

ERSCP 2012: Workshop Design Sheet

Title of Workshop *

Resilient Regions

Subtitle

How make regions and companies crisis-proof

Objectives

Using the resilience model to develop instruments for sustainable regional development and compancy

Short Description of Workshop Outline (max. 2000 characters) *

including Relevance and Background

The current global economic crisis has struck different world regions but also Austria's smaller regions and companies. The focus of the ongoing debate on crises in general lies increasingly on strategies of survival and different options for coping with the effects – thus a resilient behaviour concerning crisis phenomena.

Resilience is the ability to withstand, or to mitigate disturbances, or to recover more quickly than others. Research on resilience is genuinely transdisciplinary, it concerns areas from regional development to business strategies.

Inspired by literature and experience gained from regional case stores, ÖAR Regionalberatung put up a steering model for increasing regional resilience and therefore making regions more resistant to crises. The model is transferable to other areas like company strategies.

The workshop starts with a synthetic presentation of the conclusions from a study on regional resilience (2010). This will not exceed 15 minutes. As the study relies on case examples from Vorarlberg it would be interested to get immediate feedback from local insiders in a first round.

Subsequently, the presenter changes his role and becomes facilitator of a structured dialogue on regional resilience following the sequence:

- elaborating on the key features of resilience and translating the identified key features to (a) regional governance, (b) businesses (SMEs)
- what can and what should be done to introduce/strengthen governance for resilience at the level of (a) regional policy making (with two foci: regional governance system and civil society); (b) enterprises.

Expected Outcomes and Results

- shared views on resilience and governance for resilience
- sharpened focus on specific features and indicators for resilience
- enhanced eagerness to cooperate and to integrate the resilience concept into further individual and common activities