

Minutes

RSAI COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 2024 TERCEIRA, 2024 ERSA CONGRESS

Wednesday, Aug. 28, 12.30-14.30 GMT (Azores time), Room SF1 (Sala de Formação 1) 1st Floor, in Centro Cultural e de Congressos, Angra do Heroísmo, Azores.

Zoom link:

<https://polimi-it.zoom.us/j/93943692522?pwd=j4gGaMH8OR1Vy1K4cHFSJSdJWeJmNp.1>

Meeting ID: 939 4369 2522

Passcode: 785162

1. Apologies (Annex 1)

The meeting is attended on site by Hans Westlund (RSAI president); Tomaz Dentinho (Councillor at large); Rosella Nicolini (PiRS Editor in Chief); Daniela Constantin (Councillor at large); André Chagas (Councillor at large); Carlos Azzoni (LARSA delegate); Katarzyna Kopczewska (Councillor at large); Patricio Aroca; Soushi Suzuki (PRSCO Executive Director); Hiroyuki Shibusawa; Elisabete Martins; Andrea Caragliu (RSAI Executive Director); Roberta Capello (ERSA President); Camilla Lenzi (Councillor at large), and online by Haifeng Qian (NARSC delegate) and Lise Bourdeau-LePage (ERSA delegate)

At 12.45 the RSAI president opens the meeting and welcomes participants.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Apr. 10, 2024 meeting (Annex 2)

Hans Westlund asks if anybody has any comments on the minutes, which were circulated before by the Executive Director by email. As no requests for changes to the minutes are presented, the minutes are unanimously approved.

3. Selection of new RSAI Executive Director (Annex 3)

This crucial item is introduced by the RSAI President Hans Westlund. He explains that candidates will first present themselves, then they will leave the room and the Council will make a decision based on both the presentations, the recommendations of the search committee, and the material circulated before.

Candidates are let in. Two (Balazs Forman and Rafael Garduno-Rivera) attend online, three (Marco Modica, Ana Viñuela, and Carolina Guevara) attend on site. Presentations follow the alphabetical order. First, Prof. Balazs Forman (no question were asked after his presentation), then Prof. Rafael Garduno-Rivera, Prof. Carolina Guevara, Prof. Marco Modica, and Prof. Ana Viñuela. Rafael Garduno-Rivera is asked by Prof. Dentinho how he plans to finance the workshops he proposed for his possible future role as ED. Prof. Garduno-Rivera replies he would seek extra funding from different sources.

Prof. Guevara introduces her candidature with a short bio, and quickly moves to her possible plans for the association. She reports about her experience in presiding over the Ecuadorian section, and adds she would like to extend this experience in managing the RSAI. Her focus would be on extending the

number of sections, and on attracting more individuals and making existing ones more active. Andrea Caragliu asks her whether she would have plans to revive LARSA's supranational section's activities.

Marco Modica introduces his candidature with a short bio. He reports a long history of RSAI membership. The focus of his possible term as ED would be to enhance the collaboration among supranational and national sections. He also adds that he would like to disseminate more knowledge about the various roles played by the association to its members. Carlos Azzoni asks if he would get institutional support. Marco Modica replies his rector supports his candidacy, and since GSSI is a research-oriented institutions, teaching duties are already lower than the Italian average. Tomaz Dentinho challenges Prof. Modica's idea of enhancing the network component of the RSAI against its present hierarchical structure.

Ana Viñuela places her candidature within the context of her research group, and the Spanish section's. She also reports that she would like to walk in the footsteps of the previous management, with a particular focus on reviving dormant sections.

Candidates are requested to leave the room. The discussion starts. Carlos Azzoni underlines that institutional support, and gender balance should be taken into account.

Andrea Caragliu explains the recommendations of the search committee, and the rules (two-stages vote as suggested by the LRPC). Tomaz Dentinho advises against this system for the so called Arrow dilemma. Patricio Aroca agrees that three candidates are outstanding, and suggests to vote only for them. Lise Bourdeau expresses concerns about this and suggests to keep all five candidates at least in a first vote.

Roberta Capello gets back to the core of the point – the quality of the candidates. She adds that one candidate, Prof. Viñuela, stood out in terms of proposing managerial, rather than strategic, issues. Katarzyna Kopczewska concurs with her opinion. Tomaz Dentinho stresses that three candidates traveled to Terceira to present their candidatures, and traveling for work is an important part of being an ED.

