



NALAS
First Summer School on
Local Governance and
Intergovernmental
Fiscal Relations 2014

14-18 July 2014
Lake Ohrid, Macedonia



**STRENGTHEN
YOUR ROLE WITHIN
NALAS KNOWLEDGE
SYSTEM**

Practical learning
with peers in
international
environment

**BOOST YOUR
ANALYTICAL SKILLS**

Learn from renowned
professors and give new
impulse to your
career path

**MEET THE
RIGHT PEOPLE
& HAVE FUN**

Advance your personal network
by having great time in Ohrid

THIS SUMMER:



This summer NALAS invites you to the beautiful Ohrid Lake for an intensive learning experience in evidence based policy making in fiscal decentralisation. Our summer programme is open to the members NALAS Task Force on Fiscal Decentralisation and other interested experts from the associations of local authorities from South East Europe.

At the school you will learn how to maintain and use large data sets of municipal revenue and expenditure data to conduct sophisticated analyses of your intergovernmental finance systems. We will also discuss with renowned guest speakers and the leadership of your associations how intergovernmental fiscal analysis can be used to engage national governments in concrete discussions of reform.

Renowned guest speakers and instructors, small-group setting, and individual exercises, and incredible nature and cultural heritage of Ohrid will create an exciting environment for learning and exchange.



OVERVIEW:

Dates:

14–18 July 2014

Location:

Ohrid - UNESCO protected city, cultural and touristic centre of Macedonia
(<http://www.ohrid.com.mk/index.asp>)

Questions?

E-mail our Program Officer
Natasha Ilijeva Acevska -
acevska@nalas.eu
or NALAS Office Manager
Katerina Stojanovic
Aleksoska - stojanovik-aleksoska@nalas.eu

Instructors:

Anthony Levitas,
Jan Herczynski

Keynote speakers:

Paul Bernd Spahn,
Abdylmenaf Bexheti,
Guinka Chavdarova,
Kelmend Zajazi

Accommodation:

Beautiful beachside hotel "Inex Gorica", Lake Ohrid, Macedonia, at just 30 minutes walk to Ohrid Old Town (<http://www.inexgorica.com.mk/index.php/en/>)



Tuition:

NALAS offers the Summer School participation free of tuition for the members of its Task Force on Fiscal Decentralisation and NALAS Liaison Officers and will as well reimburse the travel costs related to the participation. The regular tuition for all other participants is 1000 EUR, payable by bank transfer upon registration. The tuition covers the costs of training, accommodation, all meals, sightseeing and a personal computer for training purposes



Certificates:

All participants who will successfully complete the Summer School Programme will be awarded Certificates of Participation and recommendations for further professional engagement using the acquired skills



Preparations before the Summer School:

to prepare the training sessions and make effective use of the available time participants should send the required materials beforehand



Support:

NALAS can support the members of the NALAS Task Force on Fiscal Decentralisation with up to 200 EUR of co-financing, in case any of them needs a preparatory training in Microsoft Excel skills (operation with Pivot tables)



STRUCTURE AND TOPICS:

The first two days will be devoted to training on how to organize, maintain, and conduct basic analyses of line-item municipal revenue data. Here, the training will focus on analyzing the forces behind disparities in the per capita revenues of local governments and what these disparities tell us about the adequacy and equity of a country's intergovernmental finance system. The third day of the Summer School will be devoted to a wider discussion of the policy uses of these sorts of analyses with the political leadership of the Associations. The following topics will be discussed in detail:

- What it Takes to “Make the Case”? Policy, Politics, and Local Government Financial Data
- Apples, Oranges and Lemons: The Logic and Inconsistencies of Budget Classification Schemes
- Comparing Apples to Apples: Harmonizing Problematic Categories for International Comparison



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- Finding What You Need to Know: Ordering, Verifying, and Sorting Large Sets of Budgetary and Statistical Data
 - Grouping and Ungrouping Local Governments by Revenue and Investment
 - Calculating Indicators of Municipal Financial Performance: Pivot Tables as a Number Crunching Tool
 - Capitals and Quartiles: An Introduction to the Distributional Analysis of Local Government Revenues and Expenditures
 - Framing the Problem and Formulating Policy Options for Fiscal Equalization
 - Reading Municipal Budgets for Gender Bias: What do Expenditure Patterns tell us about the Gender politics?
 - The Dilemmas of Fiscal Equalization as Policy and Politics
 - Overview of the Fiscal Equalization Systems of the Region
 - Fiscal Equalization as a Policy and Political Challenge for Municipal Associations
 - How data-sets and analysis can contribute to achieving an internal consensus between the various types of municipalities in the association?



