

RSA Central and Eastern European Conference 2017

REGIONAL POLARISATION AND UNEQUAL DEVELOPMENT IN CEE: CHALLENGES FOR INNOVATIVE SPACE-BASED POLICIES

10th – 13th September 2017, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Over the last decades new patterns of regional disparities and polarisation have developed in Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries, drawing the attention of both researchers and policy-makers. Cohesion Policy responded to this challenge by focusing on balanced spatial development of the European regions. However, although achieving significant progress in developing towards the EU-average, CEE still faces serious internal spatial imbalances between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, between core regions and peripheries.

The increasing social and economic disparities at regional level within CEE have led to the need to develop new strategies with a strong spatial focus, in order to deal with and respond to the challenges. This conference seeks to explore questions such as: how can we deal with polarisation and peripheralisation? What are the challenges for future space-based policies? What new approaches should be developed to deal with growing regional imbalances?

Confirmed Plenary Speakers:

EU Commissioner Corina Creţu, DG Regio, Belgium

Prof. John Bachtler, European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, UK

Prof. Michael Keating, School of Social Sciences, University of Aberdeen, UK

Assoc. Prof. Ewa Korcelli-Olejniczak, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

Prof. Jennifer Clark, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA

Prof. Zoltán Kovács, University of Szeged, Hungary Academy of Science, Hungary

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Peter Meusburger, Heidelberg University, Germany

Emil Boc, Mayor of Cluj-Napoca, Romania

The RSA CEE Conference in Cluj-Napoca welcomes inputs from researchers, policy-makers and practitioners working in all areas of regional development. The conference will offer an excellent opportunity for initiating a multidisciplinary dialogue on **themes** such as:

Cohesion Policy	Territorial Governance
Resilient Communities	Cross-Border Regions and Transnational Cooperation
Creative Regions/Economies (ITC, Creative Industries)	Rural Areas Under Pressure (Marginalization & Rural Peripheries/Areas)
The Role of Clusters in Local Development	Places and Tourism Destination Development
Geo-politics and Geo-economy	GIS, GIScience and Spatial Data
Smart Specialization (Smart Cities & Smart Rural Areas)	Prospects for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Use in Regional Development
Sustainable Transport and Urban Mobility	Developing Cluj: Round Table Discussion
Regional Impacts and Responses to Climate Change	Urban/Regional Change and Development in CEE
Territorial Change: Polarised Spatial Development or Convergence?	Environmental, Economic and Social Risks and Vulnerabilities
Regional Policy in CEE: Old Legacies and New Challenges	

Academic Organiser: Professor Jozsef Benedek, Babeş-Bolyai University, Faculty of Geography, Cluj Napoca, Romania

RSA Organiser: Wanda Miczorek, wanda.miczorek@regionalstudies.org, +44 (0) 1323 899 698