

Commission on Local and Regional Development IGU

Report 2017-2018

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 str. 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;

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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 on Local and Regional Development counts a total of 329 members 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. There are also no representatives from these areas in the Steering Committee. The activities of the Committee will focus on attracting new members representing countries on these continents.

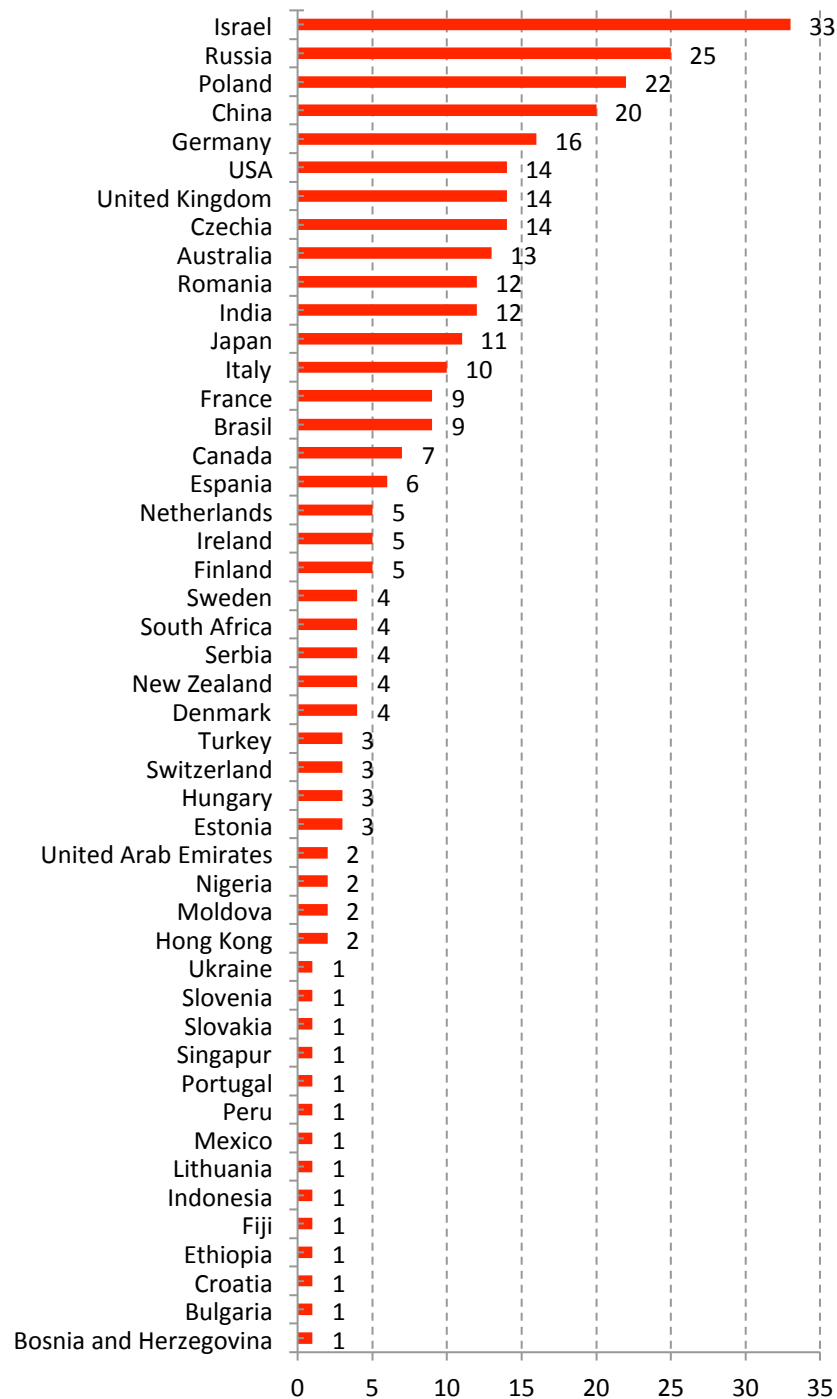


Fig. 1. Number of Corresponding Members by country, 2018

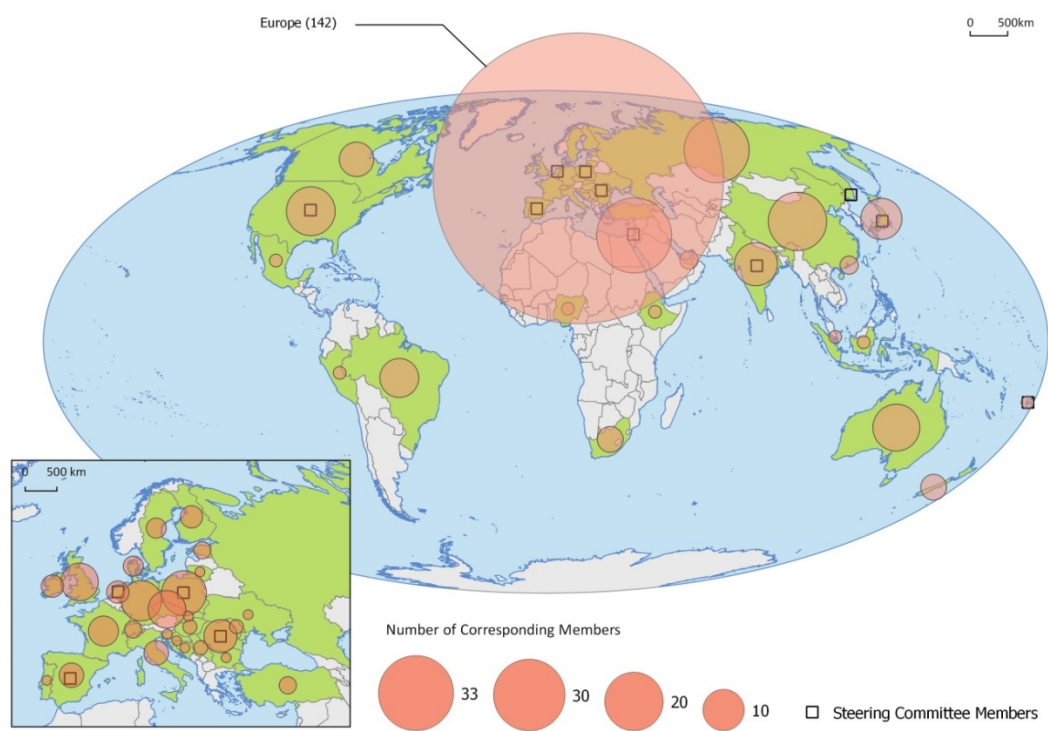


Fig. 2. Spatial location of Corresponding Members and Steering Committee Members

B. MEETINGS

1. Annual meetings organized during the period 2017-2018

Date	Title	Place	Number of sessions	Number of papers	Number of participants
September 11-15, 2017	<i>IGU Thematic Conference</i>	Bucharest, Tulcea ROMANIA	4 (12 ¹)	15 (60 ¹)	25-30 (70 ¹)
February 8-10, 2018	<i>XI International Geographical Union Commission Seminar²</i>	Guwahati, INDIA	50	600	600
August 1-4, 2018	<i>Pre-conference meeting of IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development³</i>	Kalamazoo, USA	4	8	12
August 6-10, 2018	<i>2018 IGU Regional Conference⁴</i>	Quebec, CANADA	1	6	25
September 3-7, 2018	<i>6th Moravian Conference on Rural Research, EURORURAL⁵</i>	Brno, CZECHIA	4 sessions + 3 workshops	24	30

¹The conference was organized by: Commissions on Land Use/Cover Changes, Biodiversity, Health and Environment and Local and Regional Development.

²Conference organized by: Borooah College, Commission on Local and Regional Development IGU and others

³Conference organized by: Western Michigan University and Commission on Local and Regional Development

⁴ Session organized by: Commission on Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses and Commission on Local and Regional Development

⁵ Conference organized by: Mendel University in Brno and Commission on Local and Regional Development
IGU

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

IGU Thematic Conference, Bucharest/Tulcea ROMANIA

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 themes of the Commissions members presentation focus on the following topics: identification of local development factors with particular emphasis on demographic and settlement factors, spatial development inequalities in suburban areas, regional development potentials and barriers, the role of local authorities in the development of marginal areas, spatial relations and communication accessibility, environmental protection and extreme phenomena, the issue of ethnic minorities in a local context.

