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INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL UNION (IGU) IGU COMMISSION GEOGRAPHY OF GOVERNANCE (C20.15) NEWSLETTER 1/2022 January-June

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Lisbon, 1 July 2022

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1. INTRODUCTION

The IGU Commission 'Geography of Governance' publishes two Newsletters every year, the first in June and the second in December. The first Newsletter (January-June 2022) reports the activity in the first semester and presents the updated activity plan for the following period.

Despite the constraints imposed by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Commission continued to work actively, enhancing the debate on local and urban governance through the organization of online sessions and onsite meetings, as described below.

The Commission continued committed to maintain its publishing activity. The recent publications by members of the Steering Committee, related to the core subject of the Commission, are listed below.

The conferences planned for the second semester of 2022 include participation in the IGU Centennial Congress in Paris, in July 2022, the Annual Conference of the Commission, in Mexico City, in August 2022, and a session on "The resilience of New Zealand's regional level of governance" in the New Zealand Geographical Society Conference, in November 2022, at University of Canterbury in Christchurch.

As before, the Commission will consider and discuss proposals for possible collaboration and will continue its efforts to expand its activities to other regions of the world, alone or in collaboration with other IGU Commissions, as well as with organisations outside the IGU.

2. STEERING COMMITTEE, AIMS, THEMES: 2020-2024

2.1 Steering Committee, 2020-2024

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2.2 Aims

1. To advance knowledge of the geography of territorial governance, at the urban, local and regional levels, namely the conditions, scale and characteristics of new modes of territorial governance, in particular those that will emerge as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis, and its social, cultural, political, economic and environmental consequences.

2. To identify new perspectives and to explore new research methodologies and different geographical approaches in the field of urban, local and regional governance.

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3. To provide a platform for the exchange of information, research outcomes, and best practices among its members, namely through digital tools.
4. To enhance current bilateral and multilateral research cooperation among its members and to support the creation of new research networks in the field of urban, local and regional governance, connecting its members with existing international research programs and organizations, increasing interdisciplinary research collaboration across disciplines.
5. To support and promote the publication and dissemination of scholarly research outcomes of its members, in peer-reviewed international journals and in books.
6. To advance educational activities through workshops focused on urban, local and regional governance issues, contributing to the training of the next generation of scientists in this field.
7. To increase the awareness of urban, local and regional governance issues among citizens, local communities and governments.
8. To develop initiatives focused on specific issues in cooperation with members of other IGU Commissions sharing similar or related interests.

2.3 Themes

The Commission aims to explore, but is not limited to, the following themes:

1. Local government reforms
2. Urban and metropolitan governance
3. Local Government and the 2030 Agenda: 'localization' of the Sustainable Development Goals
4. Urban, local and regional government responses to the Covid-19 pandemic: lessons for building resilient territories
5. Decentralization and multi-layered governance: new relations between national, regional and local government in the post-pandemic
6. Digitalization of local government and Citizen e-Participation
7. Governance of spatial planning processes
8. Citizen participation in local and regional government
9. Administrative fragmentation and merger reforms

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10. Decentralized cooperation and development
11. Inter-municipal cooperation
12. Cross-border municipal and regional cooperation
13. Climate change, the governance of complex environmental systems and the challenges for local action
14. Age-, disabled-, minorities, and gender-responsive approaches in urban, local and regional government policies
15. Administrative systems, housing, health services, and local public service delivery
16. Local government finance systems
7. Anthropocene: changes and challenges for urban, local and regional governance
18. Governance in conflict and post-conflict areas
19. Transparency, accountability, good governance, and human rights in local and regional government
20. Big Data and new digital research methods in urban governance

3. ORGANIZATION AND ACTIVITIES

During the period reported in the Newsletter 1/2022 the following activities have been developed:

- 3.1 Online communication tools
- 3.2 Digital Archive
- 3.3 Activity Plan for 2022
- 3.4 Membership
- 3.5 Organization of Conferences and other Meetings
- 3.6 Publications
- 3.7 Action Plan and Research Project focused on 'Local Government response towards the COVID-19 Pandemic'
- 3.8 Action Plan and Research Project focused on 'Local Governance and Climate Emergency'

3.1 Online communication tools. During the first semester of 2022 the online communication tools (website; electronic forum and mailing-list; blog) were updated and/or used for the dissemination of information.

- The IGU-CGoG Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/home>
- Mailing list: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/mailling-list>
- Blog: <http://igugeogov.blogspot.pt/>

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3.2 Digital Archive. The Digital Archive of the Commission has currently seven sessions and is available online (<https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/archive>):

- [Archive - Past Steering Committees \(1984 - 2020\) ->](#)
- [Archive - Newsletters \(1984 - 2020\) ->](#)
- [Archive - Past Conferences \(1984 - 2020\) ->](#)
- [Archive - Publications \(1987 - 2020\) ->](#)
- [Archive - Photogallery \(2006 - 2020\) ->](#)
- [Archive - IGU CGoG FLYER \(2016 - 2020\) ->](#)
- [Archive - Aims & Themes \(2016 - 2020\) ->](#)

At the end of year the Commission will send, as is usual, to the IGU Central Archive, located in the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Germany, the documents (PDF) related to its activities in 2022.

3.3 Activity Plan for 2022. The activity plan for 2022 includes a variety of initiatives, some of which already held in the first semester (e.g., participation in the GeoNight Initiative, in April 2022; organization of a Webinar on Local Government in Ukraine, in June 2022); and others planned for the second semester (e.g., sessions organized by the Commission in the IGU Centennial Congress, in Paris, in July 2022; the IGU CGoG 2022 Annual Conference in Mexico City, in August 2022); publications, and tentatively also joint research activities.

3.4 Membership. The list of corresponding members continued to expand in 2022. New members have been added after the meetings organized by the Commission and as a result of an open call for new corresponding members launched in 2021, which had an excellent result. This call will continue open until end of the term (<https://forms.gle/aVnvSzTZyTGhNgZo8>).

3.5 Organization of Conferences and other Meetings. As reported in the following sections of this Newsletter, members of the Steering Committee have been active, during the first semester of 2022, in the organization of scientific meetings focused on themes pertaining to the core subject of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance, as well in the planning of other meetings for the following years.

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3.6 Publications. Members of the Steering Committee published books, chapters, articles, on issues related to the core subject of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance. The list of recent publications is available below.

3.7 Action Plan and Research Project focused on 'Local Government response towards the COVID-19 Pandemic'. The IGU Commission Geography of Governance launched, on 25 March 2020, a collaborative Action Plan and research project focused on the 'Local Government response towards the COVID-19 Pandemic' as described below in section 7 of this Newsletter. Members of the Commission have been actively developing the project, including the organization of meetings (sessions, panels), and publication of research outcomes on this issue.

3.8 Action Plan and Research Project focused on 'Local Governance and Climate Emergency'. The IGU Commission Geography of Governance launched, on October 2021, a collaborative Action Plan and research project focused on the 'Local Governance and Climate Emergency' as described below in section 8 of this Newsletter. The Commission organized panels on this issue within its main meetings or sessions.

4. IGU Commissions Excellence Award 2020

The IGU Commissions Excellence Award Committee unanimously nominated the Commission "Geography of Governance" for the IGU Commissions Excellence Award 2020 (see Newsletter 2/2021). With this Award came the possibility to hold a special Keynote Lecture in the IGU Centennial Congress, in Paris, in July 2022. This special Lecture /Conference will be done by Prof. Verna Nell, University of the Free State, South Africa. A full report will be included in Newsletter 2/2022.

5. CONFERENCES IN THE FIRST SEMESTER OF 2022

5.1 - 6th GeoNight // 6e Nuit de la Géographie - Webinar "Governing the Urban Night - Local Governance of the Urban Night Time", 1 April 2022, 19:00-21:00 GMT.

