FIRST CONFERENCE CIRCULAR

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND MARGINALIZATION

Slovenia (Ljubljana, Koper, Maribor), 1st to 5th September, 2016
Abstract submission before 25th April 2016 via Google forms here!

Link to the webpage of the conference

Hosting institution:
UNIVERSITY OF PRIMORSKA
Faculty of Humanities
Department of geography
together with:
University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts, Department of geography
University of Maribor, Faculty of Arts, Department of geography

and also in co-operation with:
University of Primorska
Faculty of Management and Faculty of Tourism Studies – Turistica;
Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts
Anton Melik Geographical Institute and Karst Research Institute
and
Association of Slovenian Geographers.
Conference sub-themes:
1. Marginalizing effects of unsustainable development
2. Managing sustainable development in “problematic” regions
3. Sustainable tourism in underdeveloped regions – potential driver of economic development or unreal expectations
4. Karst and mountains – low production potential and high vulnerability as possible drivers of marginalization
5. Globalization effects in spatially marginal areas – positive and negative impacts
6. Sustainable development in relation to marginality and marginalization within the complex system of globalized economic, social and political order

Conference venue, date and time

The hosting institution is University of Primorska together with two other Slovenian public universities.

The conference will start at the University of Ljubljana with the organizational help of the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Arts. The second and the third day of the conference will be held at the University of Primorska in Koper, and the fourth (or fifth) day at the University of Maribor, in this case with the help of the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Arts in Maribor. The conference will start on Thursday, the 1st of September and will end on Monday, the 5th of September.

Ljubljana is 25 km from its international airport, and the first day of the conference will be held at the Department of Geography in the building of the Faculty of Arts (Aškerčeva cesta 2, Ljubljana).

On the second day we shall transfer to Koper. We will travel through karst areas and visit some places of interest on the way. In the afternoon and on the third day we will continue the conference in Koper, a relatively small but important regional centre and port on the Adriatic coast. The presentations will take place in the building of the Faculty of Humanities in the old medieval city center (Titov trg 5, Koper-Capodistria).

On the fourth day we shall travel to Maribor. We will cross the whole country and pass through four major different types of landscape that meet in Slovenia: the Mediterranean, the Alps, the Dinaric karst and the Pannonian basin. The conference will conclude at the University of Maribor in the building of the Faculty of Arts (Koroška cesta 160, Maribor).

A transfer from Maribor to Ljubljana will be organized at the end of the conference. You can check the map with possible itinerary at the end of this circular.

Registration, abstracts and publication

The registration fee is the same for participants and for accompanying persons and can be either Regular, for those that will not make their own room reservations in Koper and
Maribor, or Reduced for those that want to book hotel rooms in Koper and Maribor on their own.

The table below shows what is included within registration fees:

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<th>Early bird (paid before June the 1st)</th>
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<td>350 €</td>
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<td>• room with breakfast: 2 nights Koper, 1 night Maribor</td>
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<td>Daily (students)</td>
<td>10 € (5 €)</td>
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The book of abstracts will be published at the University of Primorska Press.

Presented papers will be pre-reviewed and in the case of a positive pre-review the author will be invited to prepare a book chapter for a book within the Springer book series “Perspectives on Geographical Marginality”.
CONFERENCE STATEMENT

The location of the 2016 Conference is Slovenia with its three most important cities Ljubljana, Maribor and Koper that are also the seats of the only three public universities in Slovenia (the fourth is not entirely public).

Ljubljana is the national capital, the administrative and business centre of the country. With a quarter of a million inhabitants it is a relatively small city for a capital but it is becoming more and more attractive for foreign visitors. Ljubljana is European Green Capital 2016. The University of Ljubljana was formally established after the collapse of the Habsburg Empire in 1919, and that is also the year when the Department of Geography started to educate geographers. In 1922 students of that department established the first geographical association as a predecessor of today’s Association of Slovenian geographers. The first issue of the Geographical Bulletin (Geografski vestnik) was published in 1925. It is therefore our scientific geographical journal with the longest tradition. Apart from the Department of Geography in Ljubljana there is also the Geographical Institute Anton Melik where many prominent Slovenian geographers are doing their research work.