IGU Commission Seminar, Guwahati, INDIA

The conference gathered several hundred participants representing various subdisciplines of geography. The focal theme concentrated on environment and sustainable livelihood. Change is inevitable and the greatest challenge we face today is change in climate, environment, human migration, land use impacting livelihood, health and well-being. Development interventions aiming at more sustainable livelihood and sustainable resource management, must be informed by both an inner perspective and a perspective addressing the macro context with its impacts on livelihood, as it also refers to the challenges of food security and access to freshwater and energy, while land and water contribute to the healthy and sustainable management of the agricultural system, the role of forest cannot be underrated.

Pre-conference meeting of IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development, Kalamazoo, USA

The conference participants discussed the idea of difference in restructuring local and regional economic development. The discussion was taken into account the need to recognize and embrace the diversity of local and regional economies, restructuring issues, local and regional development approaches, and the stakeholder populations that are impacted by local and regional development efforts. The goal was to evaluate current notions and explore new ways of restructuring local and regional economies.

2018 IGU Regional Conference, Quebec, CANADA

One sessions were organized on topic “Local and regional development” with the following papers:

- *Regional and Local Responses. Regional development factors in EU and in Poland - similarities and differences* – P. Churski
- *Changing Urban-Rural Relations in Israel* - M. Sofer
- *Interregional Capital Flows and Regional Development Gap in China* - D. Chen
- *Urban-rural interactions in Romania. regional spatial and statistical analyses* – I. Grigorescu

Moravian Conference on Rural Research, Brno, CZECH REPUBLIC

The aims of the conference were as follows: to map European rural research and particular interests of investigators, to gain a space for presentation of contemporary knowledge about rural research, to continue in the tradition of international conferences dedicated to rural problems, to support intra-personal contacts among experts of different disciplines dealing with rural problems, to present South Moravian rural landscape. There were four paper sessions and three workshops (program attached). In total, 30 papers were divided into several thematic blocks.

