



**Call for Papers**  
Regional Studies Association: Research Seminar Series

**Leadership & Politics & Governance in Turbulent Times:  
Global and Geopolitical Challenges in a Changing Europe**

**Date:** 14-15 March 2024 (Thursday and Friday)

**Conveners:** Martin Pelucha (Prague University of Economics and Business), John Gibney (University of Birmingham), Joyce Liddle and John Shutt (Northumbria University), Ignazio Cabras and Thomas Hoerber (ESSCA EU\*Asia Institute), and Markku Sotarauta (Tampere University).

**Venue:** Prague University of Economics and Business, W. Churchill Sq. 1938/4, 130 67 Prague 3 – Žižkov, Czech Republic

**Registration:** [Click here to register](#)      **Conference website:** [Click here](#)

The formation of relations and conditions of development in a transnational, national, regional and local perspective has been and continues to be significantly influenced by a turbulent period of fundamental changes, deeply rooted in global developments and changes in the European geopolitical context. In particular, it has been the unprecedented period of the Covid-19 pandemic, followed by the war in Ukraine and its consequences, which have had an unusually strong impact on everyone's everyday life. Among the induced effects was the migration crisis, which was most pronounced in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It was also an energy crisis that affected more or less all European countries, and a coordinated approach in the EU countries helped to overcome the worst scenarios. The energy crisis then had a domino effect on macroeconomic developments, in particular stagflation. And so on and so forth with the various effects on socio-economic development and everyday life.

In these turbulent times, local and regional actors are responding to the above challenges in different ways and to varying degrees. It is clear that the migration crisis was overcome in a matter of weeks in the spring of 2022 thanks to exceptional leadership at all levels of the public and private sectors, with a strong dose of solidarity. The effects of the energy crisis affected all actors and were gradually resolved through a series of good practice examples, including progressive digitalization and the use of SMART solutions. In the current programming period 2021-2027, EU countries have a wide range of different funding streams at their disposal, not only within the mainstream of EU Structural Funds, but also NextGenerationEU and a greater emphasis on financial instruments. This conference will focus on these connections, based on concrete examples and experiences of leadership at local, regional and national levels. The key questions are What examples of good practice in local and regional governance have you seen in the period of the above factors? What has been the experience of leadership in shaping the resilience of localities and regions in turbulent times?

This workshop aims to bring together an international community of scholars who are interested in developing original perspectives from across city and regional development studies, economic and human/social geography, political science, policy and public administration studies and cross-border studies. By organising and delivering four research conferences/seminars through 2023-2024 (Northumbria University, UK; ESSCA Ecole de Management, France; Prague University of Economics and Business, Czech Republic; and Tampere University, Finland), we are seeking to refresh inter-disciplinary discussion and advance debate around our understandings and explanations of the drivers, dynamics and outcomes of transnational leadership and governance in city and regional development settings.

**This conference (the third in a row) will be held at the Prague University of Economics and Business, Czech Republic.** We invite original papers that address aspects of (either/or) the theory and concepts, policy and practice of transnational leadership and governance in achieving more resilient places in Europe. Seminar will be limited to no more than 50 participants.  
**Preliminary announcement:** Conference/Seminar 4 will be held in Birmingham on 9-11 October 2024.

**Please send an abstract of 150-200 words to** prof. Martin Pelucha [martin.pelucha@vse.cz](mailto:martin.pelucha@vse.cz) and Martina Kubikova [martina.kubikova@vse.cz](mailto:martina.kubikova@vse.cz). **Deadline: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024.**

The seminar programme – and accepted abstracts – will be confirmed by the end of January 2024.

There are no registration fees for this workshop. Venue, lunch, and coffee breaks will be covered by Prague University of Economics and Business.