INSTRUCTORS



The 2014 Summer School instructors are Dr. Jan Herczynski and Mr. Tony Levitas. Dr. Herczynski is a mathematician by training who for the better part of the last twenty years has worked with or within the Polish Ministry of Education on all aspects school finance and management. Over the last decade, he has also worked on local government reform and education decentralization throughout the post-communist world and is deeply familiar with the information management systems used to organize and maintain public

sector statistics and financial data in most of the countries in the region. Tony Levitas is a Senior Research Fellow at Brown University's Watson Center for International Studies and the lead advisor to NALAS' Task Force on Fiscal Decentralization. Over the last 15 years he has worked on intergovernmental finance reform with virtually all of NALAS' member associations. For many years, both lectured at the Open Society Institute's Summer School on Intergovernmental Finance at the Central European University in Budapest.

HEADLINE SPEAKERS:*

MR. PAUL BERND SPAHN, professor emeritus of Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. After retirement in 2005 he served as Macro Fiscal Advisor to the Minister of Finance and Treasury of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and became the founding Executive Director of the House of Finance in Frankfurt.

MR. ABDYLMENAF BEXHETI, Former Minister of Finance of Macedonia, Professor and Vice-rector of South East European University in Tetovo, Macedonia

MRS. GUINKA CHAVDAROVA, Executive Director of the National Association of Municipalities of the Republic of Bulgaria

MR. KELMEND ZAJAZI, Executive Director of NALAS

*invited



PREPARATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION



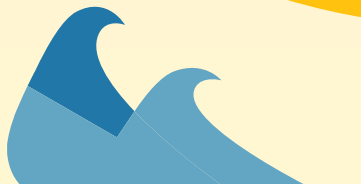
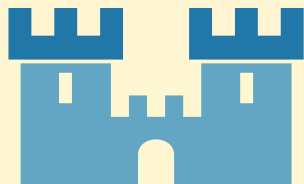
In order to prepare the training sessions and make effective use of the limited time available participants should send the following materials (where available) to the instructors by 20 June 2014.

- 1.** A copy of the budget classification scheme that public sector institutions are required to use in accounting for their revenues and expenditures.
- 2.** An excel file containing the line item revenues of all local governments in the form that the Association generally receives from its respective Ministry of Finance. Ideally, this file will contain 2013 data. But if 2013 data is not yet available 2012 data will be fine because it will allow to understand what that how the Ministries organize and aggregate the raw information they receive from the Treasury. Associations that cannot get this data should inform in advance. But they
- 3.** An excel file with population numbers of all local governments according to the national statistical office.
- 4.** The formulas used to allocate general grant and equalization monies in your system.
- 5.** The standard data collection form that NALAS has thus far been using for the Annual Report on Fiscal Decentralization Indicators filled in with 2013 data. (We will provide you with “clean” versions of the excel form that includes all the data, tables and graphs that were used for 2012).



CULTURAL PROGRAMME AND SIGHTSEEING

Ohrid is a touristic and cultural centre of Macedonia. Sightseeing will be organized each day including sailing across Lake Ohrid to the monastery of St. Naum, the Ancient Theater in Ohrid, open air classic music concert in the XI century church of St. Sofia, dinners in the city, etc.



APPLICATION

Applications by the members of the NALAS Task Force on Fiscal Decentralisation are accepted by 15 June 2014, by sending a confirmation e-mail to NALAS Program Officer Natasha Ilijeva Acevska (acevska@nalas.eu). All preparatory materials need to be submitted latest by 15 June 2014.

Applications by NALAS Liaison Officers are accepted by 01 July 2014 by sending a confirmation e-mail to NALAS Program Officer Natasha Ilijeva Acevska (acevska@nalas.eu).

Applications by other participants are accepted by 15 June 2014 by sending a confirmation e-mail to NALAS Program Officer Natasha Ilijeva Acevska (acevska@nalas.eu), including Curriculum Vitae, Letter of Interest and Identity photo.





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**LOOKING
FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU
IN OHRID
THIS SUMMER!**