# IGU Commission on Geography of Governance (C20.15) 2021 Annual Report

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- 1. Membership
- 1.1 Steering Committee 2020-2024

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# 1.2 - Corresponding members

In 31.12.2021, the Commission had 562 corresponding members from 70 countries. A registration form for new corresponding members is available in the Commission website: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/corresponding-members---mailing-list Registration form: https://forms.gle/aVnvSzTZyTGhNgZo8

#### 2. Meetings

Members of the Steering Committee have been active, during 2021, in the organization of scientific meetings focused on themes pertaining to the core subject of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance (IGU-CGoG), as well in the planning of other meetings in the following years. However, due to the restrictions to onsite/in-person meetings and to international travels, all these meetings took place in virtual/online format.

# 2.1 - Meetings in 2021

- **2.1.1 AAG 2021 Annual Meeting Seattle, USA April 7 11, 2021.** The IGU CGoG organized 6 sessions under the title "Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses" (I to VI). The aim of the session 'Local Governance and the COVID-19 Pandemic: impacts, challenges, responses' was to examine and discuss the impact of the pandemic on central-local government relations and on local government policies, on public services, housing, social services, mobility, and spatial planning. It discussed the actions taken by local government towards the COVID-19 pandemic, and its outcomes and impacts, during the first and second waves of the pandemic, as well as lessons for the future. The session addressed various aspects of the role of local government during the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts, as well the ongoing changes in local governance systems in this context, namely changes associated with the use of new digital technologies. For more information, see the IGU CGoG website: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/next-conferences
- **2.1.2** IGU Commission Geography of Governance Annual Conference, Poznán, Poland June 2021. The 2021 Annual Conference of the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance on "New Challenges of Local Governance in Times of Uncertainty and Complexity", organized by the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geography of Governance, in collaboration with the Adam Mickiewicz University, was held in Poznań, Poland, on 23-25 June 2021. The Conference was organized in 5 tracks: Track 1. Centralization and decentralization trends. Difficult paths of democracy; Track 2. Governance and planning; Track 3. Local governance and climate change; Track 4. Impacts and challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic on local government; Track 5. Uncertainty and complexity in territorial governance. For more information, see the Conference website: https://sites.google.com/view/geogov2021/
- **2.1.3 IGU Thematic Conference, Lecce, Italy, May 2021.** The IGU Thematic Conference "Heritage Geographies: Politics, Uses and Governance of the Past" -, was held in Lecce, Italy, on 26 28 May 2021, co-organised by the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance and five other IGU Commissions. The IGU Commission Geography of Governance proposed 4 sessions. For more information, see the IGU CGoG website: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/next-conferences

- **2.1.4 34th International Geographical Congress, Istanbul, 16-20 August 2021.** The IGU Commission on Geography of Governance participated with 14 sessions in the 34<sup>th</sup> International Geographical Congress "Geography: bridging the continents". It was held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 16 20 August 2021, in virtual / online format due to the pandemic. For more information, see the IGU CGoG website: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/next-conferences
- 2.1.5 The 5th International Conference 'Urban e-Planning', Lisbon, Portugal, 2021. The 5th International Conference 'Urban e-Planning', took place in Lisbon, Portugal, on 7-10 September 2021. The Conference addressed 3 main themes: 1. Governance and Planning of Smart Cities; 2. Citizen E-Participation in Urban Governance; 3. Urban e-Planning and the Covid-19 Pandemic. The Conference was endorsed by the IGU Commission on Geography of Governance. For more information, see the Conference website: https://sites.google.com/view/uep2020-conference/home.
- 2.1.6 Tourism & World Heritage Sites: Recommendations For Better Synergies #2. In The Framework Of The Our world heritage Initiative. For more information, see Newsletter 2/2021.
- 2.1.7 International Conference: "The Path of Abraham, Mosaic of Peace". In Memory Of Kahled Al Assad, Director Of Palmyra and Gino Strada, Founder of Emergenc. Lecce- Trani, University of Salento & Archeoclub Trani, 3-4 September 2021. For more information, see Newsletter 2/2021.
- **2.1.8 Conference COGITO ERGO SUD An active South Italy, Engine of Design Capabilities. Bari, 24 October 2021.** It discussed the political and economic situation of Southern Italy in the period post COVID-19 and the Recovery Plan of the Italian Government. For more information, see Newsletter 2/2021.