After a fruitful discussion, the Council proceeds to voting. Within the Council, 11 voting members opt for Ana Viñuela, while one member abstains. Candidates are let in again; they are notified of the outcome of the decision, and Prof. Viñuela is congratulated on achieving this important position. At the same time, the Council expresses gratitude to all candidates for their effort and candidatures, and hopes to count on them for future executive roles in the association. The candidates are also invited to stay for the rest of the Council, to see how the mechanisms work.

4. Opening for council representatives from supranationals (end of term for Brian Kim, PRSCO; and Sandy dall'Erba, NARSC)

Andrea Caragliu explains the usual round of openings. Soushi Suzuki says that in the PRSCO congress in Korea this item was discussed, and a name will be provided within the end of this year. Haifeng Qian will ask the NARSC Council to provide a name in due time.

5. Opening for one at-large councilor (end of term for Tomaz Dentinho)

Andrea Caragliu notifies the council that in 2025 a new position for RSAI Councillor at large will be released, and suggests NARSC, PRSCO, and LARSA to motivate good members to apply.

6. Opening for nurturing talent proposals

Andrea Caragliu explains that a budget comparable to previous years is available, and suggests sections – especially NARSC – to leverage on it.

Tomaz Dentinho asks if there is extra money for Asia and Africa. Andrea Caragliu replies some budget for African events is still available, while for Asia proposals will have to go through the PRSCO-allocated budget. Prof. Dentinho recommends the group organizing Central Asian events to the PRSCO Councilors attending the meeting.

7. 2023 Report and Accounts (Andrea Caragliu) (Annex 4)

Andrea Caragliu reports about the budget, stressing the now usual financial stability of the association, which shows for 2024 a tentatively even budget, although a profit will very likely to be made. This is due to the fact that with the new contract with Elsevier for publishing PiRS and RSPP, and unlike what previously done with Wiley, no revenues will be anticipated, but the whole royalties due to the RSAI will be sent by the Publisher early in 2025, although technically this budget is to be financially attributed to 2024.

8. 2024 Report of PiRS (Rosella Nicolini) (Annex 5)

Rosella Nicolini reports good numbers in terms of the journal's growing impact factor, submissions, and geographic diversity.

9. 2024 Report of RSPP (Tomaz Dentinho) (Annex 6)

Tomaz Dentinho reports that accepted papers went up by 25%, but so did citations, and that, as a consequence, the IF remained constant (equal to 1.7). He also plans to reduce the editors to 15, and to move from the strategy to collect special issues to one that is based on compiled ones.

10. Candidatures received for the 2026 World Congress (Annex 7)

Carolina Guevara is invited to present Ecuador's candidature. She explains that the Ecuadorian section and the *Escuela Politecnica Nacional* will be the proponents. Patricio Aroca asks where the congress will be held and how many hotels will be available in close proximity. Prof. Guevara replies the venue will be the university, and that many hotels will be available in immediate proximity. A few questions revolve around the budget proposed, and the level of safety for congress participants. The Council agrees that a tentative interest in the location of Quito is there, but at the same time requires Prof. Guevara to fine-tune the proposal and deal in particular with a revision of the proposed budget, and the issues with safety. A final decision will be made at the Council meeting in New Orleans, during the NARSC congress, November 2024.

11. Opening of call for applications for new RSPP EiC, starting Jan. 1, 2026

Andrea Caragliu explains about the opening of the new Editor in Chief of Regional Science, Policy and Practice. Prof. Dentinho is stepping down as of December, 2025, and the Council would like to appoint a new incoming Editor in Chief to work along with Prof. Dentinho during 2025, and replace him in due time. A public call for applications will be released in September, and a search committee will be appointed to elicit good candidatures, and review them with a recommendation to be made to the Council. A decision on this position will be made at the Council meeting in New Orleans, during the NARSC congress, November 2024.

12. AOB

No other business is suggested.

13. Next meeting

With no more items to discuss, Prof. Westlund closes the meeting at 2.23 pm local time.

