



# Commission on Geography of Governance

NEWSLETTER  
Autumn/Winter  
2014

## CONTENT

- INTRODUCTION
- SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETINGS DURING SUMMER 2014 IN POLAND
- COMMISSION 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LISBON
- IGU 2015 REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW
- FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES IN 2016
- LATEST BOOK PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION MEMBERS

## INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,  
in this newsletter are summarized our 2014 summer activities in Poland. We can consider both events – conference in Poznan, as well as our sessions within IGU RC in Krakow as successful. Second part of the newsletter comprises information for two main events under preparation in year 2015.

Due to the fact that for decades geographers from Poznan significantly contributed to the Commission activities, we were very pleased to have our annual meeting at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan. Our colleagues, Professor Tadeusz Strykiewicz, Professor Tomasz Kaczmarek and Dr. Lukasz Mikula prepared well-balanced programme, which combined interesting sessions, shorter and longer excursions, as well as exhibitions. We felt very honoured by the possibility to have first day sessions in historical City of Poznan Town Hall. Intensive co-operation between geographers and city government documented also opening address delivered by vice-mayor of City of Poznan Mr. Tomasz Jerzy Kayser. Conference participants also enjoyed sessions in new buildings in Marasko campus. This conference benefitted from smaller scale, plenty time for discussions, many joint activities that offered unique opportunities for personal debates and sharing of experiences.

In Krakow, we were hosted by Polish geographers and by one of the oldest university in Europe. This had been really big event with about 1500 participants. We could admire old university buildings in city centre (including very interesting exhibition presenting the development of geography and geographical thinking in Poland), new university auditorium, as well as new campus style buildings outside city centre. Maybe I can emphasize high status that Regional Conference had. It confirmed prestige of Polish geography within the society. We were very pleased that special address on behalf of the honorary patron of the conference - the President of the Republic of Poland, Bronisław Komorowski - had been delivered by Professor Pawel Swianiewicz, known for many of the Commission members by his frequent participation in our Commission meetings (also working as an advisor of the



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NEWSLETTER  
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President of the Republic of Poland). Our Commission hold three well attended sessions, with very good discussions. Selected contributions presented during Poznan and Krakow meetings will be published in special issue of journal *Quaestiones Geographicae*.

As you are already know, we are planning two events also for the next year 2015. We try to satisfy those that prefer more focused, smaller, more affordable events, as well as those that plan participation on bigger and more diverse IGU Regional Conference in Moscow. Annual conference in Lisbon is scheduled for April and the process of sending abstracts is close to deadline. Registration and abstracts submission to Moscow will culminate in January. Our intention is to have well attended meetings with various topics covered and with high scientific standard of contributions.

With best wishes

Ján Buček,  
December 2014, Bratislava, Slovakia

## **SUMMARY OF COMMISSION MEETINGS DURING SUMMER 2014 IN POLAND**

### ***COMMISSION 2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN POZNAN (POLAND)***

All those that participated at the Annual Commission conference "***New challenges in local, metropolitan and regional governance***" in Poznan, were very satisfied. We were hosted by our colleagues from Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, in co-operation with Metropolitan Research Center, both at Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznan (Poland). The conference had been organized under the auspices of the Mayor of City of Poznan. We experienced wonderful mixture of very good scientific atmosphere, hospitality, reasonable scale of participation, as well as interesting excursions. Although planned as pre-conference to IGU RC in Krakow, majority of participants did not continue to participate in Krakow.

During the conference we could debate set of interesting issues related to current spatial social and economic development and governance. We could observe rising attention to issues of participation in public policies, or changes in various public services delivery. It also concerned application of various technological support aimed to enhance citizens participation. Of course, governance has been strongly influenced by financial crisis and various processes related to public finance consolidation in many countries. Rising attention of geographers attract changes in processes of strategic planning, in which their ability to integrate diverse aspects of life in spatial dimension is very useful. Current shift in favour of collaborative strategic planning seems very close to concept of governance. We also could debate more cases of search for suitable governance model integrating cities and their hinterland.

