

## DRAFT CONCEPT

Vienna, April 2014

### Annual Conference “Cooperating in CENTRAL EUROPE” 1/2 July 2014 in Vienna, Town Hall

#### Summary

CENTRAL EUROPE is a European Union cohesion policy programme, which is managed by the City of Vienna (MA 27). Since 2007 the programme has encouraged transnational cooperation among 80 regions of nine central European countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. With a budget of EUR 231 million it has helped to improve innovation, accessibility and the environment and to enhance the competitiveness of cities and regions.

As of 2014 an advanced CENTRAL EUROPE Programme will continue to support regional cooperation in nine EU Member States, then including Croatia. Funds will be dedicated to projects to work on innovation, low carbon solutions, environmental and cultural resources as well as transport. In summer 2014, the programme will be kicked off in a high-profile conference in Vienna with more than 500 European partners and stakeholders.

#### Objectives

The CENTRAL EUROPE Annual Conference 2014 will link the present to the future programme. Results of 124 projects implemented since 2007 will be presented and discussed. At the same time, the new programme will be introduced including information on a first call for project proposals. The objectives of the event are thus to:

- **Present thematic results of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2007-2013**
  - Present project results and good practices
  - Exchange views on results and discuss possible learnings for the future
  - Celebrate programme achievements 2007-2013
- **Inform stakeholders about the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2014-2020 and connect them**
  - Inform relevant stakeholders about the new programme and its first call
  - Create interest in the new programme among relevant stakeholders
  - Stimulate project ideas and support partner search for new project proposals

#### Audience

500+ participants are expected

- Policy and decision makers from the local, regional, national and European level
- Private business and civil society representatives
- Project partners of various European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programmes
- Selected thematic experts from the local, regional, national and European level

The conference language will be English.

## Date and Place

### Vienna

- Vienna Town Hall, Festsaal (plus 6 workshop rooms and Arkadenhof)
- 1/2 July 2014 (Week 27)

## Programme Overview

### Tuesday, 1 July: Portraying cooperation in CENTRAL EUROPE

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.30 Opening
  - Karin Helmstaedt, Moderator (with Chair of CENTRAL EUROPE Programme)
- 9.45 Welcome addresses
  - Michael Häupl, Lord Mayor, City of Vienna
  - Johannes Hahn, European Commissioner, Urban and Regional Policy (Video)
- 10.00 Keynote: "Cooperation in CENTRAL EUROPE: Introduction to the new programme"
  - Christiane Breznik, CENTRAL EUROPE Managing Authority, City of Vienna
- 10.30 Keynote: "Does central Europe still exist? Strengths and limitations of its cooperation"
  - Jacques Rupnik, Political Scientist and Historian, Sciences-Po (confirmed)
- 11.00 Panel discussion: "Can transnational cooperation help building a strong central Europe?"

Central European responses to the economic crisis have been marked by an absence of regional solidarity, writes Jacques Rupnik. Differing national situations explain varying perceptions of the crisis' risks and remedies and can be seen in terms of political lessons learned. Can transnational cooperation help creating a stronger central Europe to drive Europe forward? What are the main challenges and needs?

  - Jacques Rupnik, Political Scientist and Historian, Sciences-Po (confirmed)
  - Representative of the Ministry for Infrastructure and Development, Poland (tbd)
  - Normunds Popen, Deputy Director-General, DG Regio (confirmed)
  - Markus J. Beyrer, Director General, Business Europe (tbd)
  - Jeremy Wates, Secretary General, European Environmental Bureau (tbd)
  - Martin Pospischill, Head of EU Strategy Department, City of Vienna (confirmed)
- 12.30 Lunch break

14.00 6 parallel workshop sessions: "PORTRAITS and Project Stories"

Interactive discussions on results achieved in the 2007-2013 programming period, on gaps still existing and to be tackled in the future and on success secrets of sustaining results.

