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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/aVnvSzT2yTGhNgZo8

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 34th 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 Khaled 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.


2.2 - 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
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
17. 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° 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, 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/igugeogov-gyor2022/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

5.4 Book chapters


5.5 Articles in peer-reviewed international journals


5.6 Conference presentations


5.7 Book reviews & Conference Reports


5.8 Working papers


5.9 Special Issues in peer-reviewed international journals


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: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/

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: http://igugeogov.blogspot.pt/
The mailing list address is: https://sites.google.com/site/igugeogov/mailing-list

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

Chair of the IGU Commission Geography of Governance (C20.15)
Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, University of Lisbon, Portugal
ANNEX TO THIS REPORT (42 documents, as separate files)

Annex 1_IGU CGoG Newsletter 1/2021 (January-June)
Annex 2_IGU CGoG Newsletter 2/2021 (July-December)
Annex 3_IGU CGoG - Commission excellence award 2021
Annex 4_IGU-CGoG Action Plan on the Covid 19 Pandemic
Annex 5_IGU CGoG Action Plan on Local Governance and Climate Emergency
Annex 6_Book Local Government and Covid_cover
Annex 7_IGU-CGoG_ProjectPandemic_WP1
Annex 8_IGU-CGoG_ProjectPandemic_WP2
Annex 9_IGU-CGoG_ProjectPandemic_WP3
Annex 10_Urban Planning and Covid-19_Special Issue - Editorial
Annex 11_AAG_2021_IGU-CGoG-Sessions
Annex 12_AAG_2021_IGU-CGoG-Session I
Annex 13_AAG_2021_IGU-CGoG-Session II
Annex 14_AAG_2021_IGU-CGoG-Session III
Annex 15_AAG_2021_IGU-CGoG-Session IV
Annex 16_AAG_2021_IGU-CGoG-Session V
Annex 17_AAG_2021_IGU-CGoG-Session VI
Annex 18_IGU Thematic Conference_Lecce_May 2021_poster
Annex 19_IGU Thematic Conference_Sessions 12-13-14-15
Annex 20_IGU_CGoG_Thematic Conference Sessions Program
Annex 21_IGU CGoG_Thematic Conference_Round Table_GovHerit_28 05 2021
Annex 22_IGU CGoG-IGU THEMATIC CONFERENCE-PROGRAM
Annex 23_IGU POZNAN 2021_CFP
Annex 24_IGU POZNAN 2021-PROGRAM
Annex 25_IGU POZNAN 2021-ABSTRACTS
Annex 26_IGU POZNAN 2021 - COMMISSION PRESENTATION_POZNAN_23 06 2021
Annex 27_IGU POZNAN 2021-Opening Session_23 06 2021
Annex 28_IGU POZNAN 2021-Closing Session_24 06 2021
Annex 29_IGU CGoG_Call for Abstracts_34th IGU Congress 2020
Annex 30_IGU CGoG_Call for Abstracts_34th IGU Congress 2021
Annex 31_IGU CGoG_Sessions 34 Geographical Congress
Annex 32_IGU CGoG_5th Urban e_Planning Conference_Call for Papers
Annex 33_IJEPR 2021 Conference_flyer
Annex 34_UEP2021_Scheme Slots-Tracks_28 08 2021
Annex 35_UEP2021_ProgSummary_final_10 09 2021
Annex 36_UEP2021_PROGRAM_FINAL_10 09 2021
Annex 37_UEP2021_PROGRAM_ABSTRACTS_10 09 2021
Annex 38_UEP 2021 Opening Session
Annex 39_UEP 2021 Closing Session
Annex 40_IGU CGoG_IGU Centennial Congress_Sessions_CFP
Annex 41_IGU CGoG_2022 Annual Conference_Call for Papers
Annex 42_IGU CGoG_6th Urban e_Planning Conference_Call for Papers