

## **JVI Seminar: Foreign Direct Investment Policies**

Seminar organized by **The Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies** (wiiw) on behalf of the **Austrian Authorities** – Austrian Ministry of Finance and Oesterreichische Nationalbank (Austria's central bank) – at the **Joint Vienna Institute** (JVI), **Vienna, 15 to 19 October 2007**.

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Coordinator: Ms. Magdalena Höllhuber, wiiw (e-mail: [hoellhuber@wiiw.ac.at](mailto:hoellhuber@wiiw.ac.at))

### **Application**

There is no special application form. Please send your curriculum vitae and a letter of interest to the coordinator, Ms. Magdalena Höllhuber, via e-mail. Deadline for application: 17 August 2007.

### **Outline**

It has become general wisdom that foreign direct investment contributes positively to economic growth and efficiency in transformation countries. Still, many governments find it difficult to put this message in the focus of their economic policy. They are not always able to provide investors with a stable and attractive environment.

The seminar focuses on the benefits and problems related to foreign direct investment policy. Austrian and other countries' experience and policy options are discussed in the framework of globalization and European integration. Technical knowledge related to foreign direct investment promotion and location policy is delivered through country, regional and case studies.

### **Structure**

The seminar is structured in ten half-day blocks of about three hours each. The lectures are held by experts on the respective topics. One third of the time is devoted to case studies of Austrian companies or institutions. Further case studies and country experience is to be brought in by the participants.

### **Target group**

The seminar addresses the following countries: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine, as well as Kosovo-UNMIK.

Advanced language skills of the participants in spoken and written English are expected.

The participants should be on the level of decision-makers involved in foreign direct investment policy, familiar with general investment promotion policy and/or touch upon the relation with foreign investors.

## **Costs**

The costs of participation (accommodation and daily allowance) are borne by the Austrian Authorities. The travel costs to and from Vienna are borne by the Joint Vienna Institute, up to the limits indicated in Table 1 below.

## **Preparation**

Participants will receive some papers in advance for preparatory reading. These are representative of the theoretical foundations of the course.

Participants are asked to take with them a concise presentation of their own country's FDI and/or privatization policy objectives and instruments, as well as some case studies. This knowledge will be confronted with new ideas learned during the course and presented during the seminar.

## **Programme:**

### **1 Definition and determinants of FDI**

We analyse firm-specific and country advantages as joint determinants of FDI as well as the role of local competition.

### **2 FDI in the transformation process**

Special attention is paid to the impact of FDI on restructuring and growth. FDI policies in transition countries will be examined.

### **3 FDI policies**

The session deals with the motivation of foreign investors, of host country governments and firms in privatization. We discuss privatization policies to attract FDI, in particular the privatization of utilities to foreign owners.

### **4 Austria**

The session focuses on Austria's development and its determinants, as well as the lessons to be drawn from inward and outward FDI.

### **5 Case studies include:**

'The investment decision process and its application for transition countries', by the Soravia Group Austria;

'Investment policy and promotion in Austria', presentations of the activities of the Austrian Business Agency (ABA), Eco Plus.