The Webinar, organized by the IGU Commission on the Geography of Governance and convened by Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, and chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance), in the context of the International Geographical Union Geo-Nights Program in 2022, explored and discussed how urban growth reorganized space but also time, particularly the night-time, and how it is expected to continue to do so, at

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an increasingly fast speed. As a result of this, local and urban policies have been increasingly considering, in all regions of the world, and in cities of all sizes, the night-time as a new field of action for local government policy. The Webinar brought together researchers, geographers and other social scientists, working on this emerging local government policy field, and the wider public - citizens, policy makers and other stakeholders - from different cities around the globe.

The full program, the abstracts, and PowerPoint are available here:

- Program: <https://sites.google.com/view/geonight2022igucgog/program>
- Abstracts: <https://sites.google.com/view/geonight2022igucgog/abstracts>
- PowerPoint: <https://sites.google.com/view/geonight2022igucgog/download-files>

See also Annex 11.3.

5.2 - The 6th International Conference 'Urban e-Planning', Lisbon, Portugal, 7 - 12 April 2022. The 6th International Conference 'Urban e-Planning', convened by Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, and chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance), and organized by the 'International Journal of E-Planning Research' and by the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, was held in virtual/online format, from Lisbon, Portugal, on 7 - 12 April 2022. The Conference was endorsed, as in previous years, by the IGU Commission Geography of Governance. The Conference addressed four main themes: Track 1 - Governance and Planning of Smart Cities; Track 2 - Urban E-Planning and Climate Emergency; Track 3 - Urban E-Planning and the Covid-19 Pandemic; Track 4 - Citizens E-Participation in Urban Governance. Track 1 with 12 sessions; track 2 with 3 sessions; track 3 with 2 sessions; and track 4 with 5 sessions. The program included 87 papers by authors from 37 countries in all continents. A selection of the papers presented will be published in open access in the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR). A Conference Report will be published in the IJEPR.

The full program and the abstracts are available here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/uep2022conference/abstracts>

More information is available in the conference website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/uep2022conference/home>

5.3 - Webinar "Local Government in Ukraine - Formation, Reforms, Geopolitical Implications and Post-War Recovery" - Monday, 6 June 2022, 12:00 - 16:30 GMT. The Webinar, organized by the IGU Commission on the Geography of Governance,

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convened by Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, and chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance), explored and discussed the local government system in Ukraine, its formation and reforms after independence, its role in times of war, and its potential role in the post-war recovery. It brought together researchers, geographers and other social scientists, working on these issues, and the wider public - citizens, policy makers and other stakeholders - in Ukraine and in other countries around the globe.

The full program, the abstracts, and PowerPoint are available here:

- Program: <https://sites.google.com/view/lgukraine2022/program>
- Abstracts: <https://sites.google.com/view/lgukraine2022/abstracts>
- PowerPoint: <https://sites.google.com/view/lgukraine2022/download-files>
- Webinar webpage: <https://sites.google.com/view/lgukraine2022/home>

See also Annex 11.4.

5.4 - International Conference on Governance and Local Development: The African and Middle Eastern Experience. The IGU Commission on Geography of Governance participated, in partnership with the Al Akhawayn University, in the 'International Conference on Governance and Local Development: The African and Middle Eastern Experience', 11-13 February 2022 (Hybrid), Ifrane, Morocco.

The full program is available here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SxZyaoU7lTmMAgx5xqsRm9pizSn2BdZW/view?usp=sharing>

5.5 - Workshop on "Smart and Resilient Local Governance", 13-14 June 2022, Gyor, Hungary. The Workshop, jointly organized by the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance and by the West Hungarian Research Department of the Centre for Economic and Regional Studies, Institute of Regional Studies, in Gyor, Hungary, was cancelled.

5.6 - WEBINAR QNeST project, 31 March, 2022. Anna Trono (University of Salento, Italy, and member of the IGU CGoG Steering Committee) took part in this meeting, which introduced the concept of cultural routes and itineraries as an innovative and skilful tool to promote quality sustainable tourism in some areas of the Adriatic-Ionian area of Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia.

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5.7 - ROUND TABLE QNeST PLUS project 11 May, 2022. Anna Trono (University of Salento, Italy, and member of the IGU CGoG Steering Committee) took part in this meeting.

The virtual round table aim was to promote, on a regional, national and international level, the follow-up to the project, that is designed to fulfil the potential of certain coastal areas of the Adriatic-Ionian region of the eastern Mediterranean via the provision of cultural routes and itineraries as the basis of sustainable quality tourism. The cultural routes represent an investment in the resources and qualities of the regions concerned but they also assume the broad involvement of all regional stakeholders and the agreement of the institutions (from the local to the international scale), which can provide ensure visibility and safety. To this end attended the web round table Italian and foreign administrators and scholars with experience in the preparation, creation and management of cultural routes are invited to participate in the round table, along with some of the stakeholders in the tourism sector. The former were asked to indicate viable promotion strategies for the cultural routes and itineraries on the national and international level, and the latter to assess the project's potential and future prospects.

5.8 - OPEN DAY . QNeST PLUS Project and Quality Cultural Routes for Sustainable Tourism in Adriatic and Ionian regions. 10 -11 June, 2022 Minervino di Lecce, Lecce, Italy. Anna Trono (University of Salento, Italy, and member of the IGU CGoG Steering Committee) took part in this meeting. The Open Day event ended five years activities of the projects QNeST - Quality Network for Sustainable Tourism and QNeST PLUS, funded under the EU's Adrion - Priority Axis programme: n.2 "Sustainable Region", Axis II SO 2.1 "Promoting the sustainable valorisation and preservation of natural and cultural assets as growth assets in the Adriatic-Ionian area". The project results, obtained by a broad partnership of Countries of the Adriatic and Ionian area, were presented to the community, according to a common vision of tourism-cultural development , the creation of common cultural paths and the involvement of stakeholders who, in various ways, operate in the fields of culture, nature, the Mediterranean diet (in particular wine and olive oil) and accessibility. A real network of operators and realities "branded QNeST".

5.9 - 7th UNESCO UNITWIN Conference 2022: "World Heritage and Tourism Innovation", Slovenia, Portorose, 15-20 May, 2022. Anna Trono (University of Salento, Italy, and member of the IGU CGoG Steering Committee) took part in this meeting.

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5.10 - III Demographic Congress in Poland. Understand the demographic change.

Organizer: Committee of Demographic Sciences of the Polish Academy of

Sciences. Warsaw on June 13 - June 14, 2022. The aim of the conference was to present the demographic situation of Poland from the European, national and local perspective. The session devoted to migrations was organized by Polish geographers, including Prof. Tomasz Kaczmarek from Adam Mickiewicz University and member of the IGU CGoG Steering Committee. The conference Understanding Demographic Change was dealing with the profound demographic change in Poland after 1989, considered in the context of demographic trends in Europe. The discussion on fertility and family changes, health status and mortality, internal and foreign migration as well as accompanying transformations of population structures was carried out from an interdisciplinary perspective. Not only researchers from Poland were invited to the debate, but also leading representatives of the demographic community in Europe. Dubravka Šuica, Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Democracy and Demography, was the guest of honour at the conference. More on the program here:

https://konferencja.pan.pl/zmiana-demograficzna/programme_english.pdf

6. FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES: 2022- 2023

6.1 - IGU-UGI Paris 2022: 100^e anniversaire de la fondation de l'UGI / 100th IGU anniversary - 'Le temps des géographes' - 'Time for geographers', Paris, 18-22 July 2022

The IGU Commission on Geography of Governance will participate in the 100th IGU anniversary, to be held in Paris, France, on 18-22 July 2022. The following Sessions will take place within the track of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance:

SESSION: Local and Urban Governance: Stability, Variability, and Innovation

Chair: Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal)

SESSION: Governance Challenges in Peripheral Areas

Chair: Ilona Kovács Pálné (CERS Institute for Regional Studies, Hungary)

