



Commission on Geography of Governance

NEWSLETTER
Spring- Summer
2013

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INTRODUCTION

Dear Colleagues,
during the previous months our activities focused on preparation of conferences, publications, or project proposals. The nearest event of our Commission will be our sessions during the IGU Regional Conference (Kyoto Regional Conference) on 4-9 August 2013. We are attempting to follow the conference main theme focusing on traditional wisdom and modern knowledge for the Earth's future. So, our sessions will be under one main umbrella session title – *“Traditions and innovations in governance – better meet the needs of people”*. Submitted papers from various aspects reflect this idea. I suppose that all participants will enjoy this meeting in so inspiring Kyoto environment. As usually, I will be back with summary on Kyoto sessions in next issue of this newsletter.

This spring, we also experienced meeting in different “format” in Bratislava in May. We had seminar in smaller scale, in co-operation with other scientific community, more focused around selected topic, without fees. The experiences are very positive. More relaxed time schedule offered much more time for scientific discussions, enough time for direct personal contact, very rewarding final roundtable discussion. Success of this seminar had been achieved thanks deeply interested participants. Depending on interests of the Commission members, we can repeat such formats in a case of well identified hot topic also in the future.

Important output of the Commission is book edited by Pushkar Pradhan, Ján Buček and Eran Razin focusing on governance and development. It is great achievement, because it offered interesting opportunity for scholars doing research in many countries. I congratulate to all contributors. Within the Commission, there are other publication projects in various stages of preparation.

On behalf of the Commission and organizers, you are kindly invited to participate on Commission activities in Poland in next year. Our annual conference in Poznan and our sessions in Krakow Regional Conference provide unique opportunity for sharing new ideas

and research outcomes. Within the planning of these meetings, we also will offer enough time to “uncover” Poland during excursions.

I also would like to express my gratitude to all Commission members involved in various activities including book preparations, meeting organisation, projects elaboration and submitting (especially those involved in COST project preparation), not mentioning various networking. It all makes this Commission really working.

With best wishes

Ján Buček,
July 2013, Bratislava

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR - FINANCE IN TRANSITION / FINANCIALIZATION & GOVERNANCE: LESSONS FOR THE FUTURE - BRATISLAVA, MAY 2013

We had very successful meeting organised in Bratislava in May 2013, in co-operation with working group focusing on financialization within Regional Studies Association (mostly geographers and economists). This is in consent with our intentions to develop links to other associations and closely focusing groups of scientists. We will think about more frequent links to other IGU commission in forthcoming years.

The atmosphere of the meeting with about 25 participants (including invited speakers, panellists) had been very familiar, open. Such scale had been suitable for extensive debates on various topic raised by presented paper and questions. Very important had been contribution of two distinguished invited speakers – Katalin Botos and Adam Swain. We enjoyed interesting, and in some moments stimulating and even provocative discussions concerning various aspects of current “architecture” of financial worlds.

Thanks to support of directly involved associations and universities, it was accessible meeting without fees. It was also good mixture of well established and experienced scholars, as well as young scientists and PhD students. On behalf of all participants, we are grateful for extensive support provided by Regional Studies Association, International Geographical Union (IGU), Trinity College Dublin and Comenius University Bratislava. We are very grateful Comenius University for providing its rooms and facilities.

We would like to express our great thanks to Dr. Alena Rochovská for her deep personal organizational effort in preparing this meeting. We also have to express our thanks to colleagues and doctoral students at the Comenius University for their assistance (especially Miriam Miláčková, Lukáš Námešný, Lucia Malíková, Marcel Horňák). Selected photos taken during our sessions are presented at our commission web.

Presented contributions included:

Jiří Blažek (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic) - *Evolution of the financial sector in Prague - an analysis of a metropolitan region on the financial periphery of Europe.*



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Emile Boustani (Newcastle University, UK) - *The Variegated Financialisation of Production Networks in Central Europe*

Katalin Botos (University of Szeged, Hungary) - *Fiscal and monetary reactions to the crises in Visegrad countries*

Zoltán Gál and Magdolna Sass (Hungarian Academy of Sciences Budapest, University of Pecs, Hungary) - *Financial FDI in CEECs revisited – in the context of the dependent market economies model*

Gábor Kovács (Széchenyi István University, Győr, Hungary) - *Local governments' local fundraising capacity*

Sándor Zsolt Kovács (Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Pécs) - *Regional trends of financial services in CEE: Same beginnings but different ways*

Viktor Klimanov (Institute for Public Finance Reform, Moscow, Russia) - *Fiscal issues of development of Russian Regions*

Monika Martišková (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic) - *Who gets the EU funds?*

Anna Mikhaylova (Institute for Public Finance Reform, Moscow, Russia) - *Implementation of the program budget at the regional level in Russia*

Lukasz Mikula (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, Poland) - *Financial aspects of spatial planning system in Poland – a new threat for local governments?*

Ágnes Pál and Zoltán Suti (University of Szeged, Hungary) - *Financing Minorities in the Carpathian Basin: Past and Present*

