

GGI Central & Eastern European Conference in Eisenberg, 18 - 21 June 2009

This year's annual GGI Central & Eastern European Conference has taken place the second time at the Hotel "Das Eisenberg" in Burgenland, the smallest of the Austrian provinces, where Austria, Hungary and Slovenia meet.

The aim of the conference was to promote cooperation among Central and Eastern European countries and with other European countries, and to exchange opinions, visions and experiences.

GGI has brought together for this conference high profile participants from the world of finance, economics and politics in an exchange of experiences and business opportunities, and a discussion of issues of topical interest.



Audience

The lectures, workshops and debates have reflected the current economic, legal and tax issues and conditions prevailing in the countries concerned.

Michael Sarris, former Min-

ister of Finance in Cyprus, and an outstanding expert on monetary issues held an interesting speech on "The World Crisis and its impact on the New Member States of the European Union". GGI Mem-

bers can read the complete article on GGI's website in the Members only section (Downloads).

Several workshops and practice group meetings took place, just to name a few:

GGI members Graham Busch, Lawrence Grant, Chartered Accountants, and Ionut Catalin Zeche, Mirus Advisers S.R.L., chaired a Practice Group Meeting on International tax aspects for Central and Eastern Europe.

Astrid Rechel-Götz, Benefitax GmbH, Steuerberatungsgesellschaft, Wirtschaftsprüfungsgesellschaft, and Elisabeth Heller, Heller Consult Tax and Business Solutions Ltd. Vienna, discussed in their

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François Geinoz

workshop on intercultural communications, how to understand cultural differences and bridge the cultural divide in business. They concluded it is essential for advisors (lawyers, accountants auditors, tax advisors and consultants), to be aware of the cultural mechanics and their impact on business behaviour, along with the intricacies of the



Michael Sarris

more informal contacts which may and certainly should accompany business transactions. The actual financial crisis and its consequences for business strategies was subject of GGI Chairman Claudio Cocca's workshop.

On Saturday Morning Mr. François Geinoz, expert on demographic developments, shared some very interesting



Astrid Rechel Götz, Frédéric Villa, David Rodney

social and economic aspects of population aging in his speech on "From Baby-Boom to Baby-Crash" with the audience.

All presentations, workshop and practice group minutes can be downloaded from GGI's website (Members only section).

Besides the intensive professional exchange of experi-

ences, knowledge, views and visions, delegates enjoyed the culinary delights of the Austrian cuisine and experienced the peaceful natural beauties of Burgenland. During a teambuilding session on Saturday afternoon GGI members could show their hidden talents by activities such as navigating tractors and doing archery.