



Europa eine Seele geben  
A Soul for Europe  
Une âme pour l'Europe

# Press Release

## Cities and Regions

**International workshop organized by the Institute of Advanced Study in the Humanities in Essen, the civic initiative "A Soul for Europe" and the RUHR.2010 to be held in Essen on 1 and 2 October 2007**

Practitioners from Europe's cities and regions will engage in discussions with scientists and academics on the cultural competence of the cities and regions and the specific responsibility they share for Europe.

The discussion topic is as simple as it is momentous. Like the Germans' insistence that "culture is the responsibility of the federal states", efforts are made at European level to strictly ensure that the EU's institutions respect the member states' competence in cultural matters. But who, then, takes care of Europe's cultural interests, in so far as they extend beyond the respective national horizons? Who exploits the opportunities offered by European culture's vast diversity and power? Who defines the tasks arising from these opportunities and who turns them into responsible, practical policy, i.e. European policy?

Answers to these questions should be sought where European culture is actually created and practised: in Europe's cities and regions. The main goal should be to develop practical rather than just theoretical responses. In this endeavour, the Berlin-based civil-society initiative "A Soul for Europe" has been joined by the Institute of Advanced Study in the Humanities in Essen and the RUHR.2010, organizer of the 2010 Cultural Capital of Europe programme for the Ruhr district.

The aim of the workshop in Essen is to produce guidelines describing what role those responsible for cultural policy-making and funding in the cities and regions play in terms of European policy and formulating practical responses based on this. These guidelines should be available by the end of 2008. The initiative "A Soul for Europe", together with the Institute of Advanced Study in the Humanities in Essen and the RUHR.2010, intends to distribute these guidelines in Europe's cities and regions by 2010 and draw the attention of cultural players and decision-makers to its recommendations. Lending political credence to the guidelines at EU level is the active involvement of the Berlin-based initiative's Steering Committee, which is chaired by European Parliament President Professor Pötering (CDU) and counts among its members such prominent MEPs as Jo Leinen (SPD), Hannes Swoboda (SPÖ), Helga Trüpel (Alliance 90/The Greens) and Elmar Brok (CDU).

**Speakers: Dr. Volker Hassemer** ("A Soul for Europe", Berlin), **Andreas Müller** (City of Essen), **Dr. Serhan Ada** (santral istanbul), **Hans Metzmakers** (City of Den Haag), **Prof. Dr. Hans-Heinrich Blotevogel** (University of Dortmund), **PD Dr. Thomas Loer** (University of Dortmund),

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**Organizers:** the Institute of Advanced Study in the Humanities (Essen); the initiative "A Soul for Europe" (Berlin); RUHR.2010 GmbH

**Venue:** Welcome Hotel, Schützenbahn 58, 45127 Essen, Germany

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