On behalf of the Commission, I would like to express our great thanks for preparation of this successful scientific event especially to the main organizers - Professor Tadeusz Stryjakiewicz, Professor Tomasz Kaczmarek and Dr. Lukasz Mikula. Thanks also Professor Peter Nijkamp for being inspiring keynote speaker. Nevertheless, we are grateful to many other colleagues that were involved directly or indirectly in conference preparation. We will remember, for example, wonderful excursion guides, or young artist that accompanied us with live music. We stayed only for a few days, but we could observe really quickly changing city and its region.

List of presented papers:

Peter Nijkamp (Netherlands) - *From conventional to modern regional policy: a stakeholder approach*

Ján Buček (Slovakia) - *Central-local relations in times of fiscal consolidation*

Tadeusz Stryjakiewicz, Emilia Jaroszevska (Poland) - *The process of shrinkage as a challenge for urban governance*

Petr Sramek (Czech Republic) - *The impact of financial crisis on public governance: Are the developing countries taking the Chinese path?*

Péter Balogh (Hungary) - *The formation, reproduction, and persistence of spatial social and economic polarisation in East Central Europe*

Marzena Walaszek, Edyta Bąkowska (Poland) - *From public monopoly to outsourcing model in the organization of local education in Poland*

Ángel Iglesias (Spain) - *Democratic renewal and governance in local government through strategic planning*

Veronika Klečková, Radim Perlín (Czech Republic) - *Process of creating the strategic urban plan as a key factor of its successful realization: building stakeholder partnership*

Tomasz Kaczmarek, Michał Wójcicki (Poland) - *"Who is who" of public participation in urban planning. The example of Poznań*

Marek Młodkowski, Dariusz Walczak (Poland) - *Usability of Internet mapping and discussion tools for public participation in urban land use planning*

Christophe Breuer (Belgium) - *Metropolitan governance of European medium-size cities. Linking cities trajectories and mode of governance*

Petr Rumpel (Czech Republic) - *From low road to high road? Changing urban governance of metropolitan region of Ostrava*

Marta Lackowska, Łukasz Mikula (Poland) - *Whose right to metropolitan region? Citizenship in Polish city-regions*

Eran Razin (Israel) - *Inter-municipal cooperation in the development of industrial parks and tax redistribution: the road to hell is paved with good intentions*

Jan Binek, Zdeněk Opravil, Roman Chmelař (Czech Republic) - *Cooperation and mutual relationships of cities and their hinterland with regard to functioning of the EU integrated development instruments*

Jacek Nowak (Poland) - *How to build effective partnerships between local governments? Polish practice on the background of foreign experience.*



*Conference participants group photo in front of Collegium Geographicum in Poznan*

#### **Conference details:**

IGU Commission on Geography of Governance 2014 Annual Conference

„NEW CHALLENGES IN LOCAL, METROPOLITAN AND REGIONAL GOVERNANCE“

Date and Place: 14-16 August 2013, Poznan (Poland)

Hosted by: Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań (Poland)

#### **2014 IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN KRAKOW**

Our Commission also organised sessions within the main programme of IGU Regional Conference in Krakow, Poland. They were organized under one overarching topic - **“Geography, governance and citizens’ participation”**. Despite initial higher interest, finally we had three sessions within the main programme of the conference. It represented more than 20 authors from 10 countries. Our sessions were well visited, usually with audience about 20-30 people. Presented contributions motivated to fruitful discussions. It seems that issue of participation and role of stakeholders still needs long term research in various geographical settings. We also have to pay attention to reasonable balance of traditional “numerical democracy” (elections, referenda) and various kind of participation. Nevertheless, despite discussion, more participatory and collaborative approaches are penetrating into tradition fields of government and are changing it into governance, although it is not any easy, short and straightforward process. As an important field of research we can consider environmental governance.

From the Commission point of view, I would like to express our great thanks to organizers for excellent services we obtained before the conference and during our sessions as well. They developed large effort to satisfy our needs. I would like also to say thank for all those participating in our sessions as presenter or as discussants.