## 2.2 - Brief summary of the topics addressed

In the period 2020-2024, the aim of the Commission is to explore, although not limited to, the following themes in its conferences, workshops and panels, which were also the topics proposed for the meetings held in 2021 (https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/aims):

- 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
- 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

# 2.3 - Meetings planned to be hold in 2022 and later years

The meetings planned for 2022 are dependent on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic. Several scenarios have been considered: on-site; hybrid; and on-line meetings. The final decisions will be taken near the date of each event taking into account the recommendations and norms defined by the relevant health authority.

- **2.3.1 IGU-UGI Paris 2022: 100**<sup>e</sup> anniversaire de la fondation de l'UGI / 100<sup>th</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup> IGU anniversary, to be held in Paris, France, on 18-22 July 2022, with 8 sessions. For more information, see Newsletter 2/2021 and the IGU CGoG website: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/next-conferences.
- 2.3.2 IGU CGoG 2022 Annual Conference Mexico City, Mexico, 29-31 August 2022. The International Conference on Local Governance in a Time of Global Emergencies, convened by the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Geography of Governance, and organized in collaboration with the Metropolitan Autonomous University UAM and the National Autonomous University of Mexico UNAM, will be held in Mexico City, Mexico, on August 29-31, 2022. The Conference aims to explore and to discuss the challenges and innovations confronting Local and Urban Governance in the context of global emergencies. For more information, see the Conference website: https://sites.google.com/view/geogov2022/home
- 2.3.3 6th Conference on Urban e-Planning, 7 12 April 2022, Lisbon Portugal. The 6th International Conference on Urban e-Planning will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, on 7-12 April 2022. The Conference aims to explore: the governance and planning of smart cities; the role of urban e-planning in sustainable urban development and in the response to the challenges of climate change; new developments in citizen e-participation in planning; and the urban e-governance responses to the Covid-19 pandemic. For more information, see the conference website: https://sites.google.com/view/uep2022conference/home
- **2.3.4** Workshop on 'Smart and Resilient Local Governance', Győr, Hungary, on 6-7 June **2022.** The workshop addresses aspects of the functioning of local government in responding to challenges of the pandemic and climate crisis and the implications for the future of local governance. The Workshop will address the following topics: Local Government and the Response to Climate Emergency / Climate Change; Local Government and the Response to Covid-19 Pandemic; and Smart Cities and Smart Local Governance. For more information, see the Workshop website: https://sites.google.com/view/igugeogovgyor2022/home

**2.3.5** - Plan for other meetings (workshops / conferences / panels). We also aim to take part in other meetings in Europe (RGS-IBG, AESOP, etc.), North America (AAG, UAA, etc.), South America (e.g., Latin America Geographers), Asia (e.g., China, Japan), Oceania (e.g., NZGS-IAG), and in Africa (North and sub-Saharan).

## 3. Networking

Networking activities during 2021 were strongly limited due to the restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. We expect to return to normal activity during 2022.

# 4. Research Projects

- **4.1** The IGU Commission continued in 2021 the development of its collaborative Action Plan and research project focused on the 'Local Government response towards the COVID-19 Pandemic', which was launched on 25 March 2020 (more information, here: https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/home)
- **4.2** The IGU Commission launched in October 2021 a new collaborative Action Plan and research project, focused on the 'Local Governance and Climate Emergency: Strategies, Plans, Actions, Outcomes, Impacts' (more information, here: https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-climateemergency/home)

## 5. Publications in 2021 and forthcoming

The list of publications pertaining to the theme of the Commission on Geography of Governance, authored and/or edited by members of the Steering Committee is below. Some of the collective works listed engage also corresponding members and some are fully based on initial contributions presented in meetings or sessions organized or endorsed by the Commission in previous years.

