

# RSA Central and Eastern Europe 2026

## Resilience, Realignment, and Renaissance: Territorial Transformations in Central and Eastern Europe

Monday 14<sup>th</sup>-Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
Poznań University of Economics and Business, Poland  
#CEE26

The Regional Studies Association's fifth Central and Eastern Europe Conference 2026 is being held in partnership with Poznań University of Economics and Business, Poland. This three-day event will bring together academics, policymakers, and researchers to share insights, perspectives, and the latest findings in regional studies, economic development, policy, and planning.

Central and Eastern Europe is having to navigate geopolitical turbulence and economic realignment at the national level, while recognising and operating through a complex mosaic of subnational regions with deeply varied prospects, vulnerabilities, and opportunities. Current developments be they political, economic, demographic, or environmental are producing highly differentiated territorial impacts. A sustained focus on regional and subnational dynamics reveals both the persistence of old divides and the emergence of new growth poles or lagging peripheries, calling for truly place-based strategies. What's more, on the eve of budgetary shifts in the EU understanding the role of regions in transforming the dynamics of CEE is only going to become more important.

This is because the legacies of past policies, sectoral specialization, and historic divisions have resulted in profound spatial differentiation across CEE. Today, the impacts of external shocks, climate policies, digital change, and migration play out very differently in resilient city regions, rural hinterlands, and once-thriving industrial towns. Recognizing these territorial disparities and focusing on regional empowerment, innovation, and place-based solutions is crucial for fostering truly resilient and inclusive development in Central and Eastern Europe.

The RSA Central and Eastern Europe Conference 2026 presents an important opportunity to champion a positive agenda for regional change and development based on a deep knowledge and understanding of what we can learn from knowing about regional pasts and regional presents. The event will provide an important platform to discuss and debate regional futures, establish new connections, and assess options for practitioners and policymakers working towards brighter regional futures.

Broad themes and key agendas the organisers are keen to facilitate discussion around include, but are not limited to:

### Conference Themes

- 1. Geopolitical Realignment and Regional Security**
- 2. Economic Resilience, Recovery & Inequality at the Territorial**

3. Green Transition: Place-Based Impacts and Opportunities
4. Demographic Shifts: Local Challenges and Regional Responses
5. Digital and Innovation Divides
6. Societal and Civic Resilience at the Local Level
7. Spatial Inequalities and Regional Development Pathways
8. Territorial Governance and Multi-Scalar Policymaking
9. Preparing for EU Accession: Regional Development Challenges in Candidate Countries and Lessons learnt from CEE

The event is inclusive and offers networking opportunities for all in our field. The organisers welcome proposals for special sessions, themed workshops and innovative forms of networking and collaboration. For more detailed information:

Conference Webpage: <https://www.regionalstudies.org/events/2026cee/>

**Submission Deadlines:**

Special Sessions: 12th May 2026

Abstracts: 19th May 2026 (up to 250 words and text only)

Please [click here](#) to submit your abstract, special session proposal and for more information on the conference.

**Academic Organisers**

Ida Musiałkowska; Piotr Idczak; Dorota Czyżewska-Misztal; Maciej Pietrzykowski; Monika Banaszewska; Michał Faryś; Łukasz Wróblewski; Judyta Cabańska, Poznań University of Economics and Business, Poland

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