

# Commission on Local and Regional Development IGU

## Report 2018-2019

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dietzaj@ascleiden.nl);

**Ines Grigorescu**, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, 12 Dimitrie Racovita, 023994 Bucharest, ROMANIA, +40 213135990, [inesgrigorescu@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:soferm1@mail.biu.ac.il);

**B. Srinagesh** Department of Geography, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Tarnaka, Hyderabad 500007, INDIA, +(91)-40-27017192, [geosri74@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Carmen.Vazquez@uclm.es);

**2. Corresponding Members**

Currently, the Commission on Local and Regional Development counts a total of 320 members from 47 countries, plus 16 members (e-mail address does not allow identification of the country). That makes a total of 336 members. 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. In 2019, the Commission expanded by 7 members, including 1 African and 1 South American member.

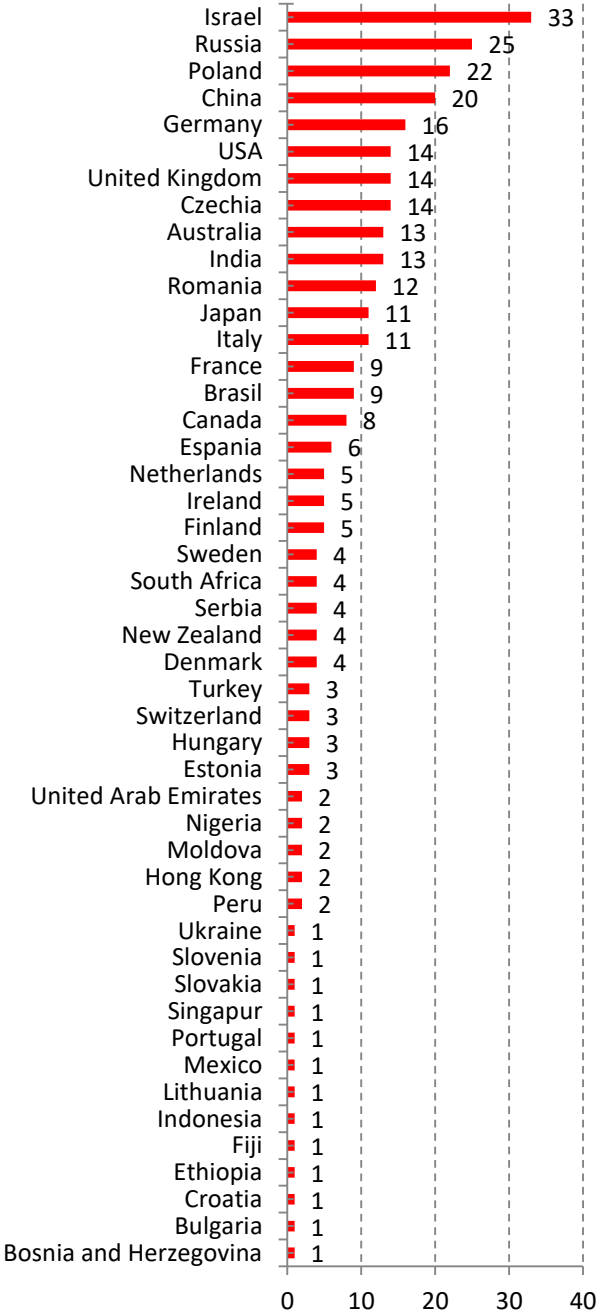


Fig. 1. Number of Corresponding Members by country, 2018

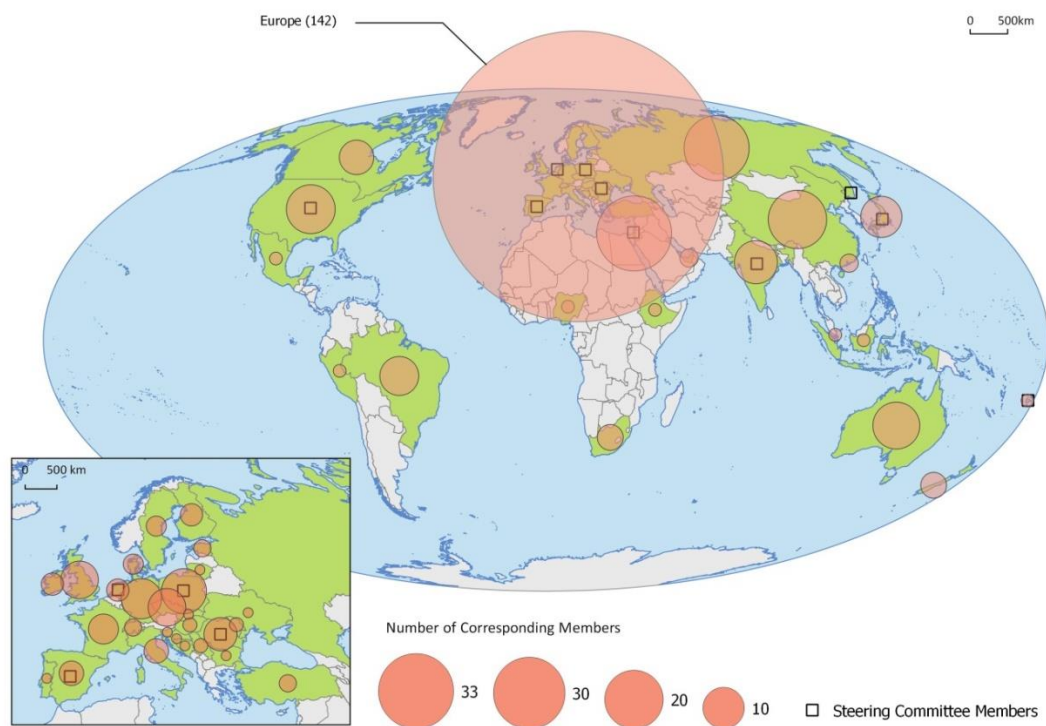


Fig. 2. Spatial location of Corresponding Members and Steering Committee Members

## B. MEETINGS

### 1. Annual meetings organized during the period 2017-2018

Date	Title	Place	Number of sessions	Number of papers	Number of participants
February 8-10, 2018	<i>XI International Geographical Union Commission Seminar</i> <sup>1</sup>	Guwahati, INDIA	50	600	600
August 1-4, 2018	<i>Pre-conference meeting of IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development</i> <sup>2</sup>	Kalamazoo, USA	4	8	12
August 6-10, 2018	<i>2018 IGU Regional Conference</i> <sup>3</sup>	Quebec, CANADA	1	6	25
September 3-7, 2018	<i>6<sup>th</sup> Moravian Conference on Rural Research, EURORURAL</i> <sup>4</sup>	Brno, CZECHIA	4 sessions + 3 workshops	24	30
June 25 – July 3, 2019	<i>Annual meeting of IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development</i> <sup>5</sup>	Suva, FIJI	5	25	40
September 23-26, 2019	<i>IGU Thematic Conference</i> <sup>6</sup>	Koper, SLOVENIA	13	42	60

