



Abstract submission deadline: 3rd September 2018

This conference will bring together researchers and practitioners from different countries interested in urban and regional development, new development path creation, and urban and regional resilience.

The future development of regional studies and human geography have been informed by a number of critical questions:

- How can we address persistent disparities between prosperous metropolitan regions and less-favored 'peripheries', including small cities and rural settlements?
- How does centralization of political and economic power influence local and regional development, spatial inequalities, and cohesion?
- How can we reconcile the imperatives of economic development, sustainability, and human well-being?
- How do place specific institutional frameworks, cultures, and norms facilitate or hinder development?
- How do economic development strategies in post-industrial cities influence income and class disparities?

The notion of urban resilience cuts across these debates in theory and practice. At the theoretical level, it has allowed linking of debates in regional geography, urban planning, and policy studies. At the practical level, policy-makers are concerned with issues of implementation and the gap between policy design and delivery. Current debates are dominated by structural factors and explanations, but the role of agency and leadership is rising up the research agenda in regional studies, political science and management.

This raises the following questions in relation to the long-term resilience of places:

- What is the role of local, regional, and national level policies and leadership?
- What role is played by inter-budgetary relations, local self-governance, and inter-municipal cooperation?
- How effective and efficient are the following regional policy instruments: national/regional targeted programs, Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Development Corporations (DCs), Local/Regional Development Agencies, Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects, etc.?

Current debates emphasize the role of universities in innovation, knowledge exchange, and creating human capital. These are crucial factors for regions and localities seeking to develop new areas of specialization but how is this managed in peripheral regions and small cities which have need but are often excluded from university-centered knowledge exchange networks? How can this mismatch be addressed? Papers are also sought on social and civil capital and its influence on the quality of institutions and mechanisms for creating new industrial specializations as well as city and regional resilience in the face of external shocks.

Conference key themes:

- Urban and regional resilience
- Small cities after decline
- Small cities in non-core areas: local, regional and national policies on their shrinking and/or revival
- Local self-government and inter-budgetary relations
- Strategies and instruments of re-growth and reindustrialization for cities and regions
- Strategies and patterns of urban/regional post-industrial development
- Inter-municipal cooperation
- Planning for metropolitan areas and regional design
- Human capital, industrial specialization and innovation in urban development
- Social/civil capitals and institutions in urban development
- PPPs in urban development
- International, national and regional cohesion policies and inequalities

Abstract and Session proposal submissions

We welcome abstracts and session proposals from all academics, students and those working in policy and practice. The event is inclusive and offers networking opportunities for all in our field. Please submit proposals in the form of a 250-500 word abstract (text only, no pictures, graphs or tables) through the Regional Studies Association online portal by 3rd September 2018.

Program Committee

Leonid Limonov - Leontief Centre, HSE-St Petersburg, Russia
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Conference organisers

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Link to register and submit your abstract:

<https://members.regionalstudies.org/lounge/Meetings/Meeting?ID=210>