RSAI Council Members

2024 RSAI Council Members

	Name	Member	Period	Email address
1	Hans Westlund	President	2023-2024	hans.westlund@abe.kth.se
2	In Kwon Park	PRSCO President	2024-2026	parkik@snu.ac.kr
3	Hidehiko Kanegae	PRSCO Representative	2024-2026	hkanegae@sps.ritsumei.ac.jp
4	Brian Kim	PRSCO Representative	2019-2024	briankim66@snu.ac.kr
5	Elizabeth Mack	NARSC Representative	2021-2026	emack@msu.edu
6	Haifeng Qian	NARSC Representative	2024-2026	haifeng-qian@uiowa.edu
7	Sandy Dall'Erba	NARSC Representative	2019-2024	dallerba@illinois.edu
8	Roberta Capello	ERSA President	2024-2029	roberta.capello@polimi.it
9	Lise Bourdeau-Lepage	ERSA Representative	2023-2025	lblepage@gmail.com
10	Eveline Van Leeuwen	ERSA Representative	2020-2025	eveline.vanleeuwen@wur.nl
11	Fernando Perobelli	LARSA Representative	2024-2026	fernando.perobelli@ufjf.edu.br
12	Patricio Aroca	LARSA Representative	2020-2025	patricio.aroca@unab.cl
13	Carlos Azzoni	LARSA Representative	2020-2025	cazzoni@usp.br
14	Camilla Lenzi	Councillor at large	2024-2026	camilla.lenzi@polimi.it
15	Katarzyna Kopczewska	Councillor at large	2024-2026	kkopczewska@wne.uw.edu.pl
16	André Chagas	Councillor at large	2024-2026	achagas@usp.br
17	Tomaz Dentinho	Councillor at large	2022-2024	tomas.lc.dentinho@uac.pt
18	Daniela Luminita-Constantin	Councillor at large	2020-2025	danielaconstantin_2005@yahoo.com
19	Andrea Caragliu	Executive Director	2019-2024	andrea.caragliu@polimi.it
20	Hiroyuki Shibusawa	President Elect	2024-2026	shibusawa.hiroyuki.dc@tut.jp

LRPC Members

1	Peter Nijkamp	President	1991-1992	pnijkamp@hotmail.com
2	Lay J. Gibson	President	1993-1994	ljgibson@comcast.net
3	Kingsley E. Haynes	President	1995-1996	khaynes@gmu.edu
4	Peter W. J. Batey	President	1997-1998	pwjbatey@liv.ac.uk
5	H. Khono	President	1999-2000	
6	Geoffrey J.D.Hewings	President	2001-2002	hewings@uiuc.edu
7	Robert J. Stimson	President	2005-2006	rstimson@unimelb.edu.au
8	Roberta Capello	President	2009-2010	roberta.capello@polimi.it
9	Yoshiro Higano	President	2011-2012	higano@jsrsai.jp
10	Jean-Claude Thill	President	2013-2014	Jean-Claude.Thill@uncc.edu
11	Andres Rodriguez Pose	President	2015-2016	a.rodriguez-pose@lse.ac.uk
12	Budy Resosudarmo	President	2017-2018	budy.resosudarmo@anu.edu.au
13	Mark Partridge	President	2019-2020	partridge.27@osu.edu
14	Eduardo Haddad	President	2021-2022	ehaddad@usp.br
15	Eveline Van Leeuwen	Council Representative	2021-2025	eveline.vanleeuwen@wur.nl
16	Sandy Dall'Erba	Council Representative	2021-2024	dallerba@illinois.edu

RSAI Ex-Officio Members

1	Rosella Nicolini	Editor in Chief of PIRS	rosella.nicolini@uab.cat
2	Tomaz Dentinho	Editor in Chief of RSPP	tomas.lc.dentinho@uac.pt
3	Peter W. J. Batey	Archivist	pwjbatey@liv.ac.uk
4	David Boyce	Archivist	dboyce@uic.edu
5	Martijn Smit	Newsletter Editor	M.J.Smit@uu.nl
6	Mina Akhavan	Newsletter Editor	m.a.akhavan@tudelft.nl
7	Soushi Suzuki	PRSCO Executive Director	soushi-s@lst.hokkai-s-u.ac.jp
8	Serena Erendira Serrano Oswald	RSAI Treasurer	sesohi@hotmail.com
9	Elisabete Martins	Finance Director	Elisabete.martins@apdr.pt

Invited Members

1	Paul Snow	RSAC Vice President	paulsnow@pku.edu.cn
2	Mónica Navarrete Álvarez	LARSA Executive Director	mnavarre@uta.cl
3	Sumona Banjeree	President of IRSA	sumona_bm@yahoo.com

Annex 3

Recommendations of the RSAI ED search committee to the RSAI Council

The RSAI ED search committee, appointed by the RSAI Council during the meeting of the former at the 14th World Congress of the RSAI in Kecskemét, Hungary, is made up of Hiroyuki Shibusawa, Eveline Van Leeuwen, Tomaz Dentinho, and Andrea Caragliu.