Ljubljana (old city center around the castle hill) with Alpine ranges at the back (www.tourist-destinations.com)

Maribor is the second biggest city in Slovenia with about 100,000 inhabitants. It used to be the most important industrial centre of Slovenia in the time of socialist Yugoslavia. It became a university town in 1975 with the establishment of the second Slovenian university. The work of the Department of Geography started before that already in 1961.

Maribor is nowadays less an industrial and an increasingly tertiary and quaternary sector oriented administrative and cultural center of North-eastern Slovenia. In 2012 Maribor was the European Capital of Culture.
Maribor – The Plague Column on the Main Square, a baroque masterpiece of Jožef Štraub (www.mb2013.si)

Koper is a city on the Adriatic coast with its history going back to Roman times. It has long been under Venetian rule, which can be observed on every step you make through old medieval part of the city. Once a city on the island, it is nowadays one of the most important Northern Adriatic ports.

The Faculty of Humanities was established in 2001 and was therefore one of the constituting members of the newly established University of Primorska (Università del Litorale) in 2003, as were the predecessors of today’s Faculty of Management and Faculty of Tourism Studies – Turistica. The university comprises just under 6,000 students and slightly more than 700 employees (including administration and part time employees) and is very important for the city with only 25,000 inhabitants, and for the region as well. It is a contact region from several points of view (sea and land, Slavic and Romance language groups, neighbouring nations: Slovenia-Croatia, Slovenia-Italy, tertiary hills and karst plateaus etc.). The first study program of the Department of Geography was therefore called “Geography of contact spaces”. Today we still pay a lot of attention to topics such as border regions, Mediterranean studies, regional/spatial planning, marginality and marginalization etc. The Faculty of humanities, the Faculty of Management, and the Faculty of Health Studies are involved in joint interdisciplinary graduate study programme called “Management of Sustainable Development”. Marginality, marginalization, sustainability and development are therefore not just research but also educational topics and are fully present at the University of Primorska.
Regional Development, Sustainability and Marginalization

Koper-Capodistria: Cruiser ship leaving the passenger terminal (Photo: Jaka Jeraša)

The trips between three conference venues will be an important part of the conference. There will be time for discussions as well as an opportunity to get more information about the host country (visiting places of interest). Half way between Ljubljana and Koper, Postojna hosts the Karst Research Institute. Some researchers from this institute as well as from the Geographical Institute Anton Melik from Ljubljana are teaching special courses at the Department of Geography in Koper. As Slovenia is the land of karst (the region named Karst - Kras in Slovenian, Carso in Italian - is in Slovenia and partly in Italy), one of the subtopics of the conference is dedicated to karst.

Rakov Škocjan natural bridge (www.gore-ljudje.net)

Travel and visa information

To discover if you need a visa to enter Slovenia (EU – Schengen area) visit this webpage. You can find the information about how to get visa here.
The easiest and fastest way to get to Slovenia from more distant countries is by air. Ljubljana airport is accessible from all major European hub airports. Train is also an option, but trains are not very fast and not very frequent either. However, the journey may be interesting because of the picturesque landscape. The easiest and usually the fastest way to come to Ljubljana from the neighbouring countries is therefore by car.

**Organizing committee**
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Dr. Drago Perko, Anton Melik Geographical Institute  
Prof. dr. Tadej Slabe, Karst Research Institute
Transfer between Ljubljana, Koper and Maribor

For participants that will attend all days of the conference the transfer by bus (minibus/van - depending on the number of participants) will be organized. It is also meant to be an excursion that will reveal some basic features of different areas of Slovenia with special regard to many big differences from natural as well as from socio-economic point of view.

The map shows possible itineraries of the transfers from Ljubljana to Koper and from Koper to Maribor (crossing Dinaric, Mediterranean and Alpine region to finally come to Pannonian part of Slovenia).

Landscape types of Slovenia (Source: Anton Melik Geographical Institute)