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INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,

It seems that last few months have been a very active period in the work of our commission. Within less than a year (October 2011 to August 2012) we have had three major meetings (Kathmandu, Lisbon, Cologne) focusing on very challenging issues and with very good participation.

Our 2012 annual conference held in Lisbon was very successful. Attendance was very good (after the review process, we had more than 40 contributions) and there was representation from 26 countries, creating a very international atmosphere. This places it among the most successful Commission conferences organised within recent years. The conference topics were reflected in many interesting and innovative contributions, leading to a fruitful exchange of experiences and approaches from across the world. The conference was enriched by participants representing neighbouring disciplines, including political science, law, and planning. There was also a large number of participating PhD students, a trend we would like to sustain. On behalf of the Steering Committee I would like to express our gratitude to Professor Carlos Nunes Silva and his colleagues for the perfect organisation of this event. They did a wonderful job, and confirmed Lisbon as one of the long term cores of our Commission activities. Participants also enjoyed the conference dinner in the unique environment of Cervejaria Trindade, located in old former monastery with spectacular artworks on the walls. Selected photos taken during the conference are available on the Commission web page. We will be working further to complete outcomes of this conference in a form of journal articles and book.



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Our next event are sessions organised during 2012 IGC in Cologne. We will present our papers within the main programme of the congress in three sessions. Thanks to high number of submitted presentations (44), our Commission sessions will span more days than in the past. Each congress also serves as a milestone for the Commission. The Cologne IGC will allow us to summarise our previous activities, and the Steering Committee will be developing more detailed plans for the next inter-congresses period to 2016. We will be very pleased to receive your comments and proposals to improve and expand our activities. This includes proposals focusing on meetings, our publishing activities, and initiatives concerning research and education activities close to the Commission profile.

With best wishes

Ján Buček

COMMISSION 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN LISBON, PORTUGAL

The 2012 Annual Conference of the IGU Commission on the Geography of Governance "New Challenges for Local Governance" held in the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, in 2012 April 12 - 13, addressed five main issues: the economic crisis and local government finance; local and regional government reforms; local public services provision; urban policies and sustainable development; and citizen e-participation.

In total, the conference had 51 registered participants from 26 countries (Brazil, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, The Netherlands, Turkey, United Kingdom, and USA), and 44 papers, distributed by 10 thematic panels. Each panel was chaired by one of the participants and included also discussants responsible for introductory comments and for raising questions for the debate.

The conference was organized by Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon), member of the IGU Commission on the Geography of Governance, and was supported, during the two days of the conference, by students from the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning - Catarina Nunes, Diana Lopes, Marta Cuna, Pedro Quintela, Nuno Bento and Carlos Santos, as well as the support of the administrative department of the Institute.

The final programme, abstracts and the presentations can be downloaded from the website of the conference [<https://sites.google.com/site/nc4lglisbon2012/home>]. Plans for the publication of full papers are being developed.



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Conference basic information in brief:

Title: "New Challenges for Local Governance"

Date: April 12-13, 2012

Location: Lisbon, Portugal (University Campus)

Local organizer:

Professor Carlos Nunes Silva

Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning

University of Lisbon, Lisbon, PORTUGAL,

e-mail: cs@campus.ul.pt

Conference web page: <https://sites.google.com/site/nc4lglisbon2012/>

List of participants and presented papers:

Giovanni Allegretti, Francisco Freitas and Nélon Dias (University of Coimbra, Portugal) - *Bridging the gap: improving local governance with participatory budgeting and e-Participation.*

Ciprian Alupului (University of Iasi, Romania) - *Territorial governance in time of crisis: the emergence of partnerships at local level in Romania.*

Hans Thor Andersen (Danish Building Research Institute, Denmark) - *Local strategic politics.*

Harald Baldersheim (University of Oslo, Norway) - *Internet voting in local elections – the experiences of Norway 2011.*

Boris Bakota (Josip Juraj Strossmayer University, Croatia) - *Possible changes to current administrative structure of the republic of Croatia.*

Arturo di Bella (University of Catania, Italy) - *Digital Citizenry in Italian Southern City.*

Anja Brauckmann (ILS - Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development, Germany) - *Regional Effects of Urban Development Projects – a fiscal approach*

