

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON LOCAL AND Regional DEVELOPMENT'S ACTIVITIES – 2012-2013

The name of the commission has been changed and it is now:

THE COMMISSION ON LOCAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Membership

1. Steering committee members

Chair of the Commission

- **Michael Sofer**, Department of Geography and Environment, Faculty of Social Sciences, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan, 52900, Israel, soferm1@biu.ac.il, tel. +972-3-531-8773, fax: +972-3-7384033

Vice-Chair

- **Jerzy Banski**, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences, 00-818 Warszawa, ul. Twarda 51/55, Poland, jbanski@twarda.pan.pl, tel. (48) 22 6978922

Steering Committee members

- **Ash Amin**, Department of Geography Science Laboratories, South Road, University of Durham, Durham DH1 3LE, United Kingdom, ash.amin@durham.ac.uk, tel. +44 (0) 191 33 41850, fax: +44 (0)191 33 41801
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- **Clélio Campolina Diniz**, Centro de Desenvolvimento e Planejamento Regional, Faculdade de Ciências Econômicas, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais. Rua Curitiba, 832 – 50, 506 Centro 30170120 - Belo Horizonte, MG - Brasil, camp@cedeplar.ufmg.br, tel. (31) 32799001, fax: (31) 32799009
- **Ayda Eraydin**, Mimarlık Fakültesi, Şehir ve Bölge Planlama Bölümü, İnönü Bulvarı, Orta Dogu Teknik Üniversitesi (Middle East Technical University), 06531 Ankara – Türkiye, Turkey, ayda@metu.edu.tr, tel. + 90 - 312 - 210 22 04 fax: +90 - 312 - 210 12 50
- **Weidong Liu**, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 11 A Datun Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100101, China, liuwd@igsnrr.ac.cn, tel. 86-10-64889276, fax: 86-10-64851844
- **Fermín Rodríguez**, Centro de Cooperacion y Desarrollo Territorial, University of Oviedo, Chalet de Figaredo s/n, 33683 Figaredo, Asturias Spain, cecodet@uniovi.es, tel.+34 985 10 44 04, fax: +34-985 104684
- **Suman Sao**, Reader, Dept. of Geography & Applied Geography University of North Bengal, 734430 India, sumansao1@yahoo.co.in

- **Tony Sorensen**, School of Human and Environmental Studies, University of New England, Armidale, NSW 2351, Australia, asorens@metz.une.edu.au, tel. 02 6773 2880 (or +61 2 6773 2880), fax: 02 6773 3030
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2. Corresponding members

The number of corresponding members, besides the steering committee members, that receive our information, notes and newsletters regularly, is 220 spread over 41 countries (See table below). On an irregular basis, we spread our news to a range of about 500 persons.

The number of members of the commission by country as of 31 December 2011

Country	Number of members
Australia	12
Bahamas	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Brazil	8
Canada	7
Chile	1
China	4
Czech Republic	13
Denmark	6
Estonia	2
Fiji	1
Finland	10
France	5
Germany	10
Hong Kong	2
India	4
Ireland	5
Israel	29
Italy	5
Japan	12
Mexico	1
Moldova	2
New Zealand	3
Peru	1
Poland	12
Portugal	1
Romania	13
Russia	4
Singapore	2
Slovenia	1
South Africa	2
South Korea	1
Spain	5
Sweden	3
Switzerland	1

The Netherlands	6
Turkey	4
UAE	1
UK	8
Ukraine	1
USA	10
Total	220

B. Meetings

1. Annual meetings organized during the period 2012-2013 and future meetings

Dates	Title	Location	Number of sessions	Number of papers	Number of participants
August 26-30, 2012	IGC Cologne 2012	Cologne	5	20	50
August 5-9, 2013	IGU 2013 Kyoto Regional Conference	Kyoto	7	27	80

2. A brief summary of the questions addressed at the meetings

(1) Annual meeting during the IGC Cologne 2012

The Commission on Local Development sessions touched issues related to such matters as local and regional development strategy, regional disparities in well-being and quality of life, reorganization of space, the role of both institutions and government agencies in planning for developing and reshaping the local space, and the spatial dynamics of the private sector – particularly entrepreneurship. The papers presented collectively enabled participants to compare and contrast current approaches to local development in different countries and assess which approaches work best under different geographical scenarios, including resources, availability of investment capital, state of development, governance systems, and international trade relations and so on. There was also an interesting mix of theoretical and empirical analysis in a subject area which is becoming increasingly complex through globalisation.