Co-Chair: Réka Horeczki (CERS Institute for Regional Studies, Hungary)

SESSION: Government and Local Communities in Participatory Processes Towards Sustainable Management of World Heritage Sites

Chair: Anna Trono (University of Salento, Italy)

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SESSION: Tourism Governance in the Anthropocene: Enhancing Landscape, Local Knowledge and Pro-Environmental Behaviour for Facing Environmental Crisis

Chair: Federica Burini, University of Bergamo, Italy

Co-chair: Andre Holden (Goldsmiths, University of London, UK)

Co-chair: Sara Beloti (University of Bergamo, Italy)

SESSION: Scattered Urban Development and Planning in Cross-Border Context

Chair: Joël Idt (Université Gustave Eiffel, France)

Co-chair: Antoine Pauchon (Université Gustave Eiffel, France)

Co-chair: Camille Le Bivic (Université Gustave Eiffel, France)

SESSION: The Local Reception of Exiled People: Spaces, Actors, Times

Chair: Rafik Arfaoui (UCA, UMR Territoires, France)

Co-chair: Thomas Lacroix (CNRS, Sciences Po, CERI, France)

Co-chair: Bénédicte Michalon (CNRS, UMR Passages, France)

More information is available in the Commission website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/igucgogparis2022/home>

A full report will be included in Newsletter 2/2022.

6.2 IGU CGoG 2022 Annual Conference - 29 August - 1 September 2022

The International Conference on 'Local Governance in a Time of Global Emergencies', organized by the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geography of Governance, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Autonomous University - UAM and the National Autonomous University of Mexico - UNAM, and convened by Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, and chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance), and Rocio Rosales Ortega (Metropolitan Autonomous University, Mexico, and Chair of the Local Organization Commission), will be held in Mexico City, Mexico, on 29 August - 1 September, 2022. The Conference aims to explore and to discuss the challenges and innovations confronting Local and Urban Governance, in the context of global emergencies. It will be a forum for the discussion of the state-of-the-art of research on these issues in the different regions of the world. Within this overall goal, the 2022 Annual Conference of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance also aims to provide the opportunity for comparisons between countries, in different regions of the world, in both the North and Global South. The Conference will bring together researchers from academia, public and private sectors, and non-governmental organizations, in an effort to present and

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debate their research on local and urban governance and to share knowledge, viewpoints, methods, research outcomes and policy ideas.

The conference is organized into four main tracks: Track 1 - Local Government: Trends, Challenges and Innovations - This track aims to examine and to discuss current practices, challenges, and innovations in local and urban governance, and to compare local government systems and practices, and its recent reforms, including those associated with digitization, in different economic systems or varieties of Capitalism, in the North and in the Global South. Track 2 - The Responses of Local Governance to the Global Climate Emergency - This track seeks to address the challenges and the policy responses to Climate Change / Climate Emergency, in the field of local and urban governance. Track 3 - Local Government Response Towards the COVID-19 Pandemic - This track aims to explore and to discuss the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on local government and the local policy responses for the post-pandemic. Track 4 - Local Governance, Spatial Planning and Development - This track examines and discusses the role of spatial planning in shaping multi-level territorial governance and the local policy agenda.

In each of these four tracks the Conference welcomes country and cross-country approaches, studies of individual cities or municipalities, and the comparison of cities, municipalities or countries with one another, and with those in other regions of the world. The scope of the sessions is international, including comparative research. The Conference will be an opportunity for inter-disciplinary discussions on a broad spectrum of innovative research within the field of the Geography of Local and Urban Governance.

More information is available in Conference website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/geogov2022/home>

A full report will be included in Newsletter 2/2022.

6.3 - New Zealand Geographical Society Conference, 23-25 November 2022, at University of Canterbury, in Christchurch, New Zealand. Jeffrey McNeill (Massey University, New Zealand, and member of the IGU CGoG Steering Committee) will convene the session on "The resilience of New Zealand's regional level of governance".

More information is available in Conference website:

<https://www.nzgsconference2022.co.nz/>

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A full report will be included in Newsletter 2/2022.

6.4 - 7th Conference on Urban e-Planning, April 2023, Lisbon - Portugal

The IJEPR Annual Conferences are a multi- and interdisciplinary forum for the exploration, presentation, and discussion of innovative theoretical and empirical research on Urban e-Planning. The 7th International Conference on Urban e-Planning, convened by Carlos Nunes Silva (Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal, and chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance), and organized by the 'International Journal of E-Planning Research' in collaboration with the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning – University of Lisbon, will be held online, from Lisbon, Portugal, on April 2023. The Conference is endorsed, as in previous years, by the IGU Commission Geography of Governance.

More information in the conference website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/uep2023conference/home>

6.5 - Annual Conference of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance in 2023.

Plans are under way for the organization of the 2023 Annual Conference. More information will be available soon in the Commission website and later in the Newsletter 2/2022 to be published in December.

6.6 - IGU Thematic Conference on "The Ocean and Seas in Geographical Thought", University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, 5-8 June 2023 and Post-conference excursion in Venice, 9-11 June.

Plans are under way for the organization of the IGU Thematic Conference in 2023. Organizing Commissions: Commission on the History of Geography (Proponent); Commission on Gender and Geography; Commission on Mediterranean Basin; Commission on Political Geography; Commission on Tourism, Leisure and Global Change; Commission on the Geography of Governance; Proposed Commission on Oceans. More information will be available soon in the Commission website and later in the Newsletter 2/2022 to be published in December.

6.7 - IGU Thematic Conference on "Islands in Relations: Conflicts, Sustainability, and Peace", Osaka Metropolitan University, Osaka, Japan, 4-6 April 2023. Yosuke Maeda (Niigata University, Japan, and member of the Steering Committee of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance) is member of the Local Organizing Committee. The IGU Commission Geography of Governance plans to hold a session in the Conference.

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More information here: <https://polgeog.jp/igu-tc2023/>

More information will be available in Newsletter 2/2022.

6.8 - AAG 2023 Annual Meeting, 23 - 27 March 2023, in Denver, USA. The IGU CGoG will hold a virtual session in the AAG annual meeting, which in 2023 has an hybrid format. More information soon in the Commission website and later in the Newsletter 2/2022 to be published in December.

6.9 - Conference on Local Government in Ukraine. Plans are being developed, in articulation with colleagues from the Ukrainian Geographical Society, for the organization of a Conference on this theme, in late 2022 or 2023, building on the results of the Webinar held in June 2022. More information soon in the Commission website and later in the Newsletter 2/2022 to be published in December.

6.10 - 35th International Geographical Congress - 'Celebrating a World of Difference', 25 - 30 August 2024. The IGU Commission on Geography of Governance will be present in the next IGU Congress in Dublin, Ireland, in 2024. More information in the Congress website: www.igc2024dublin.org

6.11 - Plan for other meetings (workshops / conferences / panels) in 2023
The Commission is preparing its activity plan for 2023 . It will include other webinars, workshops, panels, and conferences, in different continents (e.g., Europe, Africa, Asia, America). The next Newsletter will include full details of these initiatives.

7. ACTION PLAN AND RESEARCH PROJECT - 'Local Government Response Towards the COVID-19 Pandemic' - IGU Commission on Geography of Governance (IGU-CGoG)

The IGU-CGoG COVID-19 Action Plan - "Local Government Response Towards Covid-19 Pandemic: Strategies, Plans, Actions, Outcomes, Impacts. A Worldwide Survey and Comparison" - launched by the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance, on 25 March 2020, two weeks after the World Health Organization informed, on 11 March 2020, that the COVID-19 could be characterized as a pandemic, aims to collect and to curate a list of resources related to the strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions taken by local government towards the COVID-19 pandemic, around the world, and its outcomes and impacts.