Ján Buček and Andrej Sopkuliak (Comenius University, Slovakia) - *Local self-government finance in Slovakia under the pressure of economic and debt crisis in 2008-2011*

Milan Bufon (University of Primorska, Slovenia) - *The role of local governance in strengthening cross-border cooperation.*

Lauren Bulka (Virginia Polytechnic and State University, USA) - *Impacts of Inter-Municipality Cooperation on Small City Regeneration. Case Study: Clarksburg, West Virginia*



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Michał Czepkiewicz (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland) - *A framework for incorporating Web-based Public Participation GIS into Polish spatial planning practice.*

Lukasz Damurski (Wroclaw University of Technology, Poland) - *E-participation in planning: can the East of Europe catch up with the West?*

Kamil Demirham, M. Kemal Oktem and Haydar Demirhan (Hacettepe University, Turkey) - *E-participation in Turkey: a case study of higher education students.*

Kevin C. Desouza and Akshay Bhagwatwar (Virginia Tech & Indiana University, USA) - *Citizen Apps and Urban Governance: Understanding the Landscape of Apps and their Impacts.*

Andrea D'Urso and Fabio Famoso (University of Catania, Italy) - *A proposal project of public spaces regeneration in Catania through a Web based PPGIS.*

António Manuel Figueiredo (University of Porto, Portugal) - *The double crisis of Portuguese economy and the "tongs effect" on local governance.*

Ryan Gibson and Kelly Vodden (Department of Geography, Memorial University, St John's, Canada) - *Governance, Regionalization, and Inter-Municipal Collaboration: Canadian Experiences in Peripheral Regions of Newfoundland.*

Zoltán Hajdú (Centre for Regional Studies of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary) - *The Redistribution of Local and Regional Administrative Competences in the post-2010 Hungarian Public Administration Reform Efforts.*

Thorsten Heimann & Nicole Mahlkow (IRS- Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning, Germany) - *The social construction of new challenges in local governance: Climate Change.*

Reijer P. Hendrikse (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands) - *Commonalities & Differences in the Financialization of Local Government in Europe: Observations from 'Golden City' Pforzheim (Germany) and 'Rebel City' Cork (Ireland).*

Stefan Höffken and Bernd Streich (University of Kaiserslautern, Germany) - *Collaborative monitoring of derelict land – mobile devices for a participative data management.*

Rassem Khamasi (University of Haifa, Israel) - *Controlling and Management of Urban Sprawl lead a formation of Distorted Urbanized Region: Jerusalem area.*

Ilona Pálné Kovács (Research Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary) - *The ever weakness of the meso in Hungary: reform capacity as a problem.*



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Jüri Kõre (Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Tartu, Estonia) - *Using of Internet-based info channels and e-services by disabled people. The improvement of the system of services in conditions of economic crisis.*

Marta Lackowska-Madurowicz (University of Warsaw, Poland) - *Polish cities face the EU money – urban financial rescaling or game played by national and regional rules.*

Mihály Lados (Institute of Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Science West Hungarian Department, Hungary) - *Global financial crisis – local response on public debt: the case of Hungary and comparison of CEE countries.*

Marie Mahon, Maura Farrell & John McDonagh (National University of Ireland, Ireland) - *Government and local governance arrangements to support sustainable rural and regional development in a globalizing era.*

Teresa Marat-Mendes (ISCTE, Portugal) - *From Local Governance to a Global Sustainable Common Future.*

Blanka Markova and Iva Tichá (University of Ostrava, Czech Republic) - *The Impact of Economic Crisis on the Social Policy of the Ostrava City.*

Titiana-Petra Moldovan (University of Turku, Finland) - *New Participatory Design for Urban Planning*

Sylvie Occelli (Istituto de Ricerche Economico Sociali del Piemonte, Italy) - *Designing socio technical systems for policy activity: some evidence from the Piedmont Region.*

Renato Lima de Oliveira (MIT-Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA) - *Do oil windfalls affect government transparency? Evidence from Brazil*

Elson Pires and Lucas Labigalini Fuini (Universidade Estadual Paulista, Brasil) - *The new modalities of territorial governance in Brazil.*

Brid Quinn (University of Limerick, Ireland) - *Adjusting to austerity or generating growth? Local government reform in times of crisis.*