List of contributions to our Commission sessions:

Bermann Tal, Schnell Izhak (Israel) - *Comparison between the respective capabilities of unilateral and collaborative methods of public participation to uncover local knowledge and incorporate it into planning deliverables*

Bierzyński Adam (Poland) - *Approaches in governing emerging urban diversities: the experiences of four post-socialist cities (Leipzig, Warsaw, Budapest and Tallinn)*

Borowczak Anna (Poland) - *Evaluation of Regional Operational Programs - conclusions from micro-scaled analyses*

Breuer Christophe (Belgium) - *Metropolitan governance rescaling in Belgium, France and United Kingdom. Studying boundaries of urban governments through the application of an analytical framework for institutional changes*

Buček Ján (Slovakia) - *Contradictions, pressures and intergovernmental relations in Bratislava metropolitan governance*

Chuang His-Ju (Taiwan) - *The power of academia: scholars as actors in culture revival*

Czapiewski Konrad, Janc Krzysztof, Konopski Michal (Poland) - *Educational and professional structure of local self-government leaders: spatial and time analysis*

Elsmann Dominik, Fromhold-Eisebith Martina (Germany) - *Using citizens participation for rail revitalization: Comparing two regional governance settings in Europe*

Gonzalez Maricel (Spain) - *Contribution to governance, analysis of the citizens response to the milestone of the economic crisis: A case study of Barcelona*

Holifield, Ryan, Williams Kathleen, McCoy Caitie (USA) - *Geographic dimensions of stakeholder participation in environmental governance: Remedial plans at Great Lakes Areas of concern*

Huei-Chung Hsiao (Taiwan) - *Resilience building and the politics of natural resources: a case study of forest land management in Taiwan*

Kebłowski Wojciech, Van Criekingen Mathieu (Belgium) - *How "alternative" alternative urban policies really are? Looking at mobility of participatory budgeting in Poland through the lens of the right to the city*

Kivela Satu (Finland) - *Governing state space through public health care: from social government to advanced neoliberalism*

Kostelecký Tomáš (Czechia) - *Is electoral participation no longer important? Cultural, economic and geographical factors influencing electoral participation in the Czech Republic*

Kubiak Susanne (Germany) - *Participation as Local Integration Engine? - Actors in German Local Integration Concepts between Network Governance and Governmentality*

Summary:

2014 IGU Regional Conference "Changes, challenges, responsibility"

Date: 18–22 August 2014

Organised by: Polish Geographical Society, in co-operation with Polish universities

Conference Venue: Jagiellonian University, Krakow



## COMMISSION ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LISBON

The 2015 Annual Conference of the IGU Commission on 'Geography of Governance' will be held in **Lisbon, Portugal, 9-10 April 2015**. The conference main title is:

### "Local Government and Urban Governance: Citizen Responsive Innovation in Europe and Africa"

In this case we decided to pay attention more explicitly also to issues of government and governance in Africa, until now less covered within the Commission. Nevertheless, we welcome proposals for papers on any aspect of the broad area of local /urban governance, but would particularly encourage papers on three main themes:

- Theme 1 - *Local Government and Urban Governance in Europe: the impact of austerity, recent reforms and the role of local government in an 'EU Urban Agenda'*
- Theme 2 - *Local Government and Urban Governance in Africa: democratic decentralization, good governance and the role of local government in the 'Post-2015 Agenda'*
- Theme 3 – *The use of ICT to expand the role of citizens in Urban Governance: national cases and international comparisons.*

The conference is organized by our Steering Committee member Professor Carlos Nunes Silva, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal. The venue of the conference will be easy accessible buildings of the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning - University of Lisbon (University Campus - metro station "Cidade Universitária" - metro "Yellow line").

Our meetings in Lisbon already have nice tradition (1998, 2003, 2012). We always had enjoyed very good organization, extensive participation and very inspiring discussions. Short **abstract (250-300 words) and brief biographic note (100 words) is expected until December 15, 2014**. Among expected conference outcomes we would like publish a book and/or special journal issue (in peer reviewed journal) based on selected papers presented during the conference. This point we will discuss during the conference. As usual, we strongly encourage participation of young scholars and participants representing other neighbouring disciplines that frequently visit our meetings.