The secretariat received five valid candidatures:

- Rafel Garduno
- Carolina Guevara
- Marco Modica
- Ana Vinuela
- Balazs Forman

The committee expresses satisfaction for the large number of high profiles candidatures received for the position. This is proof of the lively activity taking place within the Association.

The committee met electronically, also with the presence of Elisabete Martins, RSAI Secretariat, on July 10, 2024 to review and discuss the five valid candidatures received for the position of RSAI ED within the Jul. 1, 2024 deadline.

Ms. Martins reviewed the membership status of the five candidates, which reads as follows:

- Rafael Garduno – 2020 and 2024
- Carolina Guevara – from 2018 until 2024
- Marco Modica – 2014, 2016, 2018, 2023 and 2024
- Ana Vinuela – from 2014 until 2024
- Balazs Forman - 2022, 2023 and 2024

Three candidates stand out in this respect, as Carolina Guevara, Marco Modica, and Ana Vinuela demonstrated consistent interest in the association through a very regular participation in activities. On Prof. Modica, Andrea Caragliu notifies the committee that the years when he did not appear as a regular member may be due to the peculiar status of the Italian Section of the RSAI (AISRe), which allows institutions to pay collective membership fees (*Socio collettivo*), allowing individuals working for the institution to participate in the AISRe yearly congress without paying individual fees.

The committee also agrees on reporting the council the following table, assembled by Tomaz Dentinho, and breaking down the letters of the candidates in terms of the topics mentioned:

Focus	Rafael Garduno Rivera	Marco Modica	Carolina Guevara	Ana Vinuela	Balazs Forman
Presidency	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Council	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Fees	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Conference	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Journals	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

Awards	No	Yes	No	No	No
Asia/Africa	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

Based on this table, among the current crucial issues characterizing the association and its needs, two candidatures standing out in terms of the attention to multiple items, viz. Ana Vinuela's and Marco Modica's. This suggests that these two candidates appear to be more knowledgeable about the current needs of the association. At the same time, Carolina Guevara's candidature still represents a possible viable alternative, despite the relative shorter experience in handling professional service. Between Prof. Vinuela and Prof. Modica, the Committee also recommends that the RSAI Council takes into account the fact that the Executive Director position was never held by a female in the past.

In conclusion: the RSAI ED search committee believes that two candidatures that appear particularly attractive for the position are Ana Vinuela and Marco Modica. The committee also believes that Carolina Guevara represents a good potential alternative. Lastly, despite their interest, the committee believes that the candidatures from Balazs Forman and Rafael Garduno Rivera appear to be slightly less attractive for the ED position.

RSAI Report and Accounts

2023

JULY 2024

Andrea Caragliu
Elisabete Martins

RSAI 

THE REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

Note from the Executive Director in 2023

In 2023 five RSAI Council Meetings have been held, some online, some onsite. The latter include meetings at the PRSCO summer institute in Siem Reap, Cambodia; the ERSA conference in Alicante, Spain; and the NARSC conference in San Diego, CA. The Council is happy to be back to PRSCO; and praises this supranational with its renewed efforts to extend its presence in Countries without an RSAI Section.

In 2023, the RSAI Council composition changed as follows:

- Hans Westlund replaced Eduardo Haddad as RSAI president;
- Lise Bourdeau-Lepage replaced Francisco Carballo as ERSA representative.

During 2023, the activities of the three newly activated committees (Diversity and inclusion committee; Communication committee; Honors committee) carried on. Across all committees, a better effort in coordinating activities, and in carrying out their mandates, would be welcome, as often the ED and the president had to remind the committees of their duties and schedule.