Mario Reimer and Karsten Rusche (ILS-Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development, Germany) - *Strategic Region Building in Times of Financial Crisis: Opportunities and Threats*

Anastasia Rokashevich & Alexandra Tarasenko (Academy of Public Administration, Russia) - *The impact of the Economic and Financial Crisis on Local Governance.*



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Álvaro Román, Jonathan R. Barton & Alejandro Salazar (Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile) - *Political spaces of fragmented spaces: power asymmetries and divergent narratives in glocal industries in Chile.*

Marco Santangelo & Francesca Governa (University of Turin, Italy) - *From tea parties to inner circles. How government and governance have shaped Torino in the past twenty years.*

Bahdan Sarazhynski (University of Deusto, Spain) - *Local governance in Belarus: problems and perspectives*

Stephanie Steels (University of Manchester, United Kingdom) - *Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and citizen-authority engagement: applying developing world solutions to Europe*

Pawel Swianiewicz (University of Warsaw, Poland) - *Economic downturn and fiscal stress of local governments in Poland: a real problem or storm in a tea-cup?*

Ramon Marrades Sempere (Instituto Interuniversitario de Desarrollo Local, Spain) - *Professionalization, public efficiency and participatory urban decision-making.*

Joyce Valdovinos (Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle Paris 3, France) - *The building blocks of local water governance: the economic crisis and the evolution of public-private partnerships (PPPs) in the U.S. water market.*

Hellmut Wollmann (Humboldt University Berlin, Germany) – *Public Services Provision in European Countries from Public/Municipal to Private Sector – and back to municipal?*

COMMISSION SESSIONS DURING IGU 2012 CONGRESS IN COLOGNE

The Commission sessions programme within IGC are already complete. We will have three sessions as announced earlier:

- ***Governance - key theoretical and methodological issues, main research directions***
- ***Innovations in public sector - public administration reforms, public sector reorganizations, local finance and progress in planning***
- ***Governing development in regions, cities and rural communities***

All submitted papers were allocated into particular time slots. We attempted to integrate contributions covering similar subjects. There are still some papers on the waiting list, but it seems likely that all submitted papers will have a chance to be presented.

Due to the fact that 2012 IGU congress is close to its capacity limits, only a limited number of places are available. Registration closes by July 15th at the latest. According to



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organisers, there will be no tickets sold during the IGC 2012 in Cologne. We will be very please to meet all presenters in Cologne in August.

For more details, please contact:

32nd International Geographical Congress Cologne

26 – 30 August 2012

e-mail: info@igc2012.org

Web page: <http://www.igc2012.org>.

For programme see: https://igc2012.org/frontend/index.php?page_id=592

2013 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION WITHIN IGU REGIONAL CONFERENCES IN KYOTO, JAPAN

The 2013 annual meeting of the Commission will be held in Kyoto, within the framework of the IGU Regional Conference. Our sessions will be organised during the main conference dates. We will attempt to go close to the conference main theme focusing on traditional wisdom and modern knowledge for the Earth's future. We would like to organise our sessions within this regional conference under one main title – **“Traditions and innovations in governance – better meet the needs of people”**.

More extensive information will be provided in the Autumn Newsletter.

Date: 4-9 August 2013

Location: Kyoto, Japan

Organised by: National Committee of Japan for IGU and Organising Committee

Web: <http://www.igu-kyoto2013.org/>

FORTHCOMING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IN 2013 - 2014

The main commission activities in 2014 will be linked to the IGU Regional Conference, which will be held in second half of August (18-22 August) in Krakow, Poland. We would like to use a model similar to the one we used in 2010 for the regional conference in Tel Aviv. This would mean having the main annual conference prior to or after the Regional Conference in Krakow. However, for those that plan to participate in Krakow, we will also organise sessions within the main IGU Regional Conference programme. We already are in informal contact with our colleagues from Poland, and details concerning the Commission 2014 Annual Conference will be confirmed during the Cologne congress.

Within Steering Committee we also will be discussing alternative conference locations, both within Europe and the Americas in 2013, potentially in co-operation with other partner associations, focusing on selected actual issues in governance.

More details on forthcoming events will be provided in the Autumn 2012 Newsletter.