#### 5.1 Newsletters published in 2021 (annex as separate file to this report)

Annex 1\_IGU CGoG\_(C16.12)\_IGU Commission Geography of Governance - Newsletter 1/2021 (January-June 2021)

Annex 2\_IGU CGoG\_(C20.15)\_IGU Commission Geography of Governance - Newsletter 2/2021 (July-December 2021)

## 5.2 Flyers, CFP and other materials published in 2021

See the Annex - list of files.

#### 5.3 Books published

- Silva, Carlos Nunes (Ed.) (2022). Local Government and the COVID-19 Pandemic A Global Perspective. Cham: Springer (ISBN-13: 9783030911119).
- Trono, Anna (2021). Sustainable Tourism and Cultural Routes in the Ionian and Adriatic Regions. Panico Publisher.
- Trono, Anna; Arthur P.; Servantie A. & Sánchez García, E. (eds.) (forthcoming). Emperor Charles V and the beginnings of globalization. The Mediterranean, The Kingdom of Naples and Terra d'Otranto on a New World Stage, TAB Publisher, Rome.

Trono, Anna; Duda T. & Schmude J. (eds.) (forthcoming). Over Tourism and "Tourism Over". Recovery from COVID19 Tourism Crisis in Regions with Over and Under Tourism. World Scientific.

## 5.4 Book chapters

- Bucek, Jan (2022). Local self-government and governance during Covid-19 pandemic in Slovakia. In Carlos Nunes Silva (Ed.). 'Local Government and the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Global Perspective'. Cham: Springer.
- Glezer, Olga; Evgeny Antonov, Sergey Safronov, Alexander Sheludkov, Kirill Strakhov, Maria Zotova, (2022). The Role of Regional and Local Governance in Dealing with the Socioeconomic Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Russia. In Carlos Nunes Silva (Ed.). 'Local Government and the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Global Perspective'. Cham: Springer.
- Kaczmarek, Tomasz & Mikula, Lukasz (2022). Presidential Elections in Poland during the Covid-19 Pandemic: An Unexpected Challenge for Political Actors and the Relationship between National Government and Local Government. In Carlos Nunes Silva (Ed.). 'Local Government and the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Global Perspective'. Cham: Springer.
- Maeda, Yosuke (2021). Changing Community Governance in the Coastal Fishing Regions. In: Ikeguchi, Akiko, Yokoyama, Takafumi & Sakita, Seishiro. (eds.) Adaptive fisheries governance in changing coastal regions in Japan. Springer, pp. 3-19.
- McNeill, Jeffrey & Andy Asquith (2022). End of the World: New Zealand's local government and Covid-19. In Carlos Nunes Silva (Ed.). 'Local Government and the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Global Perspective'. Cham: Springer.
- Purkarthofer, Eva & Schmitt, Peter (2021) Spatial Framing within EU Cohesion Policy and Spatial Planning: Towards Functional and Soft Spaces, Yet on Different Paths. In Rauhut, Daniel; Sielker, Franziska and Humer, Alois (eds.). EU Cohesion Policy and Spatial Governance Territorial, Social and Economic Challenges. Edward Elgar: Cheltenham, pp. 31-47.
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2022). Local Government and the Covid-19 Pandemic: An Introduction. In Carlos Nunes Silva (Ed.). 'Local Government and the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Global Perspective'. Cham: Springer..
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2022). Local Government response towards COVID-19 Pandemic in Portugal. In Carlos Nunes Silva (Ed.). 'Local Government and the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Global Perspective'. Cham: Springer.
- Trono, Anna (2021). RST and sustainable development In: D.H., Olsen, Timoty, D. (eds). Handbook of Religious and Spiritual Tourism. Routledge, pp. 439-457.
- Trono, Anna & Castronuovo V. (forthcoming). Pilgrimage Tourism, Accessibility and Local Communities in Western Countries. In: Santos Solla X.M., Progano R.N. (eds) Host Communities and Pilgrimage Tourism: Asia and Beyond, Cham: Springer.
- Trono, Anna & Castronuovo, V. (2022). Reorganisation of businesses and processes and development of policies for safely emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic in Italy. In Carlos Nunes Silva (Ed.). 'Local Government and the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Global Perspective'. Cham: Springer.
- Trono, Anna (forthcoming). Puglia, terra di arrivo e area di transito di pellegrini verso l'Oriente. Nuove occasioni di turismo esperienziale e prospettive di turismo durevole nell'area mediterranea. In G. Otranto (ed). "Francigena: Via per Roma, Santiago, Gerusalemme" (Atti Convegno Monte Sant'Angelo, 11-13 ottobre 2019). Regione Puglia.
- Trono, Anna; Prete M.I., Palmi P. (2021). Accessible Tourism in World Heritage Sites. The Case Study of the City of Matera in Southern Italy. In: Unesco Unitwin network

