

IGU Commission on Geography of Governance

Commission Annual Report 2013

A. Membership

A.1 Steering committee, including contact details

There were no changes in Steering Committee during this year.

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A.2 Number of commission members by country (as of December 1st 2013)

As an “old” Commission, there is permanent, although minor change in composition of corresponding members. Within the last years, we increased number of corresponding members especially in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

<i>country</i>	members		<i>country</i>	members
Argentina	5		Latvia	1
Australia	7		Lesotho	1
Austria	10		Lithuania	1
Bangladesh	1		Mexico	3
Belarus	1		Nepal	4
Belgium	8		Netherlands	16
Brazil	13		New Zealand	6
Bulgaria	1		Nigeria	4
Canada	16		Norway	4
Chile	1		Pakistan	1
China	5		Poland	26
Colombia	1		Portugal	5
Croatia	1		Romania	2
Cuba	7		Russia	8
Czech Republic	16		Slovakia	11
Denmark	7		Slovenia	1
Estonia	2		South Africa	5
Finland	10		Spain	5
France	9		Sweden	13
Germany	29		Switzerland	30
Hungary	13		Taiwan	1
India	8		Tunesia	1
Ireland	4		Turkey	1
Israel	8		Ukraine	2
Italy	13		United Kingdom	35
Jamaica	1		USA	49
Japan	12			
Republic of Korea	8		TOTAL	453

B. Meetings

B.1. Meetings organized with basic details

International Conference

"New Challenges for Local Governance"

Date and place: April 12-13, 2012; Lisbon, Portugal,

Location and venue: Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Lisbon, Portugal,

Local organizer: Professor Carlos Nunes Silva

32nd International Geographical Congress Cologne

C08.13 Geography of Governance Commission sessions

Date: 26 – 30 August 2012

Organized by: IGU and Universität zu Köln, with DGfG

Venue: Universität zu Köln

Place: Cologne (Köln), Germany

International Seminar

"Finance in Transition / Financialization & Governance: Lessons for the Future"

Date and place: 15-17 May 2013, Bratislava, Slovakia

Organised by: International Geographical Union Commission on Geography of Governance and Regional Studies Association Research Network on Geographies of Finance and Post-Socialist Transformations

Sponsors: Regional Studies Association, International Geographical Union, Trinity College Dublin and Comenius University Bratislava

Main organizers: J. Buček, M. Sokol, A. Rochovská - Comenius University, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Department of Human Geography and Demography

IGU Regional Conference 2014

C12.13 Geography of Governance Commission sessions

Date: 4-9 August 2013

Place and Venue: Kyoto, Japan; Kyoto International Conference Centre

Organised by: National Committee of Japan for IGU and Organising Committee, in cooperation with participating Steering Committee and senior Commission members

B.2 Brief summary of the topics addressed

International Conference

"New Challenges for Local Governance"

Date and place: April 12-13, 2012; Lisbon, Portugal

Very well attended conference (after review process there were more than 50 participants) addressed five main issues: the economic crisis and local government finance; local and regional government reforms; local public services provision; urban policies and sustainable development; and citizen e-participation. The most reflected and evaluated were various anti-crisis measures adopted by sub-state governments. More cases documented reverse processes to long-term prevailing decentralization. Similar specific features were revealed in public services delivery. There emerged cases when previously privatized or privately delivered services returned back under more direct supervision or provision by governments. More specific cases of public administration reforms were discussed, including powers redistribution, with special attention to meso-level of government. Presented papers also confirmed rising and more diversified application of e-participation in governance and planning.

32nd International Geographical Congress Cologne

Date and place: 26 – 30 August 2012, Cologne, Germany

Almost 30 contributions offered very good overview of existing diversity in topics concerning our Commission profile. Set of presentations dealt with theoretical and methodological issues, current research directions, with various supporting and partly overlapping conceptual frameworks. Positive feature had been more papers focusing on environmental governance. More traditional, but still important contributions analysed innovations in public sector. Besides current processes in public administration reforms, there were more extensively debated wider scale public sector and institutional reorganizations that had emerged in more countries. Set of papers addressed numerous experiences (good, as well as conflicting cases) with development oriented governance structures in regions, cities and rural communities. Presented papers covered issues in well developed states as well as in developing and quickly growing states. Important were papers addressing governance in various specific e.g. marginalised conditions and more specific communities (e.g. immigrants).

