

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Halle Forum on Urban Economic Growth

## Call for Papers

Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH), Halle, Germany

December 02-03, 2010

### Cooperation Between Firms and Municipalities as Drivers of Urban Economic Growth? Theoretical Approaches and Empirical Evidence

#### Scope of the Conference

The Halle Forum on Urban Economic Growth – established in 2006 – has a focus on factors of economic growth and development in urban environments. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> Halle Forum in 2010 the organisers are planning to bring together scholars exploring diverse modes and effects of cooperative behaviour of firms, municipalities and other collective actors in metropolitan and other urban regions. Colleagues from Central and Eastern European countries are particularly welcome.

The impetus for our conference topic comes from two sources:

- 1) A look across cities and regions shows large regional differences in the ability of local actors (firms, municipalities, chambers of commerce, universities) to cooperate. We are interested in papers that test and/or elaborate the assumption that cities with a tradition of a cooperative style in politics can gain considerable collaborative advantage in comparison to cities with an established non-cooperative political style. The concept '*collaborative advantage*' (Stimson & Stough) can be conceived as a further development from the stages of *comparative advantage* (derived from international trade theory; essential: endowment with 'hard' location factors) and *competitive advantage* (Porter). It represents a new paradigm that has been emerging in regional economic development planning, and it is one that is dependent on a greater integration, cooperation and collaboration among businesses, governments and communities.
- 2) The rising attention of politicians as well as scientists in the EU for the large urban agglomerations functioning as national and international economic hubs and growth centres is accompanied by political efforts to optimize their spatial organisation and to improve their standing in the worldwide locational competition. This trend leads to efforts to identify and to demarcate such agglomerations under the label 'metropolitan regions' (in German: 'Metropolregionen'). These metropolitan regions are based on voluntary agreements between several territorial jurisdictions, including large cities, smaller cities and counties adjacent to them. The actors in such newly defined metropolitan regions usually have the option to respond proactively by means of 'bottom up' initiatives, or, in case of lacking 'bottom up' activities, to react to 'top down' stimuli set by national or regional governments.

The papers to be presented at the 3rd Halle Forum shall deal with the following topics and questions:

- Case studies in intra- and interurban cooperation comparing cities with different styles and traditions in cooperation;

- Case studies of the governance mode(s) in urban regions and city networks with respect to cooperation and inclusion/exclusion of different urban actors,
- Comparisons of the economic development in metropolitan regions,
- Empirical studies/Typologies of the process of identifying and building metropolitan regions,
- Studies dealing with governance problems in metropolitan regions,
- Studies dealing with the control, innovation and gateway functions of metropolitan regions,
- Metropolitan regions – Well established European growth drivers or wishful thinking? Discrepancies between ‘top down’ and ‘bottom up’ perspectives,
- Intra-regional collaboration and firm networks as preconditions for knowledge-based urban development.

### **Abstracts:**

All prospective participants are encouraged to submit proposals for papers (abstracts, 1-2 pages). Abstracts can be submitted in English or in German.

### **Time Schedule:**

**Deadline for abstract submission:** May 20, 2010.

**Decision of acceptance:** until June 10, 2010.

**Deadline for full paper submission:** September 30, 2010.

### **Publication of Conference Papers:**

Our intention is to edit a conference volume containing a selection of the presented papers. Critical and stimulating remarks of the auditorium shall be taken into consideration for the final version of the papers.

### **Conference Organisers:**

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### **Conference Location**

Halle Institute for Economic Research	Internet: <a href="http://www.iwh-halle.de">www.iwh-halle.de</a>
Kleine Maerkerstraße 8	
D-06108 Halle	Internet: <a href="http://www.halle.de">www.halle.de</a>
Saxony-Anhalt, Germany	
Next airport: Airport Leipzig-Halle	Internet: <a href="http://www.leipzig-halle-airport.de">www.leipzig-halle-airport.de</a>

**Further information on registration and accommodation will be communicated soon.**