Culture Tourism Development (ed.) Tourism Management at UNESCO world Heritage Sites Volume 3, Université Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne, 2021.

## 5.5 Articles in peer-reviewed international journals

- Bąkowska-Waldmann E., & Kaczmarek, Tomasz (2021). The Use of PPGIS: Towards Reaching a Meaningful Public Participation in Spatial Planning. International Journal of Geo-Information, 10, 581. https://doi.org/10.3390/ijgi10090581
- Kaczmarek, Tomasz (2021). A Tailor-Made Metropolitan Union. Is This a Good Solution of the Metropolitan Governance Problem in Poland? Front. Sustain. Cities. https://doi.org/10.3389/frsc.2021.724354
- Kakai, Laszlo & Pálné Kovács, Ilona (2021). Counties in a vacuum: The electoral consequences of a declining meso-tler in Hungray. Regional and Federal Studies, 31-3405-418.
- Pálné Kovács, Ilona (2021). Politics without meso-level. No politics at the meso? Frontiers in Political Science, 3.
- Borén, Thomas & Schmitt, Peter (2021) Knowledge and place-based development towards networks of deep learning, European Planning Studies, https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2021.1928042
- Weck, Sabine; Madanipour, Ali & Schmitt, Peter (2021) Place-based development and spatial justice, European Planning Studies, https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2021.1928038
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2021). A decade of Urban e-Planning. In: International Journal of E-Planning Research, Vol. 10 (3).
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2021). Urban E-Planning and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Public Health Response and Transformative Recovery. International Journal of E-Planning Research, Vol. 10 (2).
- Trono, Anna & Castronuovo V. (2021). The Via Francigena Del Sud: The Value of Pilgrimage Routes in the Development of Inland Areas. Two Emblematic Cases. Special Issue, Revista Galega de Economía, 2021, 30 (3), 7701.
- Trono, Anna & Castronuovo V. (forthcoming). Musical Festivals and Cultural Tourism. The case of Martina Franca in the Valle d'Itria in Southern Italy. In: Special Issue on Festival Cities and Cultural Tourism (Eds. By G. Richards and Maria del Pilar Leal Londoño).
- Trono, Anna & Oliva, L. (2021). Innovations in a Traditional Landscape of Pilgrimage: The Via Francigena del Sud towards Rome and Other Apulian Pilgrim's Routes. Religions, 12, 1065.

# 5.6 Conference presentations

- Bucek, Jan (2021). Local self-government and governance during Covid-19 pandemic in Slovakia. Presentation at IGU CGoG Annual Conference on 'New Challenges of Local Governance in Times of Uncertainty and Complexity', Poznán, Poland, 23-23 June 2021.
- Horeczki, Réka; Ilona Pálné Kovács (2021). Governance challanges in Hungary, especially in Baranya county In: 60th ERSA Congress: Territorial Futures Visions and scenarios for a resilient Europe. Abstract Book. Bolzano:, The European Regional Science Association.
- Maeda, Yosuke & Kaoru Mitani (2021). Influence of Consolidation of Municipalities on Local and Community Governance of Peripheral Areas: A Case Study of Sasebo City, Japan. Presentation at IGU 34th Geographical Congress, Istanbul, Turkey, 16-20 August 2021.