2023 was also characterized by witnessed growth in terms of scientific reputation of our journals. While *Papers in Regional Science's* IF resumed its long run growth path (2.4 in 2023, 2.1 in 2022), *Regional Science Policy and Practice* maintained its first impact factor, 1.7, while oncreasing its CiteScore from .1 n 2022 to 3.6 in 2023. To both EiCs, the Council's thank-you for their great job. Last but not least, Mina Akharvan and Martijn Smit edited two issues of the RSAI Newsletter, published and distributed online by the RSAI in May and November 2023.

In terms of publications, the main event in 2023 was the decision to transition from Wiley to Elsevier, and from hybrid to Gold Open Access for both PiRS and RSPP. While the outcomes of this transition will be monitored over the next years, and the early findings commented in the 2025 ED report, we can already state this was a bold move, made by the Council to try and anticipate the market, and offer our membership impactful and solid scientific journals.

The RSAI usually organizes World Congresses every other year, and in 2022 two proposals were received, although neither was found to be fully convincing. The Council decided to freeze the decision and work on the proponents to open another call for applications, which took place in 2023, with the decision to host the 2024 World Congress of the RSAI in Kecskemét, Hungary, with the support of the LOC (John Von Neumann University), and the RSAI's Hungarian Section, MRTT. The congress will be commented in the 2024 report.

The Association gained further in the rebound to the record of individual members achieved a few years ago, and following the substantial decrease in members after the Pandemic hit. Members remained stable (4,370 in 2022, 4,245 in 2023). While the association is regaining positions, a note on some troublesome sections (in terms of lack of activities, delayed or missing payments, and difficult communications) is worth being discussed at future Council meetings.

In 2023 the Nurturing Talent programme the following initiatives have been approved for financial support:

- Doctorales ASRDLF 2023 (PhD Winter School of French speaking section of European regional science association), "26th and 27th of January, 2023, Polytechnic school of the university of Tours (France)"

- SNAR'23 – VI Seminar for New Academic Researchers 2023, "September 14-15th, 2023, Barcelona (Spain), Can Jaumandreu Building, Open University of Catalonia."
- Workshop: Geo-Text Data Analysis in Regional Science: recent advances and best practices, "April/May 2023 (the date will be finalized based on the availability of invited keynote speakers), Tentative Venue: Academy Building, University of Groningen"
- WINTER COURSE FOR UKRANIAN ACADEMICS, "February/March 2023 (length of the event: 3 days), Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania"
- "2nd Southeast Asian Frontiers (SEAF) Workshop: Writing Highlands: Imperialism, Development, and Environmental Changes in Southeast Asian Highlands", "23th- 25th August 2023 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The host institution will be Universitas Islam Indonesia."
- ERSA Summer School 2023: The digital future of smart regions, "Date of the summer school: End of June/Beginning of July (the exact date will be established at a later date, for a good coordination with other regional science events). Venue: Centre for European Studies, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania."
- "Regional Analysis of Input-output: Applications for Paraguay", "Place: National University of Asunción, University Campus of San Lorenzo, Paraguay. March 2023".

In 2023, the net profit for the exercise was equal to € 34 594,08. The Association's Bank Account availability increased from € 546,201.37 (brought forward from 2022) to € 582,157.66 as of Dec. 31, 2023. While the situation does remain florid for the accounts of the association, leaving enough cushion for a prolonged period of financial restraints (if any), two items deserve in my view the council attention: (i.) Some national sections tend to be difficult to reach, and provide belated payment, if any; some are in fact rather inactive, and the Council should in my view consider to eliminate them from the map and start all over again; (ii.) National sections payments are almost never sufficient for fully covering the expenses for all activities. A substantial portion of the Association revenues comes from the contract with the publisher, whose renewal is a crucial step for the association's finances, beyond its scientific activity.

To conclude, I would like to thank the whole RSAI Council, the Long Range Planning Committee, and the Council-appointed committees for their continuous support of RSAI activities. The Association keeps growing, and while it does face many challenges (in the publication landscape; in the relations with national and supranational sections; in terms of competition with other associations gathering members from germane disciplines), its truly global membership; its sense of belonging; and the quality of its members and representatives all bode well for successfully dealing with them.