The IGU-CGoG COVID-19 Action Plan has three main goals:

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1. First, to collect evidence of the strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions taken by local government around the world towards the COVID-19 pandemic, making it available to all, as soon as possible, in its website, in a way that this information can still be useful during the current pandemic.
2. Second, to promote joint comparative research on the responses of local government towards the COVID-19 pandemic, its outcomes and impacts, and lessons for the future, to be carried out by members of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance, and other interested partners, as soon as possible in the coming months.
3. Third, to present, discuss, and publish the outcomes of the comparative research on the worldwide responses of local government towards the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific meetings and/or panels, as well as publications, will be considered in the 2021 and 2022 activity plans of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance.

The "IGU-CGoG COVID-19 Action Plan" aims to address the following research questions:

1. What strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions have been adopted by local government to control and shape the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic locally?
2. What strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions have been adopted by local government to tackle the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health, on society and on the local economy?
3. What strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions are local government employing to distribute resources and care among local populations and what cooperation with local community organizations and citizen initiatives during the pandemic?
4. What has been the relationship between local government strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions towards COVID-19 pandemic and public behaviour?
5. How has local government strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions towards COVID-19 impacted on the effects of the pandemic?
6. How effective were different local government strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions, taken in different countries worldwide, in reducing the local spread of COVID-19?
7. What changes have been introduced in central-local relations (decentralization / re-centralization) and what innovations in multi-level governance have been tried to tackle more effectively the COVID-19 pandemic?

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8. What has been the role of inter-municipal cooperation and metropolitan government in this context?
9. What is being done through cross-border municipal and regional cooperation during the pandemic?
10. What local government strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions are being designed, in different countries worldwide, for the post COVID-19 crisis?

The stage 1 of this Action Plan consisted in the organization of a 'Worldwide Inventory of Local Government Actions towards the COVID-19 Pandemic' in March-April 2020. All countries in the world have a presence in this online repository of websites/portals with information on the national or city policies (responses) being developed by governments and cities across the world. This page compiles resources and information on local government strategies, plans, policy measures and actions towards the COVID-19 pandemic. This information can be accessed through the links available here: <https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/local-government-survey>

The stage 2 of this Action Plan consists in the preparation of a series of individual contributions on specific countries or cities. These case studies started during the lockdown/confinement months, focused on the broad theme 'Local Government Response Towards Covid-19 Pandemic'.

The project publishes country and local studies (on municipalities, cities, metropolitan areas, regions, and other geographies) in its website: <https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/country-local-studies>, namely in the form of Working-Papers: <https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/working-papers>. Other publication options for the outputs of the project have also been considered. A special issue in the International Journal of E-Planning Research (IJEPR) has already been published. A book titled 'Local Government and the COVID-19 Pandemic. A Global Perspective' was published by Springer in May 2022 (Silva, Carlos Nunes (Ed.) (2022). Local Government and the COVID-19 Pandemic - A Global Perspective. Cham: Springer, ISBN-13: 9783030911119).

More information available in the project website:

<https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/home>

Collaboration in this Action Plan is open to all members of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance (Steering Committee and Corresponding Members) and to anyone interested on these themes. For additional information, please contact us: igu.geogov@gmail.com

8. ACTION PLAN AND RESEARCH PROJECT FOCUSED ON 'LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND CLIMATE EMERGENCY'

The IGU Commission on Geography of Governance launched in October 2021 the Action Plan on 'Local Governance and Climate Emergency' as an international collaborative research platform that seeks to survey, examine, and compare the responses of local government to the global climate emergency. It seeks to collect and to curate a list of resources related to the strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions taken by local government, across the globe, towards the Climate Emergency, and its outcomes and impacts. The "IGU-CGoG Action Plan on Climate Emergency" has three main goals: 1.) First, it aims to collect evidence of the strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions taken by local government around the world towards the Climate Emergency, making it available for those engaged in the design of future local government actions. 2.) Second, to promote joint comparative research on the responses of local government towards Climate Emergency, its outcomes and impacts, and lessons for the future, to be carried out by members of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance, and other interested partners. 3.) Third, to present, discuss, and publish the outcomes of the comparative research on the worldwide responses of local government towards the Climate Emergency, in conferences, specific meetings and/or panels, as well as in publications, as part of the activity plan of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance.

The IGU-CGoG Action Plan on 'Local Governance and Climate Emergency' seeks to address, but is not limited to, the following research questions:

I. Local Government Mitigation Policy - Reducing GHG Emissions

1. To what extent the current Local Government policies reflect the ambition of the Paris Agreement, namely the ambition of national government commitments to achieve its Paris Agreement goals?
2. What has been the path followed by Local Government for a low-carbon transition? What strategies and policy measures have been adopted by Local Government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions?
3. What has been the role of Local Government in the promotion of universal access to clean energies?

II. Local Government Adaptation Policy - Responding to Climate Change Impacts

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4. What strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions have been adopted by local government to address Climate Change impacts on the environment, society and on the local economy?
5. What strategies, plans, policy measures, and actions are local government employing to address the socially unequal impacts of Climate Change? And how equitable have been climate change mitigation and adaptation policies implemented by Local Government?
6. What sort of accelerated adaptation policies have been implemented by Local Government to face the higher temperatures, the altered weather patterns, the more frequent extreme weather events, and the related economic losses?
7. What has been the response of Local Government to the rising average temperatures and to the altered rainfall patterns, in particular in tackling the food and water insecurity in certain regions of the world?

III. Local Government Institutions, Finance and Policy Arrangements

8. What changes have been introduced in central-local relations (decentralization / re-centralization) and what innovations in multi-level governance have been tried to tackle more effectively the Climate Emergency?
9. What has been the role of inter-municipal cooperation and metropolitan governance in this context?
10. As Climate Change does not respect national borders, what sort of coordinate response has been implemented by Local Government through cross-border municipal and regional cooperation? How is it reflected in Local Government climate change adaptation policies?
11. What lessons from current local government engagement in multi-scalar and cross-sectoral coordination in the context of Climate Change mitigation and adaptation policies?
12. How can Local Government mobilise the financial resources necessary for an effective response to the climate emergency? And what capacity have Local Finance Systems to support the required substantial and sustained investment in a low carbon transition?
13. What will be the impact of the borrowing Local Government have had to resort during the Covid-19 pandemic on their capacity to sustain the energy transition and the move towards a low-carbon economy?
14. How do local governments address multiple global challenges concurrently (Covid-19 Pandemic; Biodiversity Crisis; Climate Emergency...)?
15. How is Local Government Post-Covid 19 Recovery policy related to the policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? Or is it mainly a carbon-intensive local government recovery policy?

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The Commission has already promoted sessions in its own meetings or panels in wider meetings in which it was present. It plans to continue doing so in 2023.

More information is available in the website: <https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-climateemergency/home>

More information will be available in Newsletter 2/2022.

9. OTHER ACTIVITIES BY COMMISSION MEMBERS

9.1 Peter Schmitt (Stockholm University, Sweden, and member of the IGU CGoG Steering Committee) is local convenor of the ARL International Summer School, which takes place at Stockholm University, 24-27 August, 2022. It brings together 12 PhD Students and four keynote speakers and other experts in the field under the headline "Exploring Spatial Justice in times of disruptions". More at:

<https://www.arl-international.com/activities/summer-school-2022-spatial-justice>

9.2 - Yosuke Maeda, Niigata University, Japan, and member of the Steering Committee of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance, is member of the Local Organization Committee of the IGU Thematic Conference on "Islands in Relations: Conflicts, Sustainability, and Peace", to be held on April 4-6, 2023, at Sugimoto Campus, Osaka Metropolitan University, Osaka, Japan. More information here: <https://polgeog.jp/igu-tc2023/>

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11. ANNEXES

11.1 ANNEX

IGU Commission on Geography of Governance, 2020-2024

(In: IGU CGoG website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/aims>)

I. Introduction

The [International Geographical Union \(IGU\)](#) is an international, non-governmental, professional organization devoted to the development of the discipline of Geography. The IGU was formally established in Brussels in 1922. Its instruments are its National Committees (101, in 2016), Commissions (38, in 2016) and Task Forces (3, in 2016).

