

Commission on Local and Regional Development

Report 2016-2017

A. MEMBERSHIP

1. Steering Committee members

1.1. Chairperson of the Commission

Jerzy Bański, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences, 00-818 Warszawa, Twarda 51/55, POLAND, +48 602391453, jbanski@twarda.pan.pl;

1.2. Vice Chair

Benjamin Ofori Amoah, Department of Geography, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI 49008-5433 USA, (269) 387-3410, ben.ofori@wmich.edu;

1.3. Steering Committee Members

Peter Baklanov Pacific Institute of Geography, 7 Radio Street, Vladivostok, 690041, RUSSIA, (423) 231-21-59, pbaklanov@tig.dvo.ru;

Ton Dietz, African Studies Centre Leiden, Faculty of Social Sciences, Wassenaarseweg 52, PO Box 9555, 2300 RB Leiden, THE NETHERLANDS, +31 (0)71 527 3376, dietzaj@ascleiden.nl;

Ines Grigorescu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, 12 Dimitrie Racovita, 023994 Bucharest, ROMANIA, +40 213135990, inesgrigorescu@yahoo.com;

Michael Sofer (honorary member), Department of Geography and Environment, Faculty of Social Sciences, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, 52900, ISRAEL, +972-3-531-8773, soferm1@mail.biu.ac.il;

B. Srinagesh Department of Geography, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Tarnaka, Hyderabad 500007, INDIA, +(91)-40-27017192, geosri74@gmail.com;

Atsushi Taira, Faculty of Education, Kagawa University, Saiwai-cho 1-1, Takamatsu, Kagawa, 760-8522, Japan, +81-87-832-1405, JAPAN, taira@ed.kagawa-u.ac.jp;

Eberhard Weber, School of Geography, Earth Science and Environment, The University of the South Pacific, Laucala Campus, Suva, FIJI, (+679) 323 2542, weber_e@usp.ac.fj;

Carmen Vazquez Varela, Department of Geography and Spatial Planning, University de Castilla-La Mancha, Avda. de los Alfares, 44 – 16002 Cuenca, ESPANIA, +34 969179100, Carmen.Vazquez@uclm.es;

2. Corresponding Members

The structure of corresponding members was indicated on the basis of their email addresses. Currently, the Commission counts a total of 313 members (in the case of 13 email addresses, no country of origin has been established) from 47 countries (see fig. 1 and 2). It should indicate the unfavorable phenomenon of the small number of members from Africa and South America. The activities of the Committee will focus on attracting new members representing countries on these continents.

