The IGU Commissions on Local and Regional Development (IGU-LRD), Land Use and Land Cover Change (IGU-LU/LCC) & Health and Environment Commission (IGU-CHE) are organizing a pre-Congress scientific event in Cork, Ireland to share knowledge and exchange ideas on the best of global geographic research that meets the key areas of interests of the three IGU Commissions and beyond.

**TOPICS**

- Local and Regional Patterns of Rural-Urban Relationships
- Territorial Competitiveness, Cohesion and Sustainability
- Cross-border Cooperation, Peripheral Areas and Neighbourhood Policies
- Driving Forces, Impacts and Applications of Land Use/Cover Change at Various Spatial Scales
- Land Use/Cover Change and Land Degradation in Anthropocene
- Environmental Changes and Human Health: Vulnerabilities, Impacts and Inequalities;
- Health, Wellbeing and Sustainable Development in Urban and Rural Areas
- Public Health & Healthcare Systems after Pandemic: Changes, Challenges and Opportunities
- Innovation in teaching, AI emerging technologies and health geography education

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 20, 2024</td>
<td>Arrival in Cork and Welcome reception at the Department of Geography, University College, Cork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 21, 2024</td>
<td>Full-day working meetings at the University College, Cork including session presentations on the suggested topics and a <strong>Joint Roundtable</strong> on <em>Exploring the complex relationships between land use/cover change, local and regional development, and population health</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**ORGANIZERS**

Chair and local organizer: Dr. Liam Coakley, Department of Geography, University College, Cork (l.coakley@ucc.ie), Dr. Ray O'Connor, Department of Geography, University College Cork, Dr. Therese Kenna, Department of Geography, University College Cork.

On behalf of the IGU Commissions: Dr. Ines Grigorescu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Chair of the Local and Regional Development Commission, (inesgrigorescu@yahoo.com); Dr. Monica Dumitrașcu, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Chair of the Land Use/Land Cover Change Commission (stefania_dumitrascu@yahoo.com); Prof. Liliana Dumitrache, University of Bucharest, Co-Chair of the Health and the Environment Commission, (dosaredumitrache@yahoo.com); Dr. Bianca Mitrică, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy, Scientific Secretary of the Local and Regional Development Commission, (biancadumitrescu78@yahoo.com); Dr. Eva Pillot, Maastricht University, Scientific Secretary of the Health and the Environment Commission (eva.pilot@maastrichtuniversity.nl); PhD Student Alexandra Cioclu, Corresponding Member of the Health and the Environment Commission (alexandra_cioclu@yahoo.com).

**REGISTRATION FEE:** 200 EUR will include the welcome reception on August 20; coffee breaks and lunch on August 21; fieldtrip on August 22; the use of A/V equipment and facilities. The registration fee may be subject to change.

Participants will be responsible for their own accommodation costs and meals that are not included in the registration fee.

**DEADLINES AND SUBMISSIONS**

March 1st: Abstract Submission deadline (please fill in and submit the [application form here](#)).

March 20th: Abstract acceptance

April 20: Registration deadline (including payment)

May 1st: Program Finalized

August 20-23: Pre-Congress Meeting

**VENUE**

University College, Cork

More information about the venue and accommodation will be available soon.

For any inquiry and information please e-mail to: iguche2020@gmail.com