Victoriya Salomon (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland) - *The post crisis transition : new investment circuits in Switzerland.*

Olga Shevchenko (National Institute For Strategic Studies, Kiev, Ukraine) - *Allocation of investment resources to regions in Ukraine before and after the crisis: is it possible to change the leadership hereafter?*

Andrej Sopkuliak (Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia) - *Financing and fiscal autonomy of local self-government in Slovakia*

Adam Swain (University of Nottingham, UK) - *On the periphery of the European periphery or Eurasian re-consolidation? Ukraine and the global financial and economic crisis*

Pavel Šuška (Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia) - *Finance and urban development in Bratislava*

Dariusz Wojcik (Oxford University, UK) - *Integrating Finance into Global Production Networks*

Seminar details:

International Seminar: *Finance in Transition / Financialization & Governance: Lessons for the Future*

Date and place: *15-17 May 2013, Bratislava, Slovakia*

Organised: *Regional Studies Association Research Network on Geographies of Finance and Post-Socialist Transformations and International Geographical Union Commission on Geography of Governance*



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Main organizers: *Alena Rochovská, Ján Buček, Martin Sokol*

Sponsors: *Regional Studies Association, International Geographical Union, Trinity College Dublin and Comenius University Bratislava*

Venue: *Comenius University, Department of Human Geography and Demography (Faculty of Natural Sciences)*

NEW BOOK PREPARED BY THE COMMISSION MEMBERS

Following long-term effort, a new book based on the Commission activities appeared in June 2013. Starting point for this book, focusing on various issues at the intersection of governance and local development, had been our successful meeting in Nepal in 2011. It altogether contains 26 chapters divided into following six sections:

- Transforming communities' spatial-social and economic dimensions,
- Governance and organizations partnerships for local development,
- Managing environmental resources problems,
- Technology and approaches to improving rural livelihoods,
- Roles and elements of governance in rural development,
- Information technology and governance.

This volume documents the interest of the Commission to cover themes important not only in the most advanced countries. It debates issues of local governance in various environments, contexts, and reflecting various experiences. We can find here not only scientific analyses, but numerous policy recommendations as well. The authors did not avoid key issues in local development like mixture of traditional and new modes of governance over territories, efficiency of services delivery, reasonable administration of natural resources, or possibilities and impact of new technologies applications. We feel as positive feature that larger attention as usual is paid to governance in rural environment. This book supposes to be useful not only to scholars dealing with local development and governance, but also for practitioners.

The book was prepared especially thanks to enormous work of Professor Pushkar K. Pradhan, which took over substantial responsibility and leadership in this publication project. Nevertheless, we are grateful to all contributors, editorial team, reviewers, as well as all other involved in this book preparation.

Book details:

Pradhan, P. K., Buček, J. and Razin, E. (eds.) 2013. ***Geography of Governance: Dynamics for Local Development***. International Geographical Union Commission on Geography of Governance. 254p., ISBN: 978-9937-2-6508-9.

Electronic full text version of the book is available for download at the Commission web page (http://www.igu-gog.org/download/Pradhan_Bucek_Razin.pdf).



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FORTHCOMING COMMISSION ACTIVITIES IN 2014

We will be very pleased, if you could consider participation in Commission activities in 2014 in Poland. They are linked to IGU Regional Conference, which take place in second half of August (18-22 August 2014) in Krakow, Poland. Following our previous experiences, we plan to have two consecutive meetings in different places. First event will be our annual conference held in Poznan. The second one will be our sessions within Regional Conference in Krakow. Those interested to participate can participate on each one separately, but we will be happy if you will participate on both of them.

The **Commission 2014 annual conference** will be held in **Poznan (Poland)** with preliminary dates **14-16 August 2014**. We will be hosted by our colleagues from Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU). The conference will be organised under main theme:

"New challenges in local, metropolitan and regional governance"

The venue of the conference will be new buildings of AMU geography in Marasko campus. Altogether with conference organizers, we will attempt to have reasonable conference fees and total costs. We suppose to have two days with sessions, and one day field trip/excursion in Poznan and its surroundings. There will be another excursion day "across Poland" on 17th August 2014, also serving as transfer from Poznan to Krakow, the place of IGU Regional Conference. It allows participants to continue without any complications on this event.

Due to the tradition that our commission is regularly presented during the IGU Regional Conferences, we will organise sessions also there, within its main programme. It also allows participate on Commission activities for those that will not attend our meeting in Poznan and will prefer to participate in Krakow regional conference.

For both 2014 events, more details will be provided in 2013 Autumn newsletter.

Summary of planned events in 2014:

2014 Annual conference - **"New challenges in local, metropolitan and regional governance"**

Date: 14-16 August 2014

Place, venue: Poznan, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

2014 – IGU Regional Conference – **"Changes, Challenges, Responsibility"**

Date: 18-22 August 2014

Place, venue: Krakow, Jagiellonian University, Poland

For more details on Krakow Regional Conference see: <http://www.igu2014.org/>

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