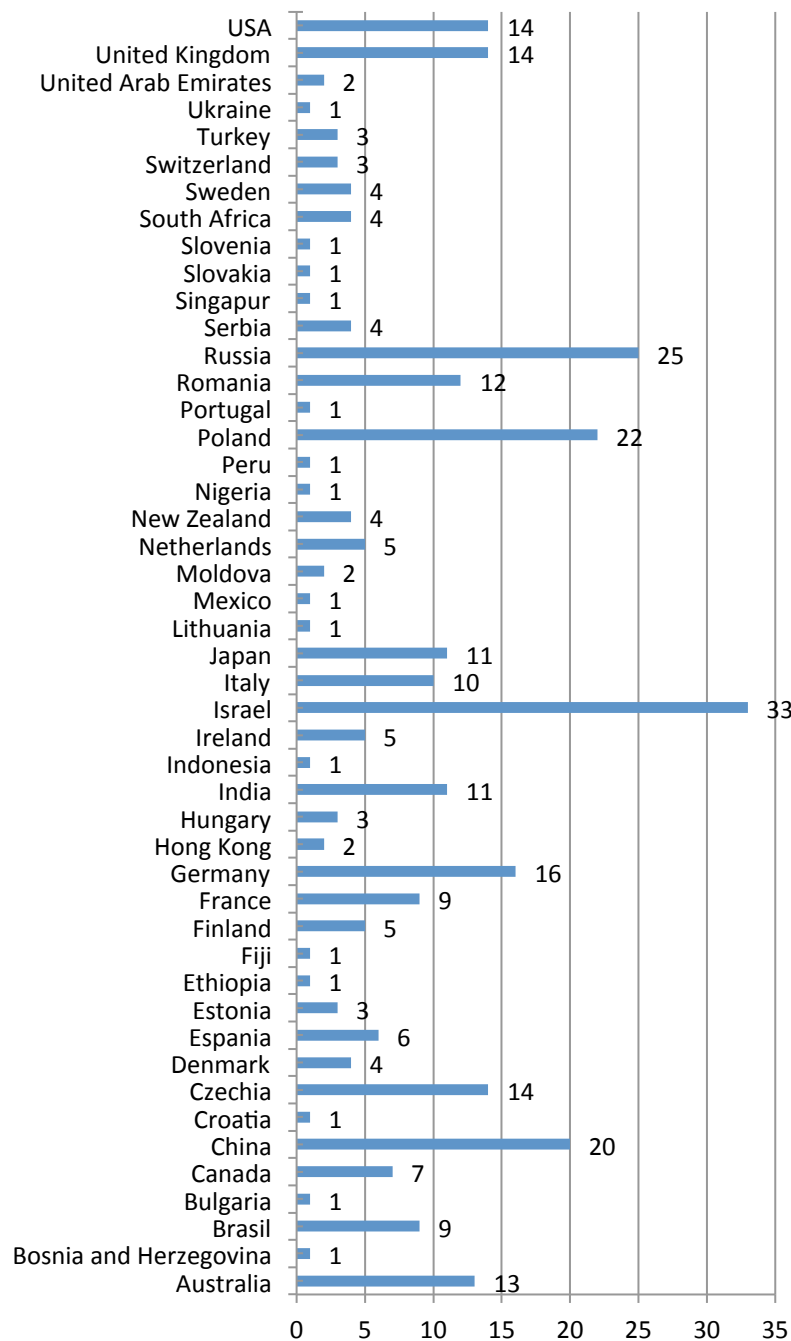


Fig. 1. Number of Corresponding Members by country, 2017

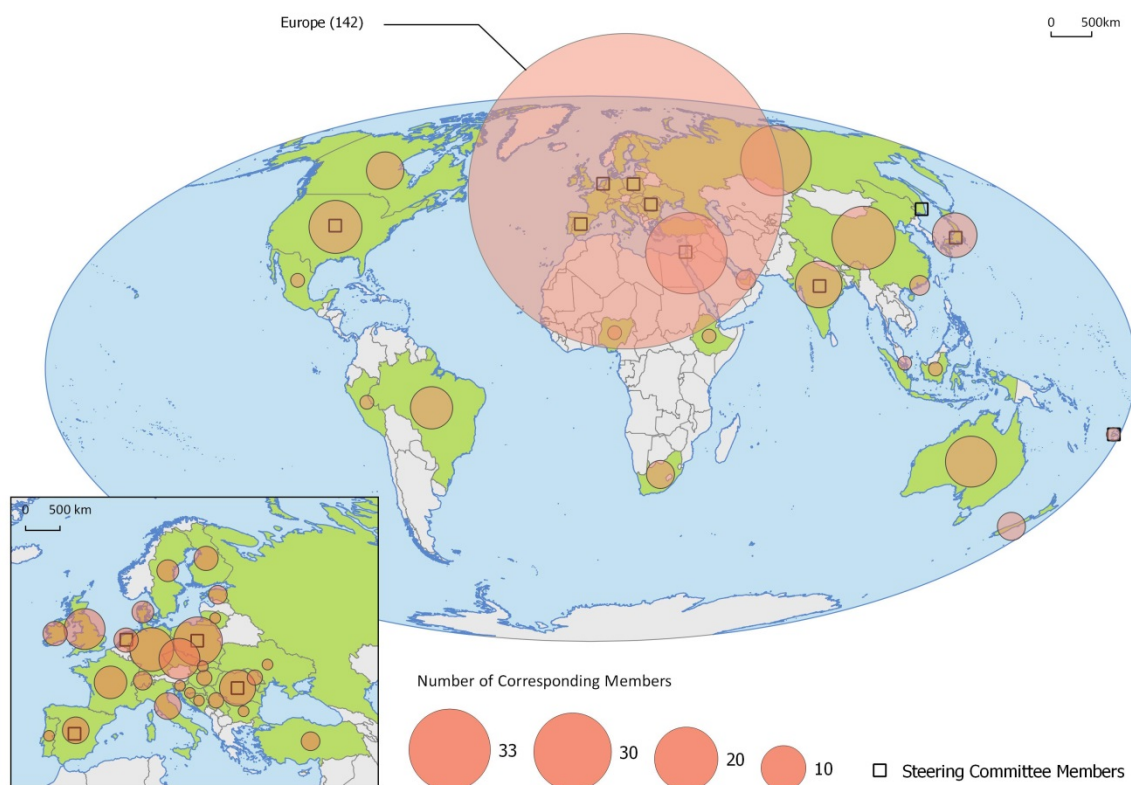


Fig. 2. Spatial location of Corresponding Members and Steering Committee Members

B. MEETINGS

1. Annual meetings organized during the period 2016-2017

Date	Title	Place	Number of sessions	Number of papers	Number of participants
August 16-20, 2016	<i>IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development Conference</i>	Vladivostok	4	16	20-25
August 21-25, 2016	<i>33rd International Geographical Congress</i>	Beijing	11	55 + 29 posters	100-120
September 11-15, 2017	<i>IGU Thematic Conference</i>	Bucharest, Tulcea	4 (12*)	15 (60*)	25-30 (70*)

*In total; the conference was organized by Commissions on Land Use/Cover Changes, Biodiversity, Health and Environment and Local and Regional Development.

2. A brief summary of the topics addressed at meetings and the findings

The main topics of the conference in Vladivostok covered four key issues:

- the roles of various types of urban settlement in contemporary regional development;

- new initiatives for intra-regional and international development in resource-rich regions;
- transformative local development in the rural space;
- public policy options and local initiatives for regional development in the Russian Far East and elsewhere.

The subject of the conference in Beijing was wider due to the larger number of participants representing different research specializations. The sessions focused on the following issues:

- strategy and planning in local development;
- theory and methodology in local and regional studies;
- local and regional processes and results;
- local and regional processes in China;
- peripheral territories;
- role of new ideas and innovations in local and regional development;
- local and regional potentials and resources.

The conference in Bucharest/Tulcea brought together representatives from four Commissions: Land Use/Cover Changes, Biodiversity, Health and Environment and Local and Regional Development. The rationale of the conference was to bring together scientists and stakeholders from various fields to address different effects of ecosystems changes, to set-up mitigation and adaptation strategies and contribute with scientific information to local/regional land use, planning and environmental policies. The topic of the conference