In 1984, the International Geographical Union established a Study Group under the title 'Geography and Public Administration', which was then used as the preliminary status before a Commission could be launched. It was replaced in 1988 by a Commission on 'Geography and Public Administration'. Since then, the Commission was renamed twice to reflect new issues and perspectives on the relation between territory and public administration. In 2000 became 'Commission on Geography and Public Policy' and in 2008 adopted its current title 'Commission on Geography of Governance'.

An important aspect of the initial period (1984-1988) was participation of Commission members in early debates about restructuring of local and regional government in the central European countries then dominated by the Soviet bloc. Two of the main meetings held in this period dealt with specific aspects of Poland and Hungary, and the wider debates in other Central European countries. Catalan regionalism and separatism also became a very live issue, with the Commission holding a meeting in Barcelona specifically to engage in the debate. A feature of the Commission's activities was collaboration with other organisations, such as the Academy of Sciences in Budapest and in Warsaw, and with the Institute of Catalan Studies in Barcelona. An important partnership was a collaboration with the sister organisation of IGU, the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS). Robert Bennett represented the IGU Group at an IIAS meeting in Berlin in 1984 just prior to the launch of the IGU Commission (Study Group). This founded collaboration with a Study Group of IIAS on L'Amenagement du Territoire (The management of territory), formed mainly of lawyers and administrative scientists, who were also centred on Central European reforms. As well as its own IGU Commission publications, collaboration with the IIAS produced a key publication in 1988: L'Amenagement du Territoire et les Pouvoirs Locaux et Regionaux face aux Mutations Economiques (Regional Planning and Local Government confronted with Economic Change), ed. Gerard Marcou (University of Lille). This was interdisciplinary with members of the IIAS, with 5 of the 11 chapters written by IGU members. In February 1988, at the end of the Commission's first four years, a path-breaking

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meeting was held in Washington D.C. jointly with the US Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, and taking place in the Indian Treaty Room of the White House.

The Study Group formally became a Commission at the IGU Congress in 1988 in Sydney. A key feature of the period 1988-1992 continue to be restructuring of local and regional governmental in the central European countries. In the build-up to the removal of the Berlin Wall in 1990, and its aftermath, the Commission took an active role in many activities to implement new laws and reforms in countries now freed from limitations on open debate. One of its members, Jerzy Regulski became the minister for Local Government reform in Poland; other members in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary and Russia became politicians, or were active as advisors and consultants. It was a dramatic period of change throughout central Europe in which the Commission played a small but important role. The Commission meeting in Moscow in September 1991 was uncertain, but did begin just as the siege of the Russian Parliament and Boris Yeltsin came to an end, with the parliament building surrounded by tanks. Collaboration continued with the International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS), and new collaborations developed. A major meeting sponsored by the United Nations University (and others) took place in Spain in 1991 that widened the IGU Commission's brief to developing countries, and also focused on the other key themes of the period of decentralisation geographically, and to markets, often focused on privatisation. The Commission over this period also diversified through many bilateral collaborations focused on developing expertise in the new regimes of Central Europe. Key exchanges occurred with Amsterdam (through Petr Dostál) and the London School of Economics (through Robert Bennett) to help colleagues in Prague, Bratislava, Budapest, Warsaw and other centres to access library resources and advice to develop new curricula for students, and to re-equip their teaching and library resources.

The third four-year period (1992-1996) of the Commission maintained a close focus on Central European developments, but also now added routine sessions at the major annual conferences of Geographical bodies in many countries, especially the USA. There was also diversification of the Commission's interests into wider concepts of governance taking debates further into understanding how partner bodies operated with formal government administration in different contexts.

Commission members meet now regularly at its annual conference, held in different parts of the world, and during the sessions or panels organized within the program of the major IGU Congresses and Conferences. Field trips to study and discuss local issues has also been held as part of some of its annual conferences.

The Commission has been highly active during its first three and half decades of existence, holding numerous sessions in all IGU major congresses and conferences, in addition to its own annual thematic conferences. The Commission facilitates the exchange of research outcomes, experiences and perspectives on local and regional governance issues in



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different contexts around the world. One of the outcomes of this joint work is the publication of several books and edited collections of selected papers in peer-reviewed international journals, namely in 'Environment & Planning C: Government and Policy', 'GeoJournal', Acta Universitatis Carolinae / Geographica, Bulletin de la Société Languedocienne de Géographie, and in the 'International Journal of E-Planning Research'.

The Commission publishes a Newsletter twice a year, which is sent by e-mail to all its members. The Newsletter informs about its past and future activities, and provides information on meetings organized worldwide by national or local groups of geographers focused on local and regional governance issues.

The Commission has its own website, a blog and an electronic mailing-list focused on issues of urban, local and regional governance.

An archive of its past activities (1984-2020) is available in the website.

Colleagues interested in the Commission activities are welcome to contact the Commission Chair, Carlos Nunes Silva (University of Lisbon, Portugal, e-mail: cs@campus.ul.pt)

11.2 ANNEX - URL

- Commission website: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/home>
- Commission blog: <http://igugeogov.blogspot.pt/>
- Corresponding Members mailing list: <https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/mailling-list>



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11.3 ANNEX - 6TH GEONIGHT // 6E NUIT DE LA GÉOGRAPHIE - WEBINAR "GOVERNING THE URBAN NIGHT - LOCAL GOVERNANCE OF THE URBAN NIGHT TIME", 1 APRIL 2022, 19:00-21:00 GMT.

PROGRAM

Convenor: Carlos Nunes Silva, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Moderator: Anna Trono, University of Salento, Italy

19:00 - 19:05

Welcome / Introduction

Carlos Nunes Silva & Anna Trono

19:10 - 19:25

Measuring, Regulating and Governing Nightlife in the Americas

Jess Reia, University of Virginia, USA

19:25 - 19:40

Neoliberalism and the Nocturnal: A View from the UK

Marion Roberts, Emerita Professor of Urban Design, School of Architecture & Cities, University of Westminster, London UK

19:40 - 19:55

Urban Governance Strategies for Sustainable Urban Night Spaces and "Good Night Out Vancouver"

Sara Gwendolyn Ross, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, Canada

19:55 - 20:10

Reshaping the perception of metropolitan cities: artistic, performative and cultural walks in the night

Silvia Grandi, Università di Bologna, Italy & Chiara Bernasconi, Università Cattolica di Milano, Italy & School of the Art Institute of Chicago, USA

20:10 - 20:25

Street Lighting and 'the Phantoms of the Sidewalks' in Sub-Saharan Africa

Liora Bigon, Interdisciplinary Studies, HIT – Holon Institute of Technology, Israel

20:25 - 20:40

Lighting in the Urban Space, its Impact on the Urban Experience and How We Can Make it Better

Hanan Peretz, Peretz Architecture Studio, Israel

20:40 - 21:00 - Debate & Closing

ABSTRACTS

Measuring, Regulating and Governing Nightlife in the Americas

Jess Reia, University of Virginia, USA

Abstract: Nightlife is a crucial aspect of our contemporary cities, encompassing territories, communities and multiple activities. It has emerged as a vital component of urban governance worldwide, which led to policies to contain, support, and develop the urban night. Conflicts over the “right to the night” involving several stakeholders have been addressed differently by municipalities. Various efforts to govern, regulate and measure the night have been emerging in the last decade, from grassroots movements to appointed night mayors. The Covid-19 pandemic’s arrival in the West led to the closing down of night culture and, two years later, the socioeconomic effects of this process are not completely known. In this context, even the increasing datafication of urban spaces has had little impact in the city after dark, given that this aspect of urban life is rarely the focus of data-centric initiatives. The lack of data focusing specifically on the nighttime economy, and robust analyses of these initiatives beyond daylight leave stakeholders—municipal governments, small businesses owners, neighbourhood associations, night-shifters—navigating challenging circumstances without essential information. This presentation focuses, more broadly, on the consolidation of nightlife governance mechanisms, regulatory frameworks and ways to measure the night in the Americas; and, specifically, on the recent development of a participatory agenda to govern nightlife in Montreal, Canada. Building on the Night Studies transdisciplinary field, this work is based on regulatory and policy framework analyses, interviews, participant observation, and advocacy experience as a member of Montreal’s first Night Council (Conseil de Nuit de MTL 24/24).