- Technology transfer and business innovation
- Sustainable public transport and logistics
- Environmental risk management and climate change
- Energy efficiency and renewable energies
- Demographic change and knowledge development
- Cultural heritage and creative resources

17.00 Networking reception

- Thematic exhibition of 124 projects from CENTRAL EUROPE 2007-2013
- Exhibition of drawnalist cartoons

**Wednesday, 2 July: Strengthening cooperation in CENTRAL EUROPE**

8.30 Registration

9.00 Introduction to workshop methodology

- **Christiane Breznik**, Managing Authority, CENTRAL EUROPE Programme

9.15 Introduction to the CENTRAL EUROPE 2020: contents and timeline

- **Luca Ferrarese**, Head of Joint Secretariat, CENTRAL EUROPE Programme

10.00 Project Idea Fair: Parallel sessions with coffee and cookies continuously available

More detailed information by the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme on what will be funded in the specific priorities will be followed up by a creative but structured approach to project idea generation and partner search.

13.00 *Closure and light lunch break*

- **Christiane Breznik**, Managing Authority, CENTRAL EUROPE Programme

14.00 Meeting place

- Space provided for ad-hoc meetings among participants until 17.00

## CVs of Moderator and Speakers (on 1 July)

### Karin Helmstaedt, Moderator



Karin Helmstaedt was born in eastern Canada. With a German father and Canadian mother, she grew up with a lively mix of cultures as the daily norm, and ever since her days of competing with Canada's National Swim Team, she's never been able to shake the travel bug. That's why after studies in Physical and Health Education and Literature in Toronto and Montreal, she set out for Paris and the Sorbonne, where she studied French Literature.

It was there she began writing as a journalist and freelancing as a translator and presenter at sporting events. She reported extensively on doping in the former East Germany, and in 1997 co-produced a prize-winning documentary for German public television. Her subsequent work on the subject brought her to Berlin in 1998, where she continued freelance writing for newspapers and magazines, and contributed to a book. She also joined Deutsche Welle's television channel as a news translator and speaker, and in 1999 began as presenter of "Germany Today". Now she's part of the euromaxx team.

### Michael Häupl, Lord Mayor, City of Vienna



Michael Häupl was born in Altlengbach, Lower Austria. He studied Biology and Zoology at the University of Vienna and was an academic assistant at the Vienna Natural History Museum from 1975 to 1983. Häupl followed Helmut Zilk in 1993 as a state party chairman of the SPÖ and on 7 November 1994, he became the mayor of Vienna.

Häupl has won three elections since his appointment as mayor; each of them has led to increased majorities for the SPÖ. Häupl is the Deputy Federal Party chairman of the SPÖ. On 14 December 2004 Häupl was elected unopposed to succeed Valéry Giscard d'Estaing as President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.

Jacques Rupnik, Political Scientist and Historian, Sciences-Po



Jacques Rupnik is Director of Research at CERI (Centre for International Studies and Research) at Science-Po, Paris, and Professor at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. Jacques Rupnik has been visiting Professor at Harvard University. After studying History at the Sorbonne and Politics at Sciences-Po in 1972, Jacques Rupnik completed his M.A in Soviet Studies from Harvard University in 1974, and his Ph. D (History of International Relations) from the Sorbonne (University Paris I, 1978). Jacques Rupnik was Executive Director of the International Commission on the Balkans and drafter of its report *Unfinished Peace*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1996. His recent work has focused on democratisation and European integration of East-Central Europe plus nationalism and post-conflict reconciliation in the Balkans. His publications include: *The Other Europe* (1989); *Czech and Slovak Roads to Europe* (2003), *International Perspectives on the Balkans* (2003 . co-authored: *The Kosovo Report. Conflict, International Response, Lessons Learned, Report of the Independent International Commission on Kosovo* (Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2000). *Les banlieues de l'Europe: politiques de voisinage de l'Union européenne* (Paris, Presses de Sciences Po, 2007), 1989 as a Political World Event, with an introduction by V.Havel (London, 2013).