focused on the relationships between ecosystems and socio-economic systems, the potential risks and benefits to regional specialization and human welfare. Participants discussed the problem on how human activities and global environmental changes affect terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems, human well-being and public health, what are the feedback and the potential local and regional futures.

The current regional development policy is drifting away from directly supporting and stimulating regions in favour of establishing conditions for the spread of development of the so-called growth poles. The notion of interventionism is therefore confronted with the creation and stimulation of endogenous potential. The notions of “diversity” and “endogenous potential”, referring to the regions and the smaller territorial units, have become the key words, and intelligent specialisation has become the new paradigm of the future development. Local resources are of strategic importance.

3. The plan of future meetings

Date	Type of meeting	Place	Theme
August 1-4, 2018	Annual meeting	Kalamazoo USA	<i>Appreciating Differences in Restructuring Local and Regional Economic Development</i>
August 6-10, 2018	<i>IGU Regional Conference</i>	Quebec Canada	In plans: join session with Commission on Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses
June 2019	Annual meeting	Fiji	<i>Local and regional development on remote areas</i>

C. NETWORKING

1. Collaboration with IGU commissions

- The Commission was active in preparing and participating in The 10th IGU International Conference, *Urbanization, Health and Well Being and Sustainable Development Goals*, 17-19 March 2017, Hyderabad, Dep. of Geography, Osmania University.
- The *IGU Thematic Conference in Bucharest/Tulcea*, September 11-15, 2017, was prepared jointly with Commissions on Land Use/Cover Changes, Commission on Biodiversity and Commission on Health and Environment.
- The Commission is included to the preparation of the XI IGU Commission Seminar, *Environment and Sustainable Livelihood*, 8-10 February 2018, Guwahati, India.
- *During the IGU Regional Conference in Quebec is planned* join session with Commission on Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses. The preliminary findings were discussed with the chairman of the committee prof. Steve Déry at a meeting in Warsaw