Neoliberalism and the Nocturnal: A View from the UK

Marion Roberts, Emerita Professor of Urban Design, School of Architecture & Cities, University of Westminster, London UK

Abstract: As UK nightlife has developed since the millennium, its proponents have combined to create an effective lobby, getting their voices heard in central and local government circles. New organisations and posts have been created and novel practices instituted. Nightlife increased in political legitimacy both prior to and during the pandemic. Economic research carried out by the Greater London Authority demonstrated however that hospitality and entertainment were not the most dominant of activities in the time span 18.00-06.00. The pandemic shone a spotlight on health and social care, while Kolioulis et al (2021)’s important work has

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exposed an expansion in the gig economy. This presentation will discuss these trends and question whether an alternative scenario for the night might be possible. Sacha Lord, Night Time Economy Advisor for Greater Manchester, tasked his city to 'build back better'. But what can that mean? Can an alternative citizens' plan be made for the urban night?

Urban Governance Strategies for Sustainable Urban Night Spaces and “Good Night Out Vancouver”

Sara Gwendolyn Ross, Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, Canada

Abstract: Following extensive public consultations and a two-year pilot program, Vancouver revised its arts event licensing processes to increase accessibility and inclusivity for independent art communities, producers, and consumers for the temporary use of cultural spaces for, among other reasons, fundraising events intended to mitigate decreases in cultural funding and increase efforts for self-reliance within the arts and culture sector. Vancouver City Council also expressed support for the newly established Good Night Out Vancouver program established to promote safer night spaces and a more inclusive nighttime economy. Where marginal or transgressive arts and culture communities are frequently on the periphery of municipal development and cultural protection decision-making, this paper examines developments within Vancouver's municipal legal framework and policy design that are intended to promote arts, culture, and creativity in line with Vancouver's recently adopted Creative City Strategy in order to investigate the extent to which these developments are fostering the city's meaningful engagement with the everyday reality of marginalized (sub)cultural communities.

Reshaping the perception of metropolitan cities: artistic, performative and cultural walks in the night

Silvia Grandi, Università di Bologna, Italy

Chiara Bernasconi, Università Cattolica di Milano, Italy & School of the Art Institute of Chicago, USA

Background papers:

GRANDI S, BERNASCONI C (2020). Reshaping metropolitan cities and creative tourism through artists' vision. In Cuffy V, Bakas F V, Coetzee W (eds), *Events Tourism: contemporary and critical issues of the 21st century*. Routledge, London and New York, pp. 218-231.

GRANDI S (2019). *La città caleidoscopica: gli itinerari urbani creativi dal turismo a forme di movimenti sociali* [The kaleidoscopic city: creative urban itineraries from

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tourism to forms of social movements]. In Ferreira Cury M. J., Magnani E., Cassia Pereira R., (eds), *Ambiente e território: abordagens e transformações sociais*. Editora Madrepérola, p. 113-126.

GRANDI S., BERNASCONI C., (2011). The kaleidoscopic sense of space and place: the eyes of the artists in route planning in metropolitan cities. Abstract in Proceeding all'Annual International Conference of the Royal Geography Society, "The Geographical Imagination", (London, 30.08-01.09.2011).

BERNASCONI C., (2010), Popular Digitization and Participation in Nuit Blanche. In Victoria Watts and Robert Gehl (eds), *The Politics of Cultural Programming in Public Spaces*, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Street Lighting and 'the Phantoms of the Sidewalks' in Sub-Saharan Africa

Liora Bigon, Interdisciplinary Studies, HIT – Holon Institute of Technology, Israel

Abstract: Against the background of the fragility of the post-colonial state in Africa and its failure to provide basic infrastructure for its citizens and residents of the cities with an accelerating growth rate, the issue of electric power supply will be highlighted. In particular, bottom-up decentralization of electric energy in urban Africa will be emphasized, in terms of the resilience of the space users, driven by a lack of choice. The talk will examine the anthropo-scene of Southern cities through a series of photographs by the Congolese photographer Baudoin Mouanda from the capital city of Brazzaville, entitled "The Phantoms of the Sidewalks", and through an interview with the artist. These photographs document the phenomenon of an unstructured 'urban library', in the open air, where many dozens of young people go outside of the darkened households every evening to the main streets, to complete their studies under streetlights, where rarely existing, or while using private portable lighting. We will analyze this phenomenon beyond the mainstream of the town-planning and architecture discourse that supports an institutionalized, top-down professional approach involving the material world, towards a perception that sees people themselves as infrastructure, including their motives and movements in space.

Lighting in the Urban Space, its Impact on the Urban Experience and How We Can Make it Better

Hanan Peretz, Peretz Architecture Studio, Israel

Abstract: The solar cycle defines for us the hours of activity and inactivity through light and darkness. In the story of creation, God Himself creates the light and

distinguishes between day and night. The city as we know it today has no day and no night. The advent of electricity or in this context the invention of electricity by humans and the use of artificial lighting are a turning point for the functioning of the city and the life in it. The use of light in general and street lighting during the hours of darkness in particular have over the years become a major infrastructure in the fabric of components that make up the public space and the urban experience in the hours of darkness. What is the role of street lighting in the urban space? How does it function today and how can the street experience be enriched through street lighting in the dark? In order to explore possibilities for the enrichment of street lighting, we must understand the complexities that currently exist in the use of street lighting and the background to its development. The discussion about the existing and possible modes of illumination of the city and its streets ranges between two poles - between darkness, emptiness, lack of sense of security and spatial orientation on the one hand, and between glare, multiplicity of lighting to the point of confusion and damage to the urban fabric and even physical damage to humans and other natural systems, on the other hand. As the sense of sight is one of the most influential factors in the way people absorb experiences, these two poles, whether complete darkness or dazzling glare, leave the user in visual discomfort in the urban space. The relationship between darkness and light is not reciprocal. There is a contradiction, a paradox in the way we treat light and its absence. Light is perhaps the most significant component in our daily existence. It is what allows us to see and from it is derived the existence of different actions and orientation in different spaces. Light and darkness push against each other. It can be said that light and darkness are defined by mutual elimination. Light is the absence of darkness, and darkness is the absence of light. The city, as we know it today, is actually in the range between this duo of darkness-light. The modern age makes it possible to transcend the limits of darkness, and the city is bright and functional even in the hours of darkness. There is another contradiction that arises in relation to the illumination of the city in the hours of darkness. The attitude towards light as part of the infrastructure of urban space in the hours of darkness, as compared to the attitude of light as a generator of all urban features in the hours of darkness. This the point at which the city on this scale is defined through existing infrastructures, regulations, variables and ways of thinking. The systems of considerations that motivate urban dimming lights do not necessarily prioritize the main users of the city and the urbanness, the people who walk the city. The urban space is mostly illuminated by repetitive lighting near the roads. Thus, the experience of the people who walk in the city and experience it in the most intense way receives less treatment than that of the vehicles, which by the way, know how to get along very well with vehicle lighting. Street lighting, in contrast to other infrastructures such as sewage, gas, etc., is an infrastructure that directly affects



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the way in which the urban space is absorbed and experienced. Therefore, as planners who are in charge of the urban space, we must re-examine the existing situation. The lecture will present a wide range of options for enriching street lighting and for creating higher quality and smarter systems that will benefit the city and its urban nature in a scheme that represents standard street lighting.

