

concerning “Local development in the less economically developed and peripheral regions”.

- 3) Organisation of the commission sessions in the Belo-Horizonte, Brazil, meeting (2014) revolving around the topic “Challenges of the local planning system”.
- 4) Publications of the papers from the commission annual sessions as special issues in *Rural Studies*.
- 5) Refurbishing and further development of the commission website.
- 6) Development of the research network between the members of the commission leading to realisation of a potential research projects and knowledge exchange.

E. A description of the scholarly importance of the anticipated results of the commission’s work

We are expecting that our meetings and knowledge exchange will formulate and expand the professional involvement of our members in local and regional development projects. Our aspiration is that the knowledge derived from the meetings of the commission will be implemented into development plans and will allow officials to better cope with issues concerning socio-economic spatial disparities in different parts of the world. Altogether a working "knowledge network" could be useful for both potential development projects and common research.

B. Salient insights or conclusions from the period's publications.

A more intensive publication activity is required.

C. The URL of the commission website

<http://www.biu.ac.il/soc/ge/igucomld/>

5. Archival Contributions

All newsletters are normally sent to the IGU archives at Villa Celimontana in Rome. Other publications will be sent to these archives.

6. Continuation

A. The new name of the commission, if it is to be changed

We are debating about this issue and some directions regarding the length of time of the current name are required.

B. The commission's mission.

The International Geographical Union's Commission on Local Development provides an international forum for the study of issues related to such matters as local and regional development, reorganisation of space, and the role of both institutions and agencies in developing and reshaping the local space. The interests of the commission are exhibited in developing and developed nations. Yet, the perception and attitudes towards local development may be different in different countries. In some places the local development theme is closely related to non-metropolitan development, in other parts of the world it is related to the establishment and development of new towns, to spatial form of entrepreneurship, to the restructuring of the rural space, or to the evolution of new cores of sophisticated high-tech activities. The Commission's aim is to amalgamate such debates under one umbrella.

C. Steering committee members

In recent years there were some changes in the steering committee structure due to resignation and inactivity of a number of members, and the election of new members. However, further changes in the members of the steering committee will be discussed in the coming business meeting during the IGU conference in Cologne.

D. The work plan envisaged for the new commission, including a description of the results to be achieved during the 2012-2016 period

The work plan for the period 2012-2016 includes:

- 1) Organisation of the commission sessions in the IGU congress in Cologne.
- 2) Organisation of the commission sessions in the IGU congress in Kyoto (2013), followed by a field trip to Vladivostok. The later will be focused on issues

C. Timetable of future annual meetings for the period 2012-2014

Year	Month	Place	Comments	Theme
2012	August 26-30	Cologne	IGU Congress	Local Development - Down to earth
2013	August 4-9	Kyoto	IGU Regional Conference	Local development in peripheral regions
2014	To be decided	Belo-Horizonte, Brazil	Commission annual meeting	Challenges of the local planning system

3. Networking

A. Collaborative efforts with other IGU commissions

- In 2010 – the commission had a joint session with the Commission on Marginalization, Globalization and Regional and Local Response in the IGU Regional Conference, Tel-Aviv.

B. Collaboration with other international groups

- In 2011 – The annual meeting was part of the Third Economic Geography Conference in Seoul, South Korea. This is the second time we follow this practice which was first initiated in 2007 within the Second Economic Geography Conference, Beijing, China.

4. Publications

A. Newsletters and special journal issues

5 newsletters have appeared during the last 4 years.

- January 2008
- October 2008
- October 2009
- September 2010
- October 2011

The harvest of the annual meetings of the commission resulted in 2 special journal issues of the journal *Rural Studies*:

- 1) **Rural Studies** Volume no. 20, 2009, *Socio-Economic Disparities and the Role of Local Development*, Edited by Jerzy Banski.
- 2) **Rural Studies** Volume no. 27, 2012, *Local and Regional Development – Challenges and Policy Issues*, Edited by Jerzy Banski.

2. Meetings

A. Annual meetings organized during the period 2008-2011

Dates	Title	Location	Number of papers	Number of participants
August 12-15, 2008	31 st International geographical congress	Tunis	8	30
September 7-14, 2009	Socio-economic disparities and the role of local development	Warsaw	18	30
July 12-16, 2010	Local development in a globalizing world	Tel-Aviv, Israel	18	40
June 28- July 1, 2011	Local development in a Globalised World – Issues and Implications	Seoul, South Korea	8	30
November 14-18, 2011	United and Integrated with the World	Santiago, Chile	22	40

B. A brief summary of the questions addressed at the meetings

The meetings were carried under the view that recent years have witnessed waves of peculiar protest against the steamroller of globalization and its local effects – such as replication of the same production and consumption patterns, disintegration, deterritorialization and unification – all of which have been manifested in the form of spontaneous anti-globalist and alter-globalist local social movements that advocate and praise local actions and forces of development. These social movements do not necessarily negate all the globalization processes, but expect these to take on a more human face as well as to take account of diversity in the local dimension, i.e. to be in harmony with the principle: “think globally, act locally”. As a result, there has been recently an increasing interest in local and regional development that, to a larger extent than before, takes into consideration specific qualities of the home regions. These tendencies were expressed in the title of the 2010 IGU Regional Conference in Tel-Aviv "Bridging Diversity in a Global World", where the sessions of the Commission on Local Development were devoted to the debate concerning related issues to this topic. Altogether, the various meetings offered a variety of insights into issues revolving around local and regional development. These contained multifaceted approaches, which combined social, economic, environmental and cultural dimensions.

B. Corresponding members

The number of corresponding members, besides the steering committee members, that receive our information, notes and newsletters regularly, is 189 spread over 39 countries (See table below). On an irregular basis, we spread our news to a range of about 500 persons.

The number of members of the commission by country as of 31 December 2011

Country	Number of members
Australia	9
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Brazil	9
Canada	6
China	3
Check Republic	11
Denmark	4
Estonia	2
Fiji	1
Finland	14
France	4
Germany	5
Hong Kong	1
India	2
Ireland	7
Israel	28
Italy	3
Japan	3
Latvia	1
Mexico	2
New Zealand	3
Peru	1
Poland	7
Portugal	1
Romania	11
Russia	1
Singapore	2
South Africa	3
South Korea	1
Spain	8
Sweden	6
Taiwan	1
The Netherlands	5
Turkey	2
UAE	1
UK	6
Ukraine	1
USA	9
Zambia	1
Other	5
Total	189

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT'S ACTIVITIES – 2008-2012

1. Membership

A. Steering committee members

Chair of the Commission

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Vice-Chair

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Steering Committee members

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