

Concluding Conference
"European Local Government: Challenges, Reforms, and Futures"
of the COST Action "Local Public Sector Reforms: An International Comparison (LocRef)"
Venue: Committee of the Regions Brussels, Rue Belliard 99-101
09/10 March 2017

hosted by



European Committee
of the Regions



Draft Programme

		<i>Room</i>
<i>First Day (March 09)</i>		
08.30 - 09.00	Registration (important! sign attendance list!)	Ground Floor
09.00 - 11.00	Opening Plenary Session	JDE 51
09.00 - 09.15	<i>Welcome Speeches & Introduction</i> Prof. Dr. Geert Bouckaert, Local Organizer, KU Leuven Markku Markkula, President of the European Committee of the Regions Prof. Dr. Sabine Kuhlmann, University of Potsdam, Chair of the COST Action 'Local Public Sector Reforms (LocRef)'	
09.15 - 09.45	Practitioners Key Note: Markku Markkula, President of the European Committee of the Regions	
09.45 - 10.15	Academic Key Note: Prof. Dr. Sabine Kuhlmann, University of Potsdam <i>'Local Public Sector Reforms in Europe: Lessons from Comparative Research and Future Outlook'</i>	
10.15 - 11.00	Discussion	
11.00 - 11.15	Photo Session & Practicalities	
11.15 - 11.45	Coffee Break	Atrium 5
11.45 - 12.00	Introduction to the Policy Brochure Project Christian Schwab	
12.00 - 13.30	Policy Brochure: Theme I & II with Discussions Chairs: Andreas Ladner / Trui Steen / Filipe Teles / Harald Torsteinsen <i>Short presentation (10 minutes) by Theme Chairs, short reply from a selected practitioner (10 minutes), discussion (25 minutes)</i>	JDE 51
	Theme I: <i>Autonomy and Austerity: Re-investing in Local Government - 45 minutes</i> Chair: Andreas Ladner Practitioners Reply: Markku Mölläri, Ministry of Finance, Finland	
	Theme II: <i>Improving Local Service Delivery: Increasing Performance through Reforms - 45 minutes</i> Chairs: Trui Steen, Harald Torsteinsen, Filipe Teles Practitioners Reply: Jeroen Windey, Administrator-General of the Flemish Agency for Internal Administration	
13.30 - 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>	Atrium 5
14.30 - 15.15	Policy Brochure: Theme III with Discussion Chair: Bas Denters <i>Short presentation (10 minutes) by Theme Chair, short reply from a selected practitioner (10 minutes), discussion (25 minutes)</i>	JDE 51
	Theme III: <i>Participation and Democratic Accountability: Making a Difference for the Citizens</i> Chair: Bas Denters Practitioners Reply: Mieck Vos, Director of the Flemish Association of Cities and Municipalities	
15.15 - 16.00	Roundtable with Chairs and Practitioners Chair: Sabine Kuhlmann	

16.00 - 16.15	<i>Short Break</i>	
16.15 - 16.45	Management Committee Meeting Chairs: Kuhlmann/Schwab <i>open for all participants</i>	JDE 51
17.00	Joint COST Walking Buffet (sponsored by COST Action IS1207 'Local Public Sector Reforms')	Atrium 5

Second Day (March 10)

08.30 - 09.00	Registration (important! sign attendance list!)	Ground Floor
09.00 - 10.30	Plenary Session	JDE 51
09.00 - 09.45	Key Note : Bas Denters, University of Twente <i>'Back to Basics: Municipalities and Future of a Democratic Europe'</i>	
09.45 - 10.30	Presentation of "Selected Outcomes" of the COST Action <i>(15 minutes each)</i> I. Joined-Up Local Governments (Polzer/Bjorna) II. Evaluating Reforms of Local Public and Social services in Europe (Kopric / Wollmann) III. Sub Municipal Units and Inter-municipal Cooperation (Hlepas / Swianiewicz)	
10.30 - 11.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	Atrium 5
11.00 - 13.30	Working Group (WG) Meetings (Parallel Sessions) Final and Concluding WG Meeting: Summary / WG-Outputs / Publications / Prospects	
	WGI External (Post) NPM <i>(Chair: Koprić)</i>	WGII Internal (Post) NPM <i>(Chair: Mussari)</i>
	Joint WGIII (Territorial/Functional Re-Scaling) and WG IV (Democratic Renewal) Meeting <i>(Chairs: Hlepas / Copus)</i>	
13.30 - 14.30	<i>Lunch</i>	Atrium 5
14.30 - 15.00	Closing Plenary Session (Chairs: Kuhlmann / Bouckaert / Schwab) Working Group Summary: <i>(5 minutes each WG)</i> WG I: <i>Kopric / Wollmann</i>	JDE 51
14.30 - 14.55	WG II: <i>Mussari / Bjorna / Turc</i> WG III: <i>Hlepas / Wayenberg / Steiner</i> WG IV: <i>Copus / Denters / Lidström</i>	
14.55 - 15.00	Closing of the Conference & the COST Action "LocRef" <i>Sabine Kuhlmann</i>	