Webinar page: <https://sites.google.com/view/geonight2022igucgog/program>



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11.4 ANNEX - WEBINAR "LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN UKRAINE - FORMATION, REFORMS, GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS AND POST-WAR RECOVERY" - MONDAY, 6 JUNE 2022, 12:00 - 16:30 GMT.

PROGRAM

Convenor: Carlos Nunes Silva (Chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance & Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal)

Moderator: Jan Bucek (Comenius University, Slovakia)

12:00 - 12:15 GMT

OPENING / WELCOME

Carlos Nunes Silva & Jan Bucek (IGU Commission Geography of Governance)
Viacheslav Oleshchenko (Acting President Ukrainian Geographical Society)

12:15 - 13:30 GMT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN UKRAINE – FORMATION, MAIN PRINCIPLES, ACTUAL STATE POLICY AND LEGAL REGULATION

Viacheslav OLESHCHENKO (PhD Geography, MD Law, Associate Professor, and Senior Research Scientist. Acting President of the Ukrainian Geographical Society. Koretsky Institute of State and Law. National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine)

TRANSFORMATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL SYSTEM FOR EFFECTIVE DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN UKRAINE

Pavlo OSTAPENKO (PhD Geography. Independent adviser of the State Authorities of Ukraine. Expert of international projects. Chairman of the Ukraine Researchers Society, Ukraine)

UKRAINIAN SUBNATIONAL GOVERNANCE & FINANCE REFORM: 2014-2018 AND BEYOND

Tony LEVITAS (Senior Fellow, The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, USA; and Intergovernmental Finance Expert, Support to Decentralization Project, Swedish International Development Agency, Kyiv Ukraine)

13:45 - 15:15 GMT

FOUR GEOPOLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF UKRAINE'S DECENTRALIZATION: HOW KYIV'S CURRENT LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM AFFECTS POST-SOVIET INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Andreas UMLAND (PhD Cambridge, Analyst at the Stockholm Centre for Eastern European Studies at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, Sweden; and Associate Professor of Political Science at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine)



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EFFECTS OF THE UKRAINIAN DECENTRALISATION REFORM ON SOCIAL COHESION IN UKRAINE'S BORDER REGIONS

Aadne AASLAND & Oleksandra DEINEKO (Researchers at the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research - NIBR at Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway)

THE RUSSIAN WAR AND NEW APPROACHES FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TERRITORIES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN UKRAINE

Anatoliy MELNYCHUK (PhD Geography, Associate Professor. Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Faculty of Geography, Head of the Expert-Advisory Center for the Development of Communities and Territories, Ukraine)

UKRAINE'S DECENTRALISATION IN TIMES OF WAR: CONTRIBUTION TO DEFENCE AND LEGITIMACY

Valentyna ROMANOVA (PhD University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, member of the Japan Association of Ukrainian Studies and the COST Network Intergovernmental Coordination from Local to European Governance, Japan)

15:30 - 16:00 GMT

MODERN SPATIAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS FOR INTEGRATION OF LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AIMS AND INTERESTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EURO INTEGRATION OF UKRAINE

Yuriy PALEKHA (Dr. Sc. Geography, Professor. Deputy-Director on Research of the Ukrainian State Yuriy Bilokon Research and Planning Institute 'DIPROMISTO', Ukraine)

SPATIAL PLANNING AND GIS TECHNOLOGIES FOR INCREASING DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY OF LOCAL TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES IN UKRAINE

Anastasiia OLESHCHENKO (PhD Geography. Creative Manager and Coordinator of Spatial Planning Branch in the Geospatial Solutions Agency "AGEORA". USAID local expert, Ukraine)

16:00 - 16:15 GMT

CLOSING

Carlos Nunes Silva & Jan Bucek (IGU Commission Geography of Governance)

ABSTRACTS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN UKRAINE – FORMATION, MAIN PRINCIPLES, ACTUAL STATE POLICY AND LEGAL REGULATION

Viacheslav OLESHCHENKO

PhD Geography, MD Law, Associate Professor, and Senior Research Scientist. Acting President of the Ukrainian Geographical Society. Koretsky Institute of State and Law. National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine.

Existing principles and regulation concerning Local Government in Ukraine was formed on the base of a long way in discussions and step by step transformation from the strongly united, hierarchic administrative system into the modern democratic system of public power, with relevant balance and legal guarantees for relevant independence and mutual responsibility of state power at national and regional levels and local self-government. Main political principles and legal base for such system in modern time were established by Declaration of the State Sovereignty of Ukraine (16 July, 1990) and Act of Independence Declaration of Ukraine (24 August 1991, approved by the national referendum on 1 December 1991), and later – by Constitution Agreement between the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine and the President of Ukraine on the basic principles of organization and functioning of state power and local self-government in Ukraine for the period until the adoption of the new Constitution of Ukraine. Acting Constitution of Ukraine was adopted by Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine 28 June 1996. On its base special laws concerning Local Self-Government in Ukraine (21 May, 1997), Local State Administrations (9 April, 1999), Supporting of Regions Development (8 September 2005), some other acts were adopted. Concept of the state regional policy was adopted by President of Ukraine Degree (25 May, 2001). Later Law of Ukraine on the principles of state regional policy was adopted by Parliament (5 February, 2015). Substantial changes in territorial organization of power were realized in Ukraine in 2014-2020 mostly in case of its decentralization. General explanation of formation, further development, actual principles of state policy, concerning structure of institutions and legal regulation in this sphere will be a subject of this presentation.

TRANSFORMATION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE-TERRITORIAL SYSTEM FOR EFFECTIVE DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN UKRAINE

Pavlo OSTAPENKO

PhD Geography. Independent adviser of the State Authorities of Ukraine. Expert of international projects. Chairman of the Ukraine Researchers Society, Ukraine.

Considering European and global experience, on the base of some amendments to the Constitution and relevant laws, Government of Ukraine in 2014 approved the Concept of reforming local self-government and territorial organization of government. This Concept mostly aimed to decentralizing of power, increasing the role and capacity of local self-government for better establishment of democratization at the local level. Such transfer of power to the level of primary units of local self-government is accompanied with establishment of additional guarantees of independence of these bodies in their decisions of local importance issues, in the implementation of their own and delegated by the state powers. In the same time a significant increasing of financial opportunities of territorial hromada was reached. Such changes formed a new reasons and purposes for the appropriate changes in the system of administrative-territorial structure at the local and sub-regional (districts) level. During the implementation of reforms, the number of administrative-territorial units at the local and sub-regional level has already been significantly reduced. This situation led to the transformation of different socially important processes, formation of new tasks, in particular, in the field of ensuring the proper

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organization of the provision of administrative, medical and other social services, in development of transport and other infrastructure, optimization of the system of spatial planning etc. It is supposed to familiarize the participants with the main results of the ongoing reforms in this area and with prospects for further action of the Government of Ukraine and other authorities, with the experience of participation of geographers in the development and implementation of scientific principles of the relevant activities.

UKRAINIAN SUBNATIONAL GOVERNANCE & FINANCE REFORM: 2014-2018 AND BEYOND

Tony LEVITAS

Senior Fellow, The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, USA. Intergovernmental Finance Expert, Support to Decentralization Project, Swedish International Development Agency, Kyiv, Ukraine.