Normunds Popen, European Commission, Deputy Director-General DG REGIO



Normunds Popen graduated from Riga Technical University in 1989 as Engineer-Biotechnologist and from the University of Latvia in 2001 he received his Master of International Economics and Business Management. He joined the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1993 as a Senior Desk Officer for Americas and Australia and from 1994 to 1998 served as a second secretary for trade and economic cooperation in the Latvian Embassy in Washington. He later served as the Latvian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Norway, as well as to the Republic of Iceland before becoming Director and later Undersecretary of State for the European Union Affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and dealt with issues related to Latvia's EU membership. In 2007 he then became the Latvian Permanent Representative to the European Union before he was appointed in 2010 to his current position as Deputy Director General in charge of convergence, competitiveness and cross-border programmes.

Jeremy Wates, European Environmental Bureau, Secretary General



Jeremy Wates holds an MA Honours Degree in Philosophy and Social & Political Sciences from Cambridge University, UK. In the 1980s, Jeremy founded the Irish environmental organization Earthwatch, the Irish member of Friends of the Earth International, and led the organization for more than a decade. From 1991 to 1993, he represented the Irish European Environmental Bureau (EEB) members on the EEB Board. During the 1990s, he led the campaign by the European ECO Forum, an NGO coalition, to persuade governments to start work on a treaty on environmental democracy and then coordinated the input from civil society organizations into the official negotiations over the text of what was to become the Aarhus Convention. For more than a decade Jeremy served as Secretary to the Aarhus Convention with the Geneva-based United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. Since May 2011, Jeremy Wates has served as Secretary General of the European Environmental Bureau, Europe's largest federation of environmental citizens' organizations. In 2011, Jeremy was awarded the David Brower Lifetime Achievement Award.

Markus J. Beyrer, BUSINESSEUROPE, Director General



Mr Beyrer holds the MA Degree in Law from the University of Vienna and he completed postgraduate studies in European Law at Danube University in Krems (Austria) and the Stanford Executive Program at the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University. He has served as Director General of BUSINESSEUROPE since late 2012. Prior to this position he served as CEO of the Austrian Industry Holding ÖIAG, Director General of the Federation of Austrian Industries and Director for Economic Affairs of the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber, as well as Chief Economic Advisor to the Federal Chancellor of the Republic of Austria, Dr. Wolfgang Schüssel. In the 1990s he worked on Austria's accession to the European Union and the integration of Austria into the European Single Market at the Austrian Permanent Representation to the European Union and the European Commission. In addition to his executive positions, Mr Beyrer held a number of non-executive board functions in various Austrian industrial companies and was a member of the non-executive board of the Austrian Central Bank.



Martin Pospischill, Head of Department for European Affairs, City of Vienna, and EUROCITIES  
Chair of Working Group on Urban Issues



Martin Pospischill (born 1968) holds a degree in law and since 1996 has worked for the City of Vienna in the field of European Affairs and Public Law. From 1998 to 2001 he was Deputy Head of the Liaison Office City of Vienna in Brussels. He is an expert in the field of public services (Services of General Interest). For many years he has lectured on European Law at the City of Vienna Administrative School. In 2007 he was appointed Head of Municipal Department 27 - European Affairs.

Christiane Breznik, Managing Authority of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme, City of Vienna



Christiane Breznik joined the City of Vienna, Department for European Affairs, in 2002 to work as Managing Authority for the Community Initiative Programme INTERREG IIIC East. In 2007 she was appointed Head of Unit International Cooperation being responsible for the Managing Authority function of the transnational programme CENTRAL EUROPE and the cross-border programme Slovakia-Austria 2007-2013 as well as the participation of the Vienna Region in three cross-border ETC programmes. Currently she is supervising the preparation for the continuation of those cooperation programmes in the new funding period 2014-2020.

Before joining the City of Vienna, Christiane Breznik worked for 7 years as consultant implementing EU-funded projects in regional and landscape planning in various European countries. Following her postgraduate degree, she was research fellow at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (Harvard Kennedy School of Government), focusing on climate change, energy and natural resource management policy in Central Europe.

Christiane Breznik holds a Master degree in Engineering and in Public Administration.