

CHARTER FOR ESTABLISHING Southeastern Europe Association of Economic Institutes – SEEA

In line with the conclusions made at the kick-off meeting of five economic institutes from Southeastern Europe, held on 8th November 2011 at International Center for Promotion of Enterprises, Ljubljana, Slovenia, a Charter for establishing Southeastern Association of Economic Institutes has been developed.

PREAMBLE

The undersigned representatives of Institute of Economics, Banja Luka, Institute of Economics, Sarajevo; The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Zagreb; The Institute of Economics Skopje; Institute for Economic Research, Ljubljana and Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade

Emphasizing the importance of economic researches in the Southern and Eastern Europe;

Recognizing the need to foster networking and regional cooperation in the field of economic sciences;

Dedicated to the high-level of performance in the field of economic researches, particularly with regard inter-institutional co-operation and integrated programs at a regional level;

Committed to the exchange of know-how and mobility of researchers across borders;

Identifying the need to increase competitiveness and internal capacities;

Welcoming the opportunity to liaison with distinguished European and international institutions, research institutes and international organizations and other networks;

Considering the necessity of promoting co-operation among economic institutes from Southeastern Europe, with the aim of further developing research programmes, taking advantage from sharing their experience as well as educational and scientific resources;

Supporting the proposal to set up an Association of Economic Institutes of Southern and Eastern Europe (hereafter "SEEA") presented kick-off meeting of five economic institutes from Southeastern Europe, held on 8th November 2011 in Ljubljana, Slovenia;

Decide to proclaim this **Charter for establishing Southeastern Europe Association of Economic Institutes** (hereafter "Charter"):

I AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

Article 1 - Aims

The aim of the SEEA is to strengthen cooperation among economic institutes from Southeastern Europe (SEE) and thereby improve their research, academic and administrative performances.

The establishment of SEEA aims to institutionalize networking and regional cooperation within SEE in the field of economic sciences.

SEEA works on the improvement of the connections of the economic institutes from SEE with distinguished academic institutions in Europe and in the world and thereby to increase the international visibility of the members.

Article 2 - Objectives

The SEEA specific objectives are to:

- Promote economic researches in the Southeastern Europe;
- Foster networking and regional cooperation among the member institutes;
- Develop joint research programmes;
- Organize joint scientific conferences, round tables and meetings on national, regional and international level;
- Provide publishing papers in the quality, easy accessible widely recognized publication;
- Increase member institutes competitiveness and capabilities through joint appearance on the various calls for national, regional and international projects;
- Exchange the know-how of the member institutes across border;
- Promote the mobility of the researchers, as well as other resources among the member institutes;
- Increase the international visibility of the member institutes;
- Develop and maintain SEEA website and
- Facilitate the links with counterparts in leading European and regional institutions.

Article 3 – Scope of work

SEEA is the platform for regional cooperation and intensified networking among the member institutes in fields of common interest on the voluntary basis.

II MEMBERSHIP

Article 4 - Membership

SEEA members are: Institute of Economics, Banja Luka, Institute of Economics, Sarajevo; The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Zagreb; Institute of Economic-Skopje; Institute for Economic Research, Ljubljana and Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade.

Article 5 - Criteria for new membership

Other institutes may join SEEA upon decision made by the Steering committee of SEEA. The members should meet the following criteria:

- To be able to substantially contribute to the SEEA in regard to the economic researches;
- To have capacity (time, know-how and staffing) to participate in SEEA.

Article 6 - Guiding principles of the SEEA members

The SEEA shall operate upon guiding principles that should be fully respected by the members, as following:

- Close collaboration among the members in fields of common interest;
- Guaranteed identity, autonomy and independence of each member;
- Equal rights and treatment for all members;
- Transparency and accountability;
- Responsibility and efficiency;
- Promotion of SEA;
- Work with other partners;
- Cooperating with donors, etc.

Article 7 - Types of membership

In order to maintain the quality and the sustainability of the SEEA different types of membership are foreseen.

SEEA will have the following types of membership:

- Regular members;
- Associated members.

The Steering committee shall decide upon the interest to become a member of the SEEA and on membership status of the interested party.

The Steering committee shall decide on inviting members to the SEEA.

Article 8 - Regular members

Regular members are those who have the right to participate in the policy development and the decision making processes within the Steering committee and a full voting right.

The founding institutes, who sign this Charter for establishment of SEEA, are having status of regular members with full voting right, as following: *Bosnia And Herzegovina* - Institute of Economics, Banja Luka, Institute of Economics, Sarajevo; Republic of *Croatia* – *The Institute of Economic, Zagreb, from Zagreb, Republic of Macedonia*-Institute of Economics-Skopje, Skopje; Republic of *Slovenia* - Institute for Economic Research, Ljubljana, Republic of *Serbia*- Institute of Economic Sciences, Belgrade.

Other institutes from Southeastern Europe can become regular members of SEEA, upon unanimous decision of Steering Committee.

Article 9 - Tasks of the regular members

The regular members of SEEA have the following tasks:

- To nominate one representative for the Steering committee;
- To actively cooperate, coordinate and collaborate with the other regular members of SEEA;
- To actively participate in decision-making processes within the Steering committee;
- To appoint one administrative person from institute as a contact and direct liaison person for all administrative and organizational tasks in a communication with the SEEA and
- To promote and facilitate SEEA within their country and abroad, as well on PR documents, web-sites and events.

Article 10 - Associate members

Associate members are those involved in individual programs and activities implemented by SEEA without being a regular member.

Party interested to join certain SEEA running or planned program or activity shall express its interest to the Steering committee, who will unanimously decide upon their interest and might entrust them with a status of associate member.

III STEERING COMMITTEE

Article 11 - The Steering committee

The regular members establish a Steering committee for the purpose of governing SEEA and the Steering committee is the highest and only governing body of SEEA. It gives directions and supervises the implementation of policies related to the SEEA membership, activities, and other important issues.