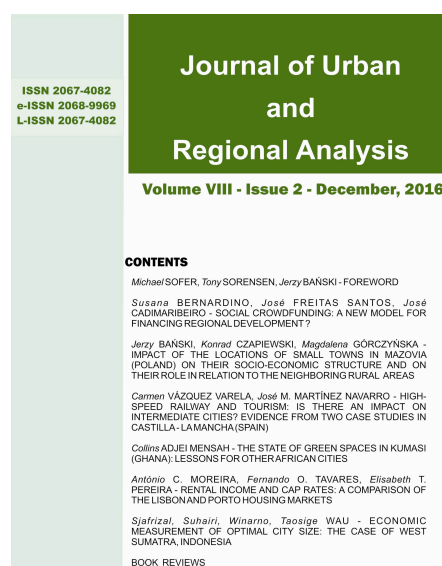
2. Other collaboration

Selected institutions and bodies cooperating with the commission during the period 2016-2017: Dep. of Geography, Osmania University (*conference*), Department of Geography, B. Borooah College, Guwahati (*conference*), Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo (*conference*), Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy and Faculty of Geography, Bucharest University (*conference*), Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization Polish Academy of Sciences (*web page preparation*), Journal of Urban and Regional Analysis (*publication*).

D. PUBLICATIONS

1. Special journal issue

Sofer M., Sorensen T., Bański J. (eds.), 2016, *Journal of Urban and Regional Analysis*, vol. 8, issue 2. (6 papers by commission members).

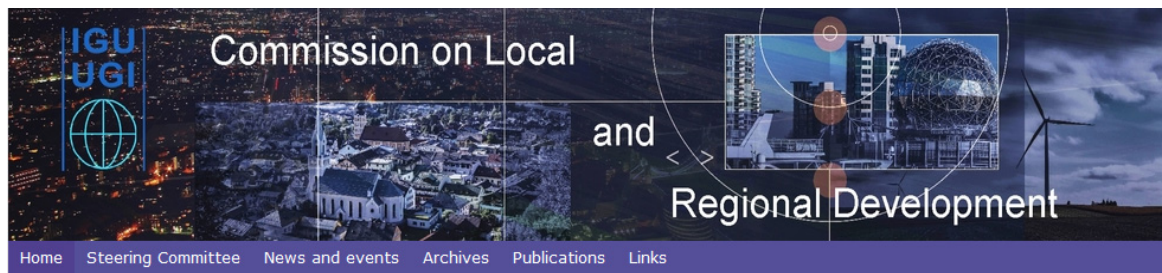


In preparation: second volume of the *JURA* by Commission on Local and Regional Development IGU; eds. Sofer M., Sorensen T (expected at the end of 2017).

The Commission plans to prepare a book under the working title: *Dilemmas of regional and local development* (Springer, Elgar or another publisher).

2. URL of the commission's website.

New website: <http://igu-clrd.igipz.pan.pl/home.html>



All publications by Commission are available on new webpage.

E. ARCHIVAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Copies of all materials and publications sent to the IGU Secretary General.

F. THE MISSION, OBJECTIVES AND CONTINUATION

The IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development provides an international forum for the study of issues related to such matters as local and regional development, reorganization of space, local development in the urban and rural space, and the role of institutions in the spatial organization. The interests of the Commission are exhibited in developing and developed regions and nations. Our mission is to advance international research, scholarship and knowledge in a variety of domains concerning local and regional development through:

- the development and dissemination of theoretical, conceptual and methodological frameworks concerning local and regional development;
- the discussion of wide range of empirical and policy issues;
- to widen of the scope of the debate on the topics of “local and regional development” in different national and institutional contexts.

The Commission is a dedicated group of scholars aiming to advance international knowledge of a variety of issues concerning local and regional development. The Commission's program involves organising meetings each year and expanding its intellectual network through academic conferences, publications and website. The Commission proposes to continue to be active through both its established international steering committee and by expanding its list of corresponding members. We have a number of plans and challenges, that we would like to pursue in the future.