International Seminar

Finance in Transition / Financialization & Governance: Lessons for the Future

Date and place: 15-17 May 2013, Bratislava, Slovakia

Contributions delivered during this seminar covered various spatial scales in relation to current financialization of various spheres social life. Among frequently mentioned and analysed issues were consequences of the financial crisis. Set of papers addressed financial sector and financial services and their development, including spatial differentiation in serving business and citizens. Another group of papers discussed financial flows of various kinds, their instability, impact on investments. Financial issues substantially influenced situation of regional and local governments. In more cases

relations between local-government, financial institutions, investment finance and links to other actors were analysed. The seminar finished with inspiring round table discussion with numerous ideas and comments concerning future research of various financial linkages across public and private sector; local, regional and central state; as well as links to global financial situation and financial networks operating through the world.



Participants on Bratislava seminar in May 2013

C08.13 Geography of Governance Commission session - **"Traditions and innovations in governance - better meet the needs of people"**

Date: 4-9 August 2013

Already during preparation of our sessions' framework, we were strongly influenced by general framework of the regional conference. We were focusing on search for suitable intersections of "old and new" in government and governance. Discussed were interesting governance issues concerning planning and development programming related to various social and economic activities. As an important issue we can consider governance in large cities, ports, or cities facing large development initiatives. More authors discussed issues related to traditional governments, old territorial structures as well as new innovations and induced adaptations. In global scale, we could observe rising attention paid to participatory structures in governance at the local and neighbourhood levels. We could observe more similarities, but as well some differences in application of such approaches in governance in various parts of the world.

B.3 Meetings plan to hold in 2014 and later years

There are two main Commission events organised in Poland in 2014 – in Poznan and Krakow.

IGU Commission on Geography of Governance 2014 Annual Conference

„New challenges in local, metropolitan and regional governance“

Date and Place: 14-16 August 2013, Poznan (Poland)

Hosted by: Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań (Poland)

2014 IGU Regional Conference “Changes, challenges, responsibility”, Commission session - **“Geography, governance and citizens’ participation”**

Date: 18–22 August 2014

Organised by: Polish Geographical Society, in co-operation with Polish universities
Conference Venue: Jagiellonian University, Krakow (Poland).

As usual, we plan to held sessions within main IGU events in 2015 (Moscow, Russia) and 2016 (Beijing, China), combined with more specialised meetings in other countries. They will be specified during 2014 .

C. Networking

Networking activities during 2012-2013 focused on sustaining longer term developed links to other scientific disciplines and their bodies. It includes especially International Political Science Association and its members focusing on local government issues. They regularly participate on our events.

As a new experience, we organised 2013 meeting in Bratislava in co-operation with Regional Studies Association, its Research Network on Geographies of Finance (and Post-Socialist Transformations). This group of scholars, sometimes quite narrow, now expanded into over 100 members dealing with geography and financialization all over the world.

Second form of networking had been repeated effort to strengthen Commission activities by means of COST project supporting co-operation and networking thanks to EU funds. Despite positive evaluation of our project proposal, due to tight competition, our project had not been successful.

D. Publications

D.1. Newsletters and books published in 2012-2013

Newsletters

- 2012 Spring,
- 2012 Autumn
- 2013 Spring-Summer
- 2013 Autumn

Within the Commission two books were prepared within last two years. The first one is already available in printed and electronic versions, the second one is already complete and submitted to publisher. They mostly include selected valuable contribution presented on commission events, or invited contribution by other commission members (completed into book chapters). These books include chapters prepared by well-known scholars, as well as by young scientists, or researchers based in developing countries. Other papers (e.g. those outside the scope of our books) were published with assistance of the Commission members in journals: *International Journal of E-Planning Research*, *Lex localis - Journal of Local Self-Government*, *Acta Geographica Universitatis Comenianae*.

Book

Pradhan, P. K., Buček, J. and Razin, E. (eds.) 2013. ***Geography of Governance: Dynamics for Local Development***. International Geographical Union Commission on Geography of Governance. 254pages, ISBN: 978-9937-2-6508-9.

Electronic full text version of the book is available for download at the Commission web page (http://www.igu-gog.org/download/Pradhan_Bucek_Razin.pdf).

Book in print

Silva, C.N., Buček, J. (eds.). ***Fiscal Austerity and Innovation in Local Governance in Europe***. Ashgate, June 2014, 235 pages, hardback, ISBN: 978-1-4724-3243-8

D.2 The current accurate URL of the commission's web site

<http://www.igu-gog.org/>

It serves also as on-line archive of the Commission with all newsletters, meetings, electronic books available, as well as photo galleries related to the commission activities.

E. Archival Contributions

All newsletters were sent to IGU Secretary General. We use our Commission web page as kind of archive. It offers all available newsletters, photo gallery representing our meetings. Electronic version of book published in 2013 is enclosed to this report.

This report is structured following the instructions of the IGU Executive Committee.

Ján Buček, Commission Chair
Bratislava, Slovakia, December 2013