



European Week of Regions and Cities Brussels 9 – 12 October 2006

Registrations Report

Results by 13 September in brief

OPEN DAYS 2006 – a “must” for European regional policy experts. Three weeks prior to the event, **2,940 participants have registered** and 80 out of the 114 seminars are already full. 75% of the participants will travel to Brussels from more than 47 countries and statistics show that two groups of professionals dominate: national, regional or local administrations (40%) and academics or consultants (15%); about 21% of the participants come from the new Member States and Italy, the United Kingdom and Poland having the highest registration figures.

Participants’ figures probably more than doubled. Taking into account additional 400 registrations still to be confirmed in the weeks to come, as well as some 1,000 participants for the Opening and Closing sessions for which registration has only recently begun and about 1,500 participants of the 70 decentralised events, **a total of 5,000 - 5,500 participants** can be expected for the OPEN DAYS 2006 as compared to 2,500 in 2005;

Participants find their way through a highly diversified programme. Between 10 and 12 October, on average **a participant will visit four seminars** out of a total of 114 organised under five headings; participants applied for attendance through a web-based registration system which operated 15,244 registrations requests within 12 weeks; two thirds of the registrations were handled by the Conference Secretariat on behalf of the European Commission’s Regional Policy DG while the remainder were taken care of by about 20 different partner organisations.

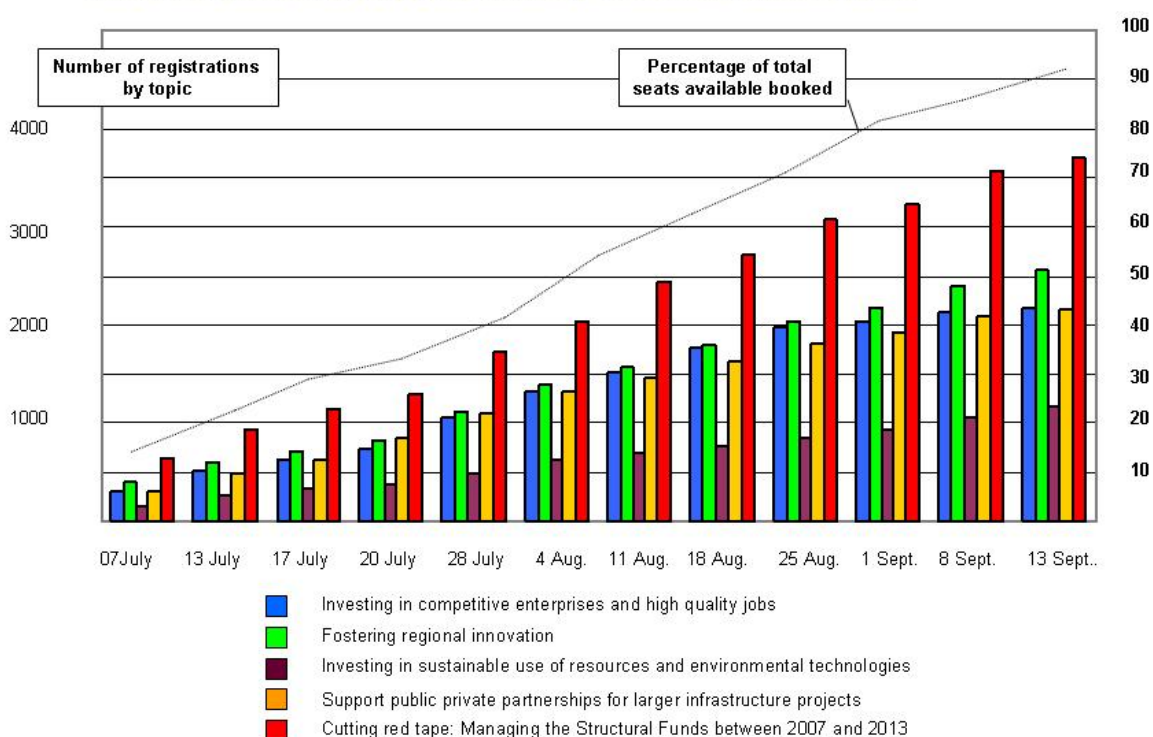
Covering the period between 29 June and 15 September, this report summarises the registrations of participants for 114 seminars and workshops of the OPEN DAYS 2006. The registration process was handled through a web-based system involving all the partner institutions and namely the Conference Secretariat. Not covered by this report are the Opening and Closing Sessions with audiences of respectively 500 and 350. For both sessions, attendance is upon private invitation only and registering can be done between 4 and 19 September only. They will therefore be subject to a special registration report.

Registrations overview

During the period of the report, 15,244 requests for registrations were received, out of which 11,746 were accepted, 2,661 were rejected and 837 were still pending. This means that within a period of just 11 weeks, 89% of the available seats were booked and 80 out of 114 workshops were “sold out”. The graph below shows the development over time by registrations confirmed (divided into the five topics of the event) and percentage of seats booked. It has to be taken into account that the different heights of the columns correspond to different numbers of available seats. Registration levels between them in % vary only slightly – which might confirm the fact of an equally spread level of interest in the subjects. The graph also shows that registration levels rose equally in the order of 1,300 per week in spite of the summer break.

OPEN DAYS 2006 Registrations Report

Number of registrations by topic and percentage of total seats available booked



Participants' profile

A total of 2,940 individual participants were registered which means that on average the typical OPEN DAYS visitor takes part in four workshops. The following characteristics are significant for the 2006 audience:

- **Geographical origin:** 75% of the participants travel to Brussels for the OPEN DAYS from all 25 Member States, the five candidate countries and several third countries. Italy, the United Kingdom and Poland lead the statistics with above 200 participants each, followed by the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and Sweden with about 140 each; about 21% of the participants will be coming from the new Member States;
- **Organisational affiliation:** about 1,170 participants (40%) work for national, regional or local administrations, followed by 434 academics or consultants (15%), 291 (10%) from the NGO sector, 176 (6%) from Brussels regional offices, 156 (5%) from business and banking organisations and about 147 (5%) from EU institutions; the remainder selected "other organisation";
- **Gender:** 42% will be female, 58% male participants.