Over the last decades new patterns of regional disparities and polarisation have developed in Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries, drawing the attention of both researchers and policy-makers. Cohesion Policy responded to this challenge by focusing on balanced spatial development of the European regions. However, although achieving significant progress in developing towards the EU-average, CEE still faces serious internal spatial imbalances between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, between core regions and peripheries.

The increasing social and economic disparities at regional level within CEE have led to the need to develop new strategies with a strong spatial focus, in order to deal with and respond to the challenges. This conference seeks to explore questions such as: how can we deal with polarisation and peripheralisation? What are the challenges for future space-based policies? What new approaches should be developed to deal with growing regional imbalances?

The organisers welcome proposals for Special Sessions, themed workshops and innovative forms of networking and collaboration.

**Submission of abstracts:**

Please submit proposals of papers in the form of a 400-500 word abstract (text only, no pictures, graphs or tables) through the Regional Studies Association online portal by 6th July 2017. Proposals will be considered by the Conference Programming Committee against the criteria of originality, interest and subject balance.