3. The plan of future meetings

Date	Type of meeting	Place	Theme
February 2019	XII IGU Conference	India	<i>Climate change, natural disasters and sustainable development</i>
June 2019	Annual meeting	Fiji	<i>Development challenges in rural areas</i>
September 2019	IGU Thematic Conference	Slovenia	<i>Transformation of traditional cultural landscapes</i>

C. NETWORKING

1. Collaboration with IGU commissions

- The Commission was active in preparing and participating in The 11th IGU International Conference, *Environment and sustainable livelihood*, 8-10 Feb 2018, Guwahati, India, Borooah College – Commission on Biogeography and Biodiversity, Commission on Geo-Heritage.
- 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 session during IGU Regional Conference in Quebec, jointly with the Commission on Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses
- XII IGU Conference, 22-24 Feb 2019, Panchkula, INDIA, jointly with Commissions: Biogeography and Biodiversity, Geo-Heritage.
- IGU Thematic Conference, 24-26 September 2019, Koper, SLOVENIA, jointly with Commissions: Biogeography and Biodiversity, Land Use and Land Cover Change, Mediterranean Basin, Land Degradation and Desertification.

2. Other collaboration

Selected institutions and bodies cooperating with the commission during the period 2017-2018: 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*), Romanian Journal of Geography (*publication*), Routledge (*publication*).

D. PUBLICATIONS

In preparation: **Romanian Journal of Geography** (expected at the end of 2018)

G. CAVUTA, D. DI MATTEO, F. FERRARI, M. FUSCHI, *Abruzzo as two-faced region: between vulnerability and environmental safeguard*

N. DAMIAN, R. SĂGEATĂ, *Ethnic minorities in the Romanian sector of Dobrogea*

S. ĐUKIČIN VUČKOVIĆ, J. ĐORĐEVIĆ, J. MILANKOVIĆ JOVANOVIĆ, L. IVANOVIĆ BIBIĆ, T. ĐORĐEVIĆ *Socio-geographical characteristics as limiting factors of regional development, Kolubara District, Republic of Serbia case study*

I. GRIGORESCU, G. KUCSICSA, A. POPOVICI, B. MITRICĂ, M. DUMITRAȘCU, I. MOCANU *Regional disparities in the urban sprawl phenomenon in Romania using Corine Land Cover Database*

J. MILANKOVIĆ JOVANOVIĆ, S. ĐUKIČIN VUČKOVIĆ, B. IVANOVNIC, *Possibilities for the development of lower Danube in the Republic of Serbia*

B. MITRICĂ, I. MOCANU, M. DUMITRAȘCU, I. GRIGORESCU, *Is the Romanian Danube valley a cohesive region? A geographical approach*

T. NURLAMBANG, *The effectiveness of decentralization in Indonesia. A case study of developing the marginal areas by the local authority*

F. ZAHARIA, A.-Maria TALOȘ, *Evaluating the spatial connectivity and accessibility degree of the Dobrogea network settlements.*

In preparation: the Commission prepare a book under the title: *Dilemmas of regional and local development (Routledge book)*.

Concepts and planning of regional and local development

Redefining the task of regional development in the Fourth Industrial Revolution – T. Sorensen (AUSTRALIA)

Participatory assessment of regional development as a method for emancipatory history writing: experiences with PADev. – T. Dietz (THE NETHERLANDS)

Dilemmas for regional development in the Poland's spatial planning – J. Bański (POLAND)

Territorial development in Romania: between competitiveness and cohesion. Local and regional disparities – B. Mitrică, I. Grigorescu, I. Mocanu, P. Șerban, M. Dumitrașcu (ROMANIA)

Geographic and Institution Matters in Achieving Sustainable Development in Indonesia – T. Nurlambang (INDONESIA)

Regional Development Policy and practice in Ghana: past, present, and future – B. Ofori-Amoah (USA)

Challenges and opportunities for strengthening the regional and local economy

Challenges and Opportunities for Strengthening the Local Economy – Peter Elias (NIGERIA)

Measures of regional development on the example of Poland – M. Mazur, D. Mazurek (POLAND)

Diagnosis of demonetization and its impact assessment on regional development- An Indian experience – B. Srinagesh (INDIA)

Pro-Poor Local Economic Development and the Demand for Economic Growth: LED strategies for inclusive development in South Africa – A. Gunter (SOUTH AFRICA)

Staying alive by going glocal: A case study of the towel-related industry balancing FDI and the local industrial cluster in Shikoku, Japan – A. Taira (JAPAN)

Development and Dependency in the Fijian Periphery: Kadavu Island and its Kava Production – M. Sofer (ISRAEL)

2. URL of the commission's website.

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.