

# Call for Papers

## 3rd ERSa International Workshop

Hosted by the Niederrhein Institute for Regional and Structural  
Research (NIERS)

“Higher Education Institutions and Regional Development”

Hochschule Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences  
Mönchengladbach, Germany  
14 – 15 October 2013

SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

## Call for Papers

The workshop will serve as a forum for the discussion and analysis of the role of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) for regional development.

Submitted papers should be related to the various aspects of the general theme “**Higher Education Institutions and Regional Development**”, these are e.g.:

- The role of HEIs in Regional Innovation Systems,
- Case studies dealing with regional effects of single HEIs,
- The role of start-ups from universities for regional development,
- Regional brain flow analysis,
- Methodological approaches for estimating the regional impact of HEIs,
- Determinants of successful regional knowledge transfer from HEIs.

### Theme:

**“Higher Education Institutions and Regional Development”**

### Goals and Format:

The influence of higher education institutions on economic and social developments of surrounding regions is a topic of special interest and a prevalent object of studies and discussions in regional sciences. Generally, institutes of higher education are a key competitive advantage for the regions where they are located in:

- On the one hand regions benefit from universities’ expenditures and from continuous consumption and spending of students and staff; this strengthens production, employment and regional development. These impacts are summarized as demand side or expenditure effects.
- On the other hand there is a wide variety of knowledge-based impacts stemming from universities: The regions may profit from the universities’ research efforts in future oriented industries, from their international network connections and from public funding of research projects. Moreover, there are socio-cultural impacts resulting in a change of urban atmosphere that sometimes is described as “creative buzz”.
- Furthermore, universities may foster a rise of entrepreneurial activity leading to a higher rate of spin-offs and business start-ups in the region, thus encouraging societal and economic changes.

- Well-educated graduates from the university are of high importance in terms of regional competitive advantages as their proportion in total employment is seen as a key indicator for human capital endowment and economic growth potential. Graduates transfer knowledge and innovation into the regional economy, into networks, and enterprises. These kinds of effects often are referred to as supply side or knowledge transfer effects.

Conclusion is that HEIs and especially their graduates are a key benefit and a competitive advantage for single firms but also for the total regional economy.

## **Hosts and Sponsors:**

The event is organized and hosted by the **Niederrhein Institute for Regional and Structural Research (NIERS)**, which is an Institute of Hochschule Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences.

The workshop is funded by the **Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)**, for which **NIERS** is currently conducting a research project on “Regional Transfer Effects from different Types of Higher Education Institutions”.

The **European Regional Science Association (ERSA)** and its **German Speaking Section (Gesellschaft für Regionalforschung GfR)** are key supporters of this workshop.

## **Practical Information:**

The conference language is English.

### **Important Dates:**

The deadline for the submission of abstracts is **31 August 2013**.

The workshop will be held on **14-15 October 2013**.

There will be a possibility to publish workshop papers in a conference volume in the “**Mönchengladbacher Schriften zur wirtschaftswissenschaftlichen Praxis**”, which are edited by the Faculty of Business Administration and Economics at Hochschule Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences. Paper submission deadline for publication is **6 October 2013**. Further information can be found on our homepage in May 2013. <http://www.hs-niederrhein.de/forschung/niers/aktuelles/>

## **Time and Place:**

### **Date:**

14–15 October 2013

### **Place:**

Mönchengladbach, Germany  
Faculty of Business Administration and Economics  
Hochschule Niederrhein University of Applied Sciences

## **Itinerary:**

The Workshop will start on Sunday evening (**13 October**) with an informal meeting in one of Mönchengladbach's traditional pubs.

On Monday and Tuesday we will be addressed by our key speaker **Prof. Dr. Michael Fritsch** (from the Friedrich Schiller University, Jena and Max Planck Institute for Economics, Jena).

Afterwards, we will have presentations connected to the workshop theme.

The evening program will consist of a guided tour through the stadium of the **Football Club Borussia Mönchengladbach on Monday evening (14 October)** followed by a workshop dinner in one of the stadium-lounges.

Further practical information concerning travelling to Mönchengladbach and accommodation can be found on our homepage in May 2013. <http://www.hs-niederrhein.de/forschung/niers/aktuelles/>

A full program will be available for participants in **September 2013**.

**Workshop Fee:** There will be no workshop fee for those attending.

## **Contact Information:**

To submit an abstract (350-400 words), please write to:

niers@hs-niederrhein.de

For further information, please contact:

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