

Open Days 2015: October 12-15

'Europe's regions and cities: partners for investment and growth'

Thematic Priorities:

1. Modernizing Europe
2. **Regions open for business**
3. Places and Spaces: urban and rural development, urban-rural integration

Concept Regional Partnership

Theme: Regions open for business

Working title: Approaching AAA rating in youth employment

General:

With 21, 4 %, the youth unemployment rate (people under the age of 25) is currently at an all time high within the European Union, almost twice as high as the unemployment rate among adults and hence a significant topic for all member states. 7, 5 million young people are seeking employment/apprenticeship. A comparison shows that the gap between the EU-member states is significant. Precisely, the gap between EU-member states ranges from 7, 2 % to 51, 4 %.

Different measures have been implemented on European level, such as the Erasmus+ program or the youth guaranty in order to obtain the EU's goals of the Europe 2020 strategy and reduce youth unemployment.

Workshop description:

The workshop should take place in the form of a political debate/discussion. The aim is on the one hand to identify the reasons for the high youth unemployment rate and subsequently juxtapose regions from both ends of the spectrum in order to exchange ideas and best practices in the attempt to tackle youth unemployment successfully and mutually compare implemented measures and procedures on regional level. On the other hand existing measures on EU-level such as the youth guarantee should be presented and discussed.

The debate will be led by a moderator and a key note speech by a representative from the EU-institutions will be given. EU-Commissioner Marianne Thyssen (employment and social policy) and other high level experts from the political and academic field will be invited.