- Maeda, Yosuke (2021). How did non-contiguous municipalities merge in Japan's great Heisei mergers?. Presentation at IGU CGoG Annual Conference on 'New Challenges of Local Governance in Times of Uncertainty and Complexity', Poznán, Poland, 23-23 June 2021.
- Mikula, Lukasz & Kaczmarek, Tomasz (2021). Presidential Elections in Poland during the Covid-19 Pandemic: An Unexpected Challenge for Political Actors and the Relationship between National Government and Local Government. Presentation at IGU CGoG Annual Conference on 'New Challenges of Local Governance in Times of Uncertainty and Complexity', Poznán, Poland, 23-23 June 2021.
- Mikula, Lukasz & Kaczmarek, Tomasz (2021). The presidential elections in Poland during the Covid-19 pandemic. The unexpected challenge for political actors and relations between central and local government. Presentation at AAG 2021 Annual Meeting, 7-11 April 2021.
- Pálné Kovács, Ilona (2021). Is it the time to centralize? Presentation at IGU CGoG Annual Conference on 'New Challenges of Local Governance in Times of Uncertainty and Complexity', Poznán, Poland, 23-23 June 2021.
- Razin, Eran (2021). The Corona and the Arnona: Implications of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Finance and Planning in Israel's Local government. Presentation at IGU CGoG Annual Conference on 'New Challenges of Local Governance in Times of Uncertainty and Complexity', Poznán, Poland, 23-23 June 2021..
- Sabine Weck & Peter Schmitt (2021). Approaching spatial justice in local development actions: an investigation into procedural promoters and inhibitors in relation to the perceived outcomes. Presentation at IGU CGoG Annual Conference on 'New Challenges of Local Governance in Times of Uncertainty and Complexity', Poznán, Poland, 23-23 June 2021.
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2021). Citizen Participation In Urban Planning In Portugal 1920 2020.

  Presentation at IGU CGoG Annual Conference on 'New Challenges of Local
  Governance in Times of Uncertainty and Complexity', Poznán, Poland, 23-23 June
  2021.
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2021). Local Government response to Covid 19 in Portugal. Presentation at AAG 2021 Annual Meeting, 7-11 April 2021.
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2021). Local government response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

  Presentation at IGU CGoG Annual Conference on 'New Challenges of Local
  Governance in Times of Uncertainty and Complexity', Poznán, Poland, 23-23 June
  2021.
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2021). Public Participation in Urban Planning: from symbolic engagement to citizen control. Presentation at IGU Thematic Conference 'Heritage Geographies: Politics, Uses and Governance of the Past', Lecce (Italy), 27 29 May, 2021.
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2021). Citizen Participation in Urban Planning in Portugal 1920 2020. Presentation at IGU 34th Geographical Congress, Istanbul, Turkey, 16-20 August 2021.
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2021). Local Government in Angola, Cape Verde and Mozambique 1975-2020. Presentation at IGU 34th Geographical Congress, Istanbul, Turkey, 16-20 August 2021.
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2021). Local Government Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic: Insights from the Case of Portugal. Presentation at IGU 34th Geographical Congress, Istanbul, Turkey, 16-20 August 2021.
- Trono, Anna (2021). Italian government response to the coronavirus outbreak in support of the cultural and creative sectors. Presentation at IGU CGoG Annual Conference on 'New Challenges of Local Governance in Times of Uncertainty and Complexity', Poznán, Poland, 23-23 June 2021.