<sup>1</sup>Conference organized by: Borooh College, Commission on Local and Regional Development IGU and others

<sup>2</sup>Conference organized by: Western Michigan University and Commission on Local and Regional Development

<sup>3</sup>Session organized by: Commission on Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses and Commission on Local and Regional Development

<sup>4</sup>Conference organized by: Mendel University in Brno and Commission on Local and Regional Development IGU

<sup>5</sup>Conference organized by University of South Pacific in Suva, Fiji and IGU Local and Regional Development Commission

<sup>6</sup>Conference organized by University Primorska and IGU Commissions: Land Use Land Cover Change, Biogeography and Biodiversity, Local and Regional Development, Mediterranean Basin, Land Degradation and Desertification

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

### 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.

### Meeting of IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development

The conference was organised by the Commission on Local and Regional Development, International Geographical Union and the University of South Pacific in Suva. It took place in two stages: the first stage of the conference entitled *Development challenges in rural and urban areas* consisted of papers delivered by 23 speakers representing 11 countries. The session took place on 25-28 June and was preceded by a meeting of Commission members and key organisers on 24 June. The papers were devoted to education in rural areas, challenges of rural development in the face of climate change, tourism, spatial planning and local and regional resources. The second stage of the conference (29 June - 3 July 2019) was field studies in Nalotu on Kadavu Island. The participants of the studies had several meetings with the local people and authorities, especially with farmers, during which they got acquainted with the problems of functioning of peripherally located villages and the methods of land cultivation and types of crops. During their stay, the participants visited the local school and the neighboring hills where cassava and kava are grown.