The five sessions were organised under the following titles:

Session 1. Regional Development: Planning and Disparities

Session 2. Local Development in the Rural Space I

Session 3. Local Development in the Rural Space II

Session 4. Local Development in the Urban Space

Session 5. Assessment of Local Development Projects and Initiatives

(2) Annual meeting during the IGU 2013 Kyoto Regional Conference

The sessions provided a forum for the study of issues related to such matters as local and regional development, reorganization of space, local development in the urban and rural space, and the role of both institutions and agencies in developing and reshaping the settled space. All these issues are currently studied in developing and developed regions and nations. We found that the perception and attitudes towards local development may be different in different countries. In some places the local development theme is closely related to rural and non-metropolitan development, in other parts of the world it is related to the establishment and development of new towns, to spatial form of entrepreneurship, or to the evolution of new cores of sophisticated high-tech activities. The Commission's aim is to amalgamate such debates within the various sessions.

Two sessions dealt specifically with current issues of local and regional development in Japan and the Mediterranean Basin. In Japan, Tokyo has dominated political, economic and social affairs for a long time. Now, at a time when Japan's population is aging and shrinking, the country is facing unprecedented local development challenges. It is critical to examine their nature and origins as well as future opportunities to better understand the likely reconfiguration of the Japanese space-economy. The papers presented on the Mediterranean basin examined broad issues of local and regional development in a number of case-study regions. Among the themes debated were the opening of local markets; the interplay of major actors – whether governments, businesses, or community groups; a variety of local actors' place-based development initiatives; the role of social, human, resource, built and finance capitals in promoting development; the deepening of regional and social disparities; and the importance of increasing of international and inter-regional ties in shaping regional well-being.

The seven sessions were organised under the following titles:

Session 1. Local Development in Japan

Sessions 2 and 3. Local development in the rural space

Sessions 4 and 5. Local development in the urban space

Session 6. Local development: projects and planning

Session 7. Local and Regional Development in the Mediterranean Basin

[Joint session with Commission on the Mediterranean Basin C12.30]

3. Timetable of future annual meetings for the period 2014-2015

Year	Month	Place	Comments	Theme	Year
August 18-22, 2014	IGU 2014 Kraków Regional Conference	Kraków	5-7	20-28	
	2015 Annual conference	Irkutsk and Vladivostok	6	24	30-40

Topics to be addressed in the commission annual meeting during the IGU 2014 Kraków Regional Conference.

(1) Local and Regional Development in Poland

This session aims to investigate current issues concerning processes of local and regional development in Poland, a country facing unprecedented challenges .

(2) Local and regional development in the rural space

These sessions provide a forum for the study of issues related to such matters as reorganization of space, the role of both institutions and agencies in developing and reshaping the settled space. All these issues are studied in developing and developed regions and nations.

(3) Local and regional development in the urban space

These sessions provide a forum for the study of issues related to such matters as reorganization of space, local development in the urban space, and the role of both institutions and agencies in developing and reshaping the settled space. The perception and attitudes towards local development may be different in different countries. In some places the local and regional development theme is closely related to rural and non-metropolitan development, in other parts of the world it is related to the establishment and development of new towns, or to the evolution of new cores of sophisticated high-tech activities. The Commission's aim is to amalgamate such debates within these sessions.

(4) Local and regional development: project and planning

This session provides a forum for the study of issues related to the role of both institutions and agencies in developing and reshaping the settled space.

(5) Local and Regional Development in the Mediterranean Basin

[Joint session with Commission on the Mediterranean Basin C12.30]

C. Networking

1. Collaborative efforts with other IGU commissions

- In 2013 – the commission had a joint session with the Commission on the Mediterranean Basin during the IGU Regional Conference, Kyoto.

D. Publications

1. Newsletters and special journal issues

2 newsletters have appeared during the last 4 years.

- September 2012
- July 2013

Letters and updates are sent to steering committee members

The harvest of the annual meetings of the commission resulted in a special journal issue of the journal *Rural Studies*:

Rural Studies Volume no. 27, 2012, *Local and Regional Development – Challenges and Policy Issues*, Edited by Jerzy Banski.

A new volume is in its early stages of collection and production.

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

A new web site has been refurbished to replace the old one. The URL is:

<http://www.biu.ac.il/soc/ge/igucomld/>

E. Archival Contributions

All newsletters are normally sent to the IGU archives at Villa Celimontana in Rome. Other publications will be sent to these archives.