

Welcome

DEAR COLLEAGUES

We extend you a warm welcome to the sixteenth Annual International Conference of the Regional Studies Association – *Regional Responses and Global Shifts: Actors, Institutions and Organisations* which takes place in the beautiful city of Pécs, Hungary, European Capital of Culture in 2010.

Many of you will know of the Regional Studies Association, and probably all of you will be familiar with our two journals, *Regional Studies* and *Spatial Economic Analysis*.

Our Association has much to offer with genuine membership benefits including:

- Print and online journals, (10 issues of *Regional Studies* and 4 issues of *Spatial Economic Analysis* each year);
- The widely read, quarterly membership magazine *Regions*;
- 1 issue of our new magazine *Regional Insights*;
- Funding for Research Networks organised by members for members (up to Stg £3,000.00);
- Our Travel Grant Scheme (up to Stg £200.00);
- Our new Event Scheme Support –ESS (up to Stg £1000);
- A 30% discount on books in the Association's *Regions and Cities* Series;
- A 30% discount on all subject related Taylor and Francis books and e-books including Routledge;
- Online access to a bundle of 8 Taylor and Francis relevant journals;
- A number of high profile prizes and incentives to excellence;
- A range of annual conferences, an expanding events programme and a growing spatial network.

If you are not already a member enjoying these benefits, then why not look at the membership form at the end of this book and consider joining us? The form also explains our newly introduced territorial membership rates which recognise geographical differences in ability to pay. As a result, your active participation may cost you much less than you think and you will be eligible for a further membership discount if you join during the event.

As always with a conference of this size there are many people whom we need to thank and first among these are our hosts and local organisers Professor Gyula Horváth Director of the Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Dr Gábor Rappai, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics and Dr Gyula Berke, Dean of the Faculty of Law from the University of Pécs. The facilities for this (largest ever) Association international conference have been provided by the university and their exam timetables have been reorganised around the needs of the event. Of course there are many others who have been very active behind the scene and without whom the conference could not have taken place and chief among those are Katalin Süle and Marta Bakucz who have been invaluable in their intellectual and practical contributions to the conference and who have ensured that we are well organised for a stimulating and exciting event.

We are also indebted for the work of the conference gatekeepers who have organised the submitted papers into sessions and have coordinated the gateways. The latter have worked with authors to improve both the fit and the quality of the papers for the event. This additional effort is time consuming but important and we would like to say a special thank you to them.

We would also like to thank my colleagues at the Association for their unfailing efforts in the delivery of this event.

Finally we would like to thank you, the participants. The RSA Board believe that our conferences have a reputation both for quality and friendliness and both of these characteristics reflect the contributions of our participants.

This conference is our annual international networking event where we seek to greet old friends and make new ones – if you are an existing member or are interested in joining don't forget to talk to our staff team about how you could benefit from our many activities and publications. You'll be very welcome.

David Bailey
Chair, Regional Studies Association

Sally Hardy
Chief Executive, Regional Studies Association

The Centre for Regional Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; was founded as a network of institutes in 1984 as the legal successor of the Transdanubian Research Institute founded in 1943. The CRS has its headquarters in Pécs and four institutes with further three departments covering the entire territory of Hungary.

CRS employs economists, geographers, political scientist, sociologists and lawyers whose researches are aimed at European and Hungarian regional development. 70% of researchers have PhD and DSC title, hold significant positions at universities and are internationally known. Centre for Regional Studies is an important actor of Hungarian and CEE regional science, has its own periodical, scientific society called Regional Science Association. The fellow workers of CRS lead Master and PhD schools and courses in regional development and policy. The researchers of CRS regularly provide scientific establishment for the local-regional and central decision making processes concerning development plans and regulation of regional policy. The several disciplines of CRS researchers' allow the elaboration of complex interdisciplinary works. All researchers carry out basic researches in their fields, the results of which are also utilised in applied research done on external contracts. HAS Centre for Regional Studies conducted more than 150 national and international projects since 1990 among others several ESPON, INTERREG, 5th and 6th Framework Programmes, researches for the European Commission's Directorate Generals. Acknowledging its scientific excellence CRS was awarded the right of the organisation of the annual international conference of Regional Science Association 2010.