### Transformation of Traditional Cultural Landscape - IGU Thematic Conference

The conference was consisted of 13 thematic sessions, plenary sessions and 5 thematic field studies. The subject matter of the papers concerned primarily changes in land use and landscape and the resulting consequences. The papers concerned various spatial scales and methodological issues. The conference drew attention to the rapid changes in the rural landscape caused by human activity, including the impact of global climate change. However, public awareness of this issue is growing and there are increasing efforts to protect the landscape and traditional land use patterns and to increase biodiversity. During the meeting of the committee I discussed its plans related to the organization of future conference meetings and the publication of *Challenges of the local and regional development*.

### **3. The plan of future meetings**

Date	Type of meeting	Place	Theme
August 2020	34 International Geographical Congress	Turkey	<i>Geography: Bridging the Continents</i> Commission session and technical meeting
2021	Annual meeting	South Africa	To be decided later

## **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 session during IGU Regional Conference in Quebec, jointly with the Commission on Marginalization, Globalization, and Regional and Local Responses
- 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 2018-2019: Department of Geography, B. Borooah College, Guwahati (*conference*), Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo (*conference*), University Primorska (*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

**Romanian Journal of Geography, Bański J., Grigorescu I., (eds.), 2018, 62, 2.**

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. IVANOVIĆ, *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.*

Book: ***Dilemmas of regional and local development, Bański J. (ed.)*** (by the Routledge). In print (expected March 2020)

*Introduction*

### **Part 1: Development Concepts and Planning**

1. Redefining the Task of Regional Development in The Fourth Industrial Revolution: Some Australian Perspectives, *Tony Sorensen*

2. Dilemmas for Spatial Planning and Regional Development in Poland – A Review of the Concepts, *Jerzy Bański*

3. The Italian National Strategy for Inner Areas. A Place-Based Approach to Regional Development, *Giancarlo Cotella and Elisabetta Vitale Brovarone*

4. Geographic and Institution Matters in Achieving Sustainable Development in Indonesia, *Triarko Nurlambang*

5. Regional Development Policy and Practice in Ghana: Past, Present, and Future, *Benjamin Ofori-Amoah*

6. Measures of Regional Development on the Example of Poland, *Marcin Mazur and Damian Mazurek*

### **Part 2: Development Challenges and Opportunities**

7. Medium-Sized Spanish Inland Cities and Regional Development in the Iberian Peninsula: Challenges and Opportunities, *Carmen Vázquez-Varela and José M. Martínez-Navarro*

8. Challenges and Opportunities for Strengthening Local and Regional Economic Development (LRED) in Africa: A Spatial Perspective, *Peter Elias*

9. Does History Matter? Development Differences in Poland, *P. Churski, B. Konecka-Szydłowska, T. Herodowicz and R. Perdał*

10. Territorial Development in Romania: Regional Disparities, *Bianca Mitrică, Ines Grigorescu, Radu Săgeată, Irena Mocanu and Monica Dumitrașcu*

11. Pro-Poor Local Economic Development and the Demand for Economic Growth: A Case Study on the Lack of Inclusive Development in South Africa, *Ashley Gunter*

12. Staying Alive by Going *Glocal*: A Case Study of The Towel-Related Industry Balancing FDI and a Local Industrial Cluster in Shikoku, Japan, *Atsushi Taira*

13. Diagnosis of Demonetization and its Impact Assessment on Regional Development: An Indian Experience, *B. Srinagesh*

14. The Interface between Urbanization and Agriculture in the Urbanizing Arab Community in Israel: Baqa Al-Gharbiyye as a Case Study, *Michael Sofer and Noaman Ganayem*

Book idea: ***Small towns in the local space - functions, relationships, development***

Basic parts: 1) functions of small towns and their evolution, 2) relations between small towns and rural areas, 3) the role of small towns in spatial planning but in the context of local development. Authors – Commission members; at the moment, the interest of authors from: Poland, Vietnam, Peru, Bulgaria, Spain, Nigeria, Indonesia, Canada.

## 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.