## 5.7 Book reviews & Conference Reports

- Schmitt, Peter (2021). Book review. Fricke, Carola (2020): European Dimension of Metropolitan Policies. Policy Learning and Reframing of Metropolitan Regions. Raumforschung Und Raumordnung | Spatial Research and Planning, 79(2), 197-199. https://doi.org/10.14512/rur.
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2021). Book review 'Planning for Climate Change'. In: International Journal of E-Planning Research, Vol. 10 (1).
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2021). Book review 'Planning History'. In: International Journal of E-Planning Research, Vol. 10 (2).
- Silva, Carlos Nunes (2021). Book review 'Planning Theory'. In: International Journal of E-Planning Research, Vol. 10 (4).

# 5.8 Working papers

- Jochen Franzke (2020). German Municipalities in the COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis. Challenges and Adjustments. A preliminary analysis. In IGU Commission Geography of Governance (2020). Local Government Response Towards Covid-19 Pandemic: a Worldwide Survey and Comparison [URL: https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/working-papers].
- Finta, István; Kovács, Katalin & Pálné Kovács, Ilona (2020). The Role of Local Governments in Control the Pandemic in Hungary . In IGU Commission Geography of Governance (2020). Local Government Response Towards Covid-19 Pandemic: a Worldwide Survey and Comparison. [URL: https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/working-papers].
- Tony Gore; Emma Bimpson; Julian Dobson & Steve Parkes (2021). Local Government Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic in the UK: A Thematic Review. In IGU Commission Geography of Governance (2021). Local Government Response Towards Covid-19 Pandemic: a Worldwide Survey and Comparison. [URL: https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/working-papers].

## 5.9 Special Issues in peer-reviewed international journals

Carlos Nunes Silva edited a Special Issue on *Urban E-Planning and the COVID-19 Pandemic* in the International Journal of E-Planning Research, Vol. 10 (2), 2021.

Special issue in the journal 'People, Place And Policy', co-edited by Tony Gore (University of Sheffield, UK) and Carlos Nunes Silva (University of Lisbon, Portugal) - Editorial: Instruments, Resources and Collective Action: Introduction to Special Section on Geographies of Local Governance, Volume 14 - Issue 3.

## 6. Commission's web site

The current accurate URL of the commission's web site is this: <a href="https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/">https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/</a>

Besides information about current and future activities, the site serves also as on-line archive of the Commission with all newsletters and information on past steering committees, meetings, publications, and photo galleries related to the commission activities.

The Commission is also associated with a blog and a mailing list focused on issues of

local government and local governance:

The blog address is: <a href="http://igugeogov.blogspot.pt/">http://igugeogov.blogspot.pt/</a>

The mailing list address is: <a href="https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/mailing-list">https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/mailing-list</a>

## 7. Archival Contributions

All newsletters, flyers, conference programs were sent to the IGU Secretary General and also to the IGU Archive at the University of Leipzig, in December 2021 (44 documents). The Commission website has also a digital archive of the Commission. This archive provides online open access to all newsletters, to the photo gallery of the meetings organized by the Commission, to the list of conferences and publications, membership, its aims and research themes, as well as an historical overview of the Commission.

#### 8. 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:

«The Commission "Geography of Governance" is very active and highly productive. It participates consistently in IGU Congresses and Conferences, organizing successful sessions on processes of governance worldwide. The Commission is exceptionally active, has a strong tradition of collaboration with IGU Commissions as well as organisations outside IGU. The Commission collaborated in 2020 with several IGU Commissions in the Thematic Conference on Geographies of Heritage, in Lecce (the thematic conference was later postponed to 2021, because of the COVID emergence). The Commission has developed a diverse way of communication, internally and externally, through its website, newsletter and email list. The Commission has been also successful in publishing, producing a relevant list of titles, authored or edited by members of the Steering Committee. Moreover, the Commission launched, on 25 March 2020, a collaborative Action Plan and research project focused on the "Local Government response towards the COVID-19 Pandemic" (see https://sites.google.com/view/igucgog-covid19/home), an initiative of great importance for knowledge and research on public action to spatial reorganisation and disaster containment. The IGU Commissions Excellence Award Committee commends the Commission "Geography of Governance" for its excellent work.»

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

Lisbon, 7 January 2022

Carlos Nunes Silva

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