



First announcement

“Local and regional government: changes in structures, competences and finances

– Balancing democracy, identity and efficiency”

Seminar Copenhagen, October 1, 2008

In this seminar, organised by CEMR in partnership with Local Government Denmark and Danish Regions 11 of CEMR’s member associations will introduce recent or proposed changes in their country or regions which will be discussed in three sessions. In a final session, some comparisons and first conclusions will be drawn with the help of an academic expert.

The questions to be discussed will include the following

- ~ *What reforms have been carried out or proposed? What are the objectives?*
- ~ *How do the reforms affect the balance of democracy, identity and efficiency?*
- ~ *Who has proposed reforms (central/regional/local level)? Who designs them?*
- ~ *How are reforms implemented (e.g. centrally imposed, negotiated in partnership...)?*
- ~ *Did they achieve their aims and/or create other problems?*

The seminar is also intended to give input to one of the parallel sessions, devoted to “Democracy and Governance – changing structures and competences” at the CEMR General Assembly on 22-24 April 2009 in Malmö.

We would be very happy to welcome you to this seminar!

Yours, sincerely

Jeremy Smith
(CEMR)

Draft programme

8.30 – 9.00 Registration

9.00 – 9.05 Welcome by Danish Regions

9.05 – 10.30 **1st session: Denmark and Northern Europe**

Chair: Åsa Ehinger Berling, SALAR

Large scale reorganisation in Denmark: Peter Gorm Hansen, CEO LGDK, and Per Okkels, Managing Director, Danish Regions

Countries with major reform plans:

Finland: Kari Prättälä, Director of Legal Department, AFLRA

Latvia: Maris Pukis, Senior Adviser, LALRG

Lithuania: Arūnas Gražulis, Adviser on International Relations and Programmes, LSA

Discussion

10.30 – 10.45 Coffee break

10.45 – 12.15 **2nd session: Balancing efficiency, identity, democracy**

- **Comparing France and the United Kingdom**

Chair: Jeremy Smith, CEMR

Speakers: France: Olivier Audibert-Troin, President of the Urban Community of Dracénie

England: John Ransford, Deputy Chief Executive, LGA

Scotland: Rory Mair, Chief Executive, COSLA

Wales: Cllr Chris Holley, WLGA's spokesperson for regeneration and European affairs

Discussion

12.15 – 13.15 Lunch buffet

13.15 – 13.30 **Comparison across Europe**

Helen Hermenier, Research Department, Dexia

13.30 – 15.00 **3rd session: Reforms in (quasi-)federal states: Belgium, Germany, Spain**

Chair: Christophe Chaillou, AFCCRE

Speakers: Belgium: Koen Van Heddeghem, coordinator for police and security, VVSG

Germany: Kathrin Dollinger-Knuth, Head of Mecklenburg-Strelitz District council

Spain: Pilar Sansó Fuster, Vice-President Council of Mallorca (*proposed*)

Discussion

15.00 – 15.15 Coffee break

15.15 – 16.15 **4th session: Comparisons and conclusions**

Chair: Aina Simonsen, KS

Prof.Dr. jur. Hellmut Wollmann, IfS Institut für Stadtforschung und Strukturpolitik Berlin

- *Comparing our cases, divergence and convergence*

- *likely future trends*

- *applicability to other countries*

General discussion

Conclusion and next steps: Jeremy Smith, CEMR