ARTNeT GMS Capacity Building Workshop on Regional Integration and Competitiveness: The European Experience

24-26 June 2008, Bangkok Thailand

Venue: Meeting Room F, UN Conference Centre

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Overview: the objective of the event is to provide GMS researchers with knowledge of how the European Union, as the most advanced example of regional integration, has tackled the economic and social discrepancies among its members to ensure a more harmonized and coherent development. This new knowledge is expected to increase the participants’ ability to design and deliver pertinent policy studies on regional integration, including the issues of competitiveness, of the GMS countries. The workshop is organized by the Trade and Investment Division, ESCAP and it will be facilitated by Mr. Francois Bafouil, Research Director at CNRS, Center for International Studies and Research (CERI), Sciences Po. The emphasis will be on an exchange of ideas on drivers of regional integration and cohesion in the European Union and GMS region.

Tuesday, 24 June 2008

08.45 – 09.00 Registration

09.00 – 09.15 Opening session

• Welcoming remarks by Mr. Ravi Ratnayake, Director, Trade and Investment Division (TID), ESCAP.
• Overview and objectives of workshop

09.15 – 10.15 Session 1: Introduction
(theoretical approaches, the EU Landscape, some components of development and decay)

10.15 – 10.30 Coffee break

10.30 – 11.30 Session 2: Historical roots to integration – the search for peace, prosperity and stability through integration: parallels between Europe and the GMS
(centuries of intra-European conflict as a prelude to a drive for peace in Europe; drivers of integration in GMS)

11.30 – 12.30 Session 3a: Discrepancies between Eastern and Western Europe
(old and new members- the last enlargement and policies of the European
policy of cohesion. Main pillars of the EU development framework. Principles of action in economic development and social cohesion

12.00 – 13.00  **Lunch break**

13.00 – 13.30  **Session 3b**: Discrepancies within Asia and the GMS: an Overview
Yann Duval, TPS, ESCAP and participants (tbc.)

13.30 – 14.30  **Session 4: Tools of EU development and New Programming period.**
(Brief review of the tools. The new programming 2007–2013. The challenge of the (national or regional) programming: concentration and overlapping of funds; project cohesion, diagnosis, monitoring and evaluation)

14.30 – 14.45  **Break**

14.45 – 16.30  **Session 5: Regional and local development: ERDF and ESF** (The European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund; approaches in GMS)

**Wednesday, 25 June 2008**

09.00 – 10.30  **Session 6: Creating an area of dialogue, cooperation and exchange:** Barcelona process and European Neighborhood Policy

10.30 – 10.45  **Coffee Break**

10.45 – 12.00  **Session 7: Role of common trade policy and integration**
(the architecture of a customs union and implications for deeper integration; issues of compensation for less developed members in GMS)

12.00 – 13.30  **Lunch break**

13.30 – 15.00  **Session 8: Regional and local development. The development of Poland**
(A case study of Poland as the most populous new EU member)

15.00 – 15.15  **Break**

15.15 – 17.00  **Session 9: Popularizing integration: How has EU build people participation and ownership**
(institutional setup, media, outreach programmes, curricula development; approaches in GMS and ASEAN)
Thursday, 26 June 2008

09.00 – 10.30  **Session 10: The cross border relations: The Interregional Cooperation (INTERREG) initiative and the European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)**  
(Cross border funds for local development and cross border relations; discussion on approaches in GMS)

10.30 – 10.45  **Coffee Break**

10.45 – 12.00  **Session 11: The cross border relations in the enlarged Europe**  
(Western and Eastern Europe: Comparison of case studies)  
- Western European case (“la Grande région” joining parts from Germany, France, Luxemburg and Belgian).  
- Western / Eastern cooperation (Germany-Poland)  
- Eastern / outsider (Poland / Ukraine)

12.00 – 13.00  **Lunch break**

13.00 – 15.00  **Session 12: Implications from EU regional / cross border cooperation’s for Mekong development**

A role play during which participants are invited to draw the lessons from the EU regional /local development for the Mekong region. 3 groups are organised and all have in charge the building up of a program by determining: the situations (migrants, economic situation, etc.); the potential partners; the relevant institutions (for joint cooperation); the possible obstacles and chances (SWOT analysis); the most relevant strategy and the priorities and measures to reach strategic targets?  
[Group I: migrations policies; Group II: agricultural policies and rural development; Group III: environmental policies]

15.15 – 15.30  **Break**

15.30 – 17.00  **Session 12a: Lessons drawn.** Each group has 30 mn. for explaining the lessons drawn.

17.00 – 17.30  **Summary of discussion and conclusion**