.15	Changing Economic Realities in Urban Regions	<b>Dr. Jean-Marie Cour</b> Institut des Sciences et des Techniques de l'Equipement et de l'Environnement pour le Développement (ISTED), Paris
13.15-14.30	Lunch	
14.30-16.30	Working Group session	Facilitators: Workshop 1: Prof. Dr. A. Atkinson Workshop 2: Dr. B. Musiolek
<p><b>Workshop 1 and 2: What are the chances for urban economic development in a globalising world? Current rules of the international economy have launched a rapid restructuring process where some countries and city regions are gaining considerably whilst others are gaining almost nothing. Prices of primary produce, which are the main exports of the majority of the world's countries, are falling, reducing incomes of primary producers and fuelling urbanisation in search of income. Local economies are being 'hollowed out' by floods of imported goods that are cheaper than anything that can be locally produced. Advertising and in general penetration of lifestyle 'information' into the far corners of the world are inducing populations to desire consumption of labeled rather than traditional goods. How can the negative effects of these processes be halted to give a chance to local economic initiative?</b></p>		
16.30-17.00	Coffee	
17.00-18.00	Working Group session continues	
19.00-21.00	Informal reception (optional)	

9.00-10.00	An Integrated Look at the Local Economy: Is there Such a Thing as the 'Informal Economy'?	<b>Dr. Karl Birkhölzer</b> European Network for Economic Self-Help and Local Development; Interdisciplinary research group 'Local Economy' TU Berlin
10.00-11.00	Economic Development in Peri-Urban Regions	<b>Adriana Allen</b> Development Planning Unit (DPU), London
11.00-11.30	Coffee	
11.30-12.30	Working Group session	Facilitators: Workshop 3: Dr. K. Birkhölzer Workshop 4: A. Allen

*Workshop 3: Focus on informal economies and how local economic construction can be built up from this base. The second topic focuses attention on the employment side of urban economies. Statistics indicate that only a minority – and in many countries as low as 10% - of those entering urban labour markets can find work in the 'formal' sector. It is thus necessary to refocus studies of the urban economy to look at both 'formal' and 'informal' as one system, and to look at production and consumption in terms of needs and the ways in which these are – or are not – being satisfied. New tools are needed to understand urban economies and possible processes for generating paid employment, in a way that will provide some purchase for efforts to improve urban economic performance.*

*Workshop 4: Peri-urbanisation and the urban regional economy. The third topic concerns the economic relationship between cities and their regions. In the past cities interacted with their sub-regions such that these supplied raw materials and the city provided manufactured goods. This economic interdependence has been almost entirely lost in the Northern countries and is in the process of diminishing in the South as well under the impact of globalisation. Nevertheless, the city regions are becoming the focus of new urbanisation processes in what is being termed 'peri-urbanisation'. It is no longer the cities that attract rural-urban migration, but villages and towns, particularly in wider urban regions, take on the characteristics of urban areas in what has been termed 'in-situ urbanisation'.*

12.30-14.00	Lunch	
14.00-15.30	Final Working Group Session	Facilitators: Workshop 3: Dr. K. Birkhölzer Workshop 4: A. Allen
15.30-16.00	Coffee	
16.00-18.00	Report-Back and Comment session	Dr. B. Musiolek and Dr. J.-M. Cour
18.00-18.15	Conference ends	

18.30 – 20.30	City tour (optional)
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