

## **RSA Polish Section**

### **60th Anniversary of the Regional Studies Association**

#### **Event Report**

On 15 May, the Polish Section of the Regional Studies Association and the Centre for European Regional and Local Studies (EUROREG) at the University of Warsaw had the pleasure of hosting Professor Simona Iammarino for a special open lecture organised as part of the celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the Regional Studies Association. The event constituted the central element of the anniversary activities prepared by the Polish Section of the RSA and aimed to strengthen discussion on contemporary regional development challenges within the Polish and wider Central and Eastern European academic community.

The lecture, titled *“Critical Raw Materials & Technological Transitions: What Role for European Regions?”*, attracted considerable interest and brought together more than 30 participants, although not all attendees signed the official attendance list, which includes 25 confirmed signatures (attached). The audience included researchers, doctoral students, students, representatives of public institutions and members of organisations interested in regional development, economic geography and European policy issues. The event was opened by Professor Maciej Smętkowski, Chair of the Polish Section of the RSA, who briefly presented the activities, programmes and international initiatives of the Association, with particular emphasis on its engagement in Central and Eastern Europe and the upcoming Central and Eastern European Conference.

Professor Iammarino’s lecture addressed one of the key contemporary challenges facing Europe: how to pursue technological and green transitions while remaining dependent on critical raw materials whose extraction generates environmental costs and geopolitical tensions. The presentation stimulated a lively and extended discussion with participants, focusing particularly on European competitiveness, industrial policy, China’s growing global role, and Europe’s complex relations with Africa in the context of historical dependencies and current resource strategies.

The event was promoted through a wide range of communication channels. Information about the lecture was distributed through two rounds of email communication sent to more than 1,000 recipients, including RSA members, universities, public institutions, doctoral schools, research partners and student organisations. Promotional materials were also displayed across the University of Warsaw campus and surrounding areas, while social media channels helped further broaden the outreach of the event. A recording of the lecture will also be made available online.

Following the lecture, participants were invited to a reception organised for attendees, which created an opportunity for informal networking and further discussion of the themes raised during the lecture. These follow-up conversations continued the exchange of ideas on regional development, technological transitions and the future challenges facing European regions.