The conference is planned as scientific event affordable and efficient for participants. The conference fee is EUR 100. You can find various kinds of accommodation for good price in Lisbon. We believe that conference participation is possible at very reasonable costs. We also plan to organize conference sessions in very rationale time framework. For more details please visit conference web.



# Commission on Geography of Governance

NEWSLETTER  
Autumn/Winter  
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## Summary:

2014 IGU CGOG Annual Conference 2015 "*Local Government and Urban Governance: Citizen Responsive Innovation in Europe and Africa*"

Date: 9-10 April 2015

Organised by: Professor Carlos Nunes Silva, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal

e-mail (abstracts and short bio): [locgovgeo@gmail.com](mailto:locgovgeo@gmail.com)

Conference Venue: Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon

Web: <https://sites.google.com/site/locgovgeo2015/home>

(more details you can also find in enclosed conference flyer)

## IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW

As it was already announced, we will have sessions within IGU 2015 Regional Conference, which will be held in Moscow. This event will be organized by Russian Geographical Society, Russian Academy of Science and Lomonosov Moscow State University - Faculty of Geography. The venue is very interesting and symbolic - the main campus of Moscow State University, well-known monumental tower building situated in a park above the Moscow River.

The conference main theme is **"Geography, Culture and Society for Our Future Earth"** and will be held from 17 to 21 August, 2015.

Conference registration is already open. To register, it is necessary to create a personal account in the online registration system. There are different fees announced, depending on time of registration. Early registration is valid from 1 November 2014 to 10 April 2015, standard registration is applicable since 11 April 2015 to 10 June 2015. Please be aware that participants in the oral and poster presentations during the commission sessions, general sessions and joint sessions must complete their registration and payment up to 31 January 2015. Early registration fees are 399 USD, or 199 USD for students.

We are organizing three session streams focusing on widely debated issues related to our Commission profile:

- 1. Governance between theory and praxis – multilevel and network governance in spatial perspective**
- 2. Governance, government and development in rural and peripheral areas**
- 3. Development, spatial planning and governance.**

We suppose that it will offer suitable framework for participants working on various aspects on intersection of governance and geography. Our intention is to initiate nice sharing of knowledge and discussion in theoretical, as well as more applied aspects of governance.



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*Please remember following deadlines:*

**31 January 2015** - Deadline for submitting abstracts for papers and posters

**01 March 2015** - Notification of the results of the abstract review

**20 March 2015** - Publication of the provisional conference program

*Basic details:*

2015 IGU Regional Conference - ***“Geography, Culture and Society for Our Future Earth”***

Date: 17-21 August, 2015

Organised by: Russian Geographical Society, Russian Academy of Science and Lomonosov Moscow State University - Faculty of Geography

Conference Venue: Lomonosov Moscow State University

e-mail: info@igu2015.ru

website: www.igu2015.ru

## **FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN 2016**

For your long-term planning, we indicate our intention to have sessions in 2016 IGU Congress in Beijing. It is already clear that 33rd International Geographical Congress of the IGU will be held from 21 until 25 August, 2016 in Beijing, at the China National Convention Center (within Beijing Olympic Green). The main theme of the 2016 Congress is ***“Shaping Our Harmonious Worlds”***. You can already download first circular, which is available at IGC 2016 web page. Congress fees are expected at about 400-500 USD. We will provide more information in next newsletters.

*Basic details:*

33rd International Geographical Congress of the IGU

Main theme: ***“Shaping Our Harmonious Worlds”***

Date: 21-25 August, 2016

Organised by: Geographical Society of China

Venue: China National Convention Center

e-mail: IGC2016@igsnr.ac.cn

website: <http://igc2016.csp.escience.cn/dct/page/1>

## **LATEST BOOK PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Silva, C. N., Buček, J. Eds. 2014. ***Fiscal Austerity and Innovation in Local Governance in Europe***. Publisher: Ashgate. 206 pages, ISBN 978-1-4724-3243-8.

*The direct link to the book's page on Ashgate website is:*

<http://www.ashgate.com/isbn/9781472432438>.

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