In the aftermath of the Maidan Revolution and Russia's first invasion of Ukraine in 2014, the Ukrainian state rather remarkably decentralized state power to a newly comprehensive and much strengthened municipal sector. This process was neither easy. Nor was it fully complete when Russia launched its second more vicious and existential attack on the country. In this talk, I review the strengths and weaknesses of the financial architecture of Ukraine's new system of intergovernmental relations, as well as the most important risks the war poses for the evolution of this architecture. Most importantly, I discuss the pressing need for the Ukrainian state to develop the information systems necessary to identify where its citizens are, and to link their personal income tax payments –the largest source of municipal revenue-- to their place of residence. Without these systems, I argue, the national government will have difficulty stabilizing municipal finances, rationally allocating public revenues for resettlement and reconstruction, and exploiting the full promise of the country's local governments in building back better.

6 June, 13:45 - 15:15 GMT

FOUR GEOPOLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF UKRAINE'S DECENTRALIZATION: HOW KYIV'S CURRENT LOCAL GOVERNANCE REFORM AFFECTS POST-SOVIET INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Andreas UMLAND

PhD (Cambridge), Analyst at the Stockholm Centre for Eastern European Studies at the Swedish Institute of International Affairs, and Associate Professor of Political Science at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Sweden / Ukraine.

Abstract: The Ukrainian local governance reform's Europeanizing, anti-separatist and diffusion potential makes it an especially salient, interesting and consequential aspect of Ukraine's ongoing socio-political transformation. Within the context of some specifically post-Soviet political challenges, the empire-subverting and state-supporting dimension of decentralization bestow this particular reform with a larger meaning than other substantively similar processes of devolution of power from the national and regional to the municipal and local levels have in other parts of the world. When local communities –

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whether within an urban, rural or mixed context – take over major political tasks and public funds, both imperialism and separatism lose their allure. Decentralization can, moreover, help to contain radical nationalism and to facilitate European integration. Studying more deeply the concepts, elements and experiences of the current Ukrainian reset of local self-governance may reveal useful ideas and lessons for administrative reform advocates in other post-Soviet countries and beyond.

EFFECTS OF THE UKRAINIAN DECENTRALISATION REFORM ON SOCIAL COHESION IN UKRAINE'S BORDER REGIONS

Aadne AASLAND & Oleksandra DEINEKO

Senior Researchers at the Norwegian Institute for Urban and Regional Research (NIBR) at Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway.

Aadne AASLAND has been involved in projects on local government reform and local democracy in Ukraine since 2008 and from 2018 - 2021 was the leader of the international ARDU project: The Accommodation of Regional Diversity in Ukraine.

Abstract: Ukraine's decentralisation reform which was launched in 2015 has given more power and resources to the municipalities (hromadas). A main feature of the reform has been the amalgamation of small local communities into larger and more viable territorial units. This has, among other things, implied a mix of populations formerly living in smaller, more homogeneous local communities. Based on case studies in two border regions (Kharkiv and Chernivtsi) we have investigated whether issues of social cohesion, including ethno-cultural aspects, have been on the agenda when these new amalgamated territorial communities (ATCs) have been formed, and the effects of the reform on social cohesion, including relations between ethno-cultural groups, in these new entities. Implications for the local responses to the Russian invasion will also be discussed.

THE RUSSIAN WAR AND NEW APPROACHES FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TERRITORIES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN UKRAINE

Anatoliy MELNYCHUK

PhD Geography, Associate Professor. Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Faculty of Geography, Head of the Expert-Advisory Center for the Development of Communities and Territories, Ukraine.

Huge territories, a lot of state, municipal and private property in all regions of the country have been hit, including housing, public buildings, large energy and industrial facilities, infrastructure, cultural objects, historical places, landscapes, natural reserves, other specially protected territories (a lot of them are under special protection by international agreements and Russian Federation is a party of the most of them). Millions of people have left their homes, become refugees, and found temporary refuge in other regions of Ukraine and abroad. Such genocide and ecocide was never before in Europe since World War II. In such situation formation of the scientific, institutional, financial, legal, information and other conditions for a state policy of territorial development and rapid, large-scale renovation and reconstruction of the country became extremely actual. Using geographic

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information systems and other modern information technology, in cooperation with relevant state authorities, local self-government authorities we are working now for formation of reliable and complete data concerning location, types and depth of damage, for restitution of damages, for reliable planning of reconstruction and development of state programs. Our results and experience will be a subject of this presentation.

UKRAINE'S DECENTRALISATION IN TIMES OF WAR: CONTRIBUTION TO DEFENCE AND LEGITIMACY

Valentyna ROMANOVA

PhD (University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy), member of the Japan Association of Ukrainian Studies and the COST Network Intergovernmental Coordination from Local to European Governance, Japan.

Abstract: The presentation examines the contribution of Ukraine's decentralisation reform to defence and legitimacy since the outbreak of Russia's full-scale military invasion. First, it presents the context: the major deliverables of the post-2014 decentralisation reform in Ukraine. Second, the presentation explains the input of Ukraine's sub-state authorities into the multi-level system of national resilience, in line with the 2021 law on national resilience and on the ground. This input refers to territorial defence units and volunteer (paramilitary) formations in amalgamated territorial communities. Third, the presentation clarifies vertical and horizontal intergovernmental relations between the state and self-government in those municipalities that were occupied (the city of Kherson); surrounded by the invaders (the city of Chernihiv); under attack by the Russian military (the city of Dnipro). Finally, the presentation specifies how domestic sub-state authorities help enhancing legitimacy of power when Ukraine is under military attack and why it matters during the military invasion.

6 June, 15:30 - 16:00 GMT

MODERN SPATIAL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS FOR INTEGRATION OF LOCAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AIMS AND INTERESTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EURO INTEGRATION OF UKRAINE

Yuriy PALEKHA

Dr. Sc. Geography, Professor. Deputy-Director on Research of the Ukrainian State Yuriy Bilokon Research and Planning Institute 'DIPROMISTO', Ukraine.

According to the National Law "On Regulation of Urban Development" and other acts there are 3 hierarchical levels of spatial planning documentation in Ukraine: national (General scheme of planning of the territory of state); regional (regional and district planning schemes) and local (general plans of settlements, detailed plans of territories, complex plans of spatial development of territorial communities). This system, different procedures, formed in Ukraine on the base of the best national and international practice, allows to ensure formation of common positions and relevant integration of aims and interests at national, regional and local levels, both horizontally and vertically. Actively developed cross-border urban planning projects with Poland, Slovakia and Hungary play an

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important role for successful integration of Ukraine into the European space. Here we can draw attention to the experience of DIPROMISTO in developing of such projects, formation of common methodology for research and design of cross-border space.

Modern development of spatial planning in Ukraine base on the principles, laid down from the Sustainable Development Strategy of the European Union, documents and decisions of the CEMAT conferences.

SPATIAL PLANNING AND GIS TECHNOLOGIES FOR INCREASING DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY OF LOCAL TERRITORIAL COMMUNITIES IN UKRAINE

Anastasiia OLESHCHENKO

PhD Geography. Creative Manager and Coordinator of Spatial Planning Branch in the Geospatial Solutions Agency "AGEORA". USAID local expert, Ukraine.

The decentralization processes that have been taking place in Ukraine since 2014 have created conditions for the spatial extension of the powers of local authorities forming an entity of territorial community, named Territorial Hromada. Ensuring effective management of the development of Hromadas' territories required changes to the spatial planning documentation system used in Ukraine. As a result, a fundamentally new type of spatial planning documentation was established, both in terms of content and methodology – a Complex plan of spatial development of the territory of the Territorial Hromada. The legislative changes have affected not only the content of the documentation, but also the procedures for its development, implementing the latest European approaches in the field of spatial planning. The report will acquaint with the experience gained by our team with support of USAID and other international support programs through implementing a new type of documentation in practice in specific Hromadas of different regions of Ukraine, as well as the use of geographic information systems for supporting efficient decision-making by local authorities on asset management taking into account the spatial context. There is a significant increase in the interest of local authorities in the use of GIS in connection with the spatial expansion of their powers.

Webinar page: <https://sites.google.com/view/igukraine2022/home>



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