Basic research activities:

The primary field of study of the **Hungarian and international features of regionalism:**

- regional economic development and urban and rural development: development of the territorial structure of the economy, the appearance of new organisation forms, the spread of innovations in space, correlations of the territorial factors and the economic structure, territorial analysis of financial and income processes, regional competitiveness
- survey of the urban structure and the spatial structure of the society: Modernisation of urban functions, spatial structure of the urban network, differentiation of rural settlements, demographical and sociological analyses;
- Hungarian regional policy and regional administration: Theoretical establishment of the further development of the structure of Hungarian regional administration, analysis of the regional development activities, establishment of the professional and effectiveness requirements becoming more and more important within the local governmental system (regional planning, financing, other means and institutions of the regional policy);
- regional policy in the European Union, international and interregional co-operations; new driving forces of regional development of the post-industrial Europe;
- environmental researches: survey of the breaking points leading out of the environmental crisis and examination of the requirements, objectives and tools of sustainable development.
- Lately increased attention is devoted to towns, urban networks and the issue of urban development, urban governance and the topic of city and its surrounding. The Centre for Regional Studies was assigned by the Hungarian Government with the professional establishment of the Hungarian Settlement Network Development Concept, in the course of which we have utilised our experiences collected during our participation in the different ESPON Programmes.

Frequent publications:

- Space and Society, published every quarter year since 1987, periodical,
- Regional and Urban Studies (35 monographs have been published until currently),
- Regions of the Carpathian Basin – series of monographs (8 volumes published),
- Europe of Regions (3 volumes),
- Great Plain Studies (19 volumes),
- Discussion Papers, English language series (85 published).



THE UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS



THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

The modern University of Pécs was founded on 1 January 2000 through the merger of Janus Pannonius University, the Medical University of Pécs and the Illyés Gyula Teacher Training College of Szekszárd. However, its roots go back to 1367 when the Anjou king of Hungary, Louis the Great established the first Hungarian university in Pécs.

With its ten faculties - Faculty of Adult Education and Human Resources Development, Faculty of Business and Economics, Faculty of Health Sciences, Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Law, Medical School, Faculty of Music and Visual Arts, Faculty of Sciences, Illyés Gyula Faculty of Education and Pollack Mihály Faculty of Engineering - the University of Pécs plays a significant role in Hungarian higher education. The University offers a broad range of training and degree programmes, ensuring high-level knowledge-transfer and research. With its more than 31,000 students and nearly 2,000 teaching and research staff the impact of the University of Pécs extends well beyond the borders of Pécs.

In September 2006, a modern higher educational training system initiated by the European Union was introduced in Hungary too, known as the Bologna process, which offers students an opportunity to pursue their studies in a dynamically developing, convertible European higher educational system. The traditional college and university level training programmes were replaced by a three-tier system consisting of a basic training programme (BA, BSc), a master level programme (MA, MSc), and doctoral level (PhD, DLA) programme.

In order to meet the demands and the needs of the surrounding community for continuing education, the University of Pécs has started to develop its programmes within the area of life-long learning. In addition, the University attaches great importance to training in the colleges for advanced studies. Nearly every Faculty offers training in the framework of this organisation that encourages students to pursue their own research.

Due to the credit system, first introduced in Hungary here in Pécs, an increasing number of Hungarian students participate in international study programmes as an integral part of their education, and likewise, an increasing number of international students and researchers come to the University of Pécs to study and conduct research every year. Therefore, the University continuously works on expanding and improving its co-operation with other universities and international research institutions and is already part of a large network at different levels.