Andrea Caragliu

RSAI Executive Director in 2023

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1. RSAI Council Members

Table 1. –RSAI Council Members in 2023

	Name	Member	Period	Email
1	Hans Westlund	President	2023-2024	hans.westlund@abe.kth.se
2	Hidehiko Kanegae	PRSCO President	2021-2023	hkanegae@sps.ritsumei.ac.jp
3	Lily Kiminami	PRSCO Representative	2021-2023	kiminami@agr.niigata-u.ac.jp
4	Brian Kim	PRSCO Representative	2019-2024	briankim66@snu.ac.kr
5	Elizabeth Mack	NARSC Representative	2021-2023	emack@msu.edu
6	Daoqin Tong	NARSC Representative	2022-2024	daoqin.tong@asu.edu
7	Sandy Dall'Erba	NARSC Representative	2019-2024	dallerba@illinois.edu
8	Andre Torre	ERSA President	2019-2023	andre.torre@wanadoo.fr
9	Lise Bourdeau-Lepage	ERSA Representative	2023-2025	lblepage@gmail.com
10	Eveline Van Leeuwen	ERSA Representative	2020-2025	eveline.vanleeuwen@wur.nl
11	Serena Erendira Serrano Oswald	LARSA President	2018-2021	sesohi@hotmail.com
12	Patricio Aroca	LARSA Representative	2020-2022	patricio.aroca@uai.cl
13	Carlos Azzoni	LARSA Representative	2020-2022	cazzoni@usp.br
14	Isabelle Thomas	Councillor at large	2021-2023	isabelle.thomas@uclouvain.be
15	Jouke Van Dijk	Councillor at large	2021-2023	jouke.van.dijk@rug.nl
16	Rosella Nicolini	Councillor at large	2021-2023	Rosella.nicolini@uab.cat
17	Tomaz Dentinho	Councillor at large	2022-2024	tomas.lc.dentinho@uac.pt
18	Daniela Luminita-Constantin	Councillor at large	2020-2025	danielacostantin_2005@yahoo.com
19	Andrea Caragliu	Executive Director	2019-2024	andrea.caragliu@polimi.it

Table 2. –RSAI Council Members in 2022

	Name	Member	Period	Email
1	Eduardo Haddad	President Elect	2021-2022	ehaddad@usp.br
2	Hidehiko Kanegae	PRSCO President	2021-2023	hkanegae@sps.ritsumei.ac.jp
3	Lily Kiminami	PRSCO Representative	2021-2023	kiminami@agr.niigata-u.ac.jp
4	Brian Kim	PRSCO Representative	2019-2024	briankim66@snu.ac.kr
5	Elizabeth Mack	NARSC Representative	2018-2023	emack@msu.edu
6	Daoqin Tong	NARSC Representative	2022-2024	daoqin.tong@asu.edu
7	Sandy Dall'Erba	NARSC Representative	2019-2024	dallerba@illinois.edu
8	Andre Torre	ERSA President	2019-2022	andre.torre@wanadoo.fr
9	Francisco Carballo Cruz	ERSA Representative	2017-2022	fcarballo@eeg.uminho.pt
10	Eveline Van Leeuwen	ERSA Representative	2020-2022	eveline.vanleeuwen@wur.nl
11	Serena Serrano	LARSA President	2018-2021	sesohi@hotmail.com
12	Patricio Aroca	LARSA Representative	2020-2022	patricio.aroca@uai.cl
13	Carlos Azzoni	LARSA Representative	2020-2022	cazzoni@usp.br
14	Isabelle Thomas	Councillor at large	2021-2023	isabelle.thomas@uclouvain.be
15	Jouke Van Dijk	Councillor at large	2021-2023	jouke.van.dijk@rug.nl
16	Rosella Nicolini	Councillor at large	2021-2023	Rosella.nicolini@uab.cat
17	Tomaz Dentinho	Councillor at large	2022-2024	tomas.lc.dentinho@uac.pt
18	Daniela Constantin	Councillor at large	2020-2022	dconstan@hotmail.com
19	Andrea Caragliu	Executive Director	2019-2024	andrea.caragliu@polimi.it

2. RSAI Publications

RSAI Journals -2023 Financial Statement

Not presented by Wiley

RSAI Newsletters

Edited by Martijn Smit and Mina Akhavan, two issues were published.

2023 November

RSAI NEWSLETTER	
THE ECONOMIC SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL	
Issue number 22 - November 2023	
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RSAI NEWSLETTER	
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3. RSAI Awards

The Hirotada Kohno Award



Daniela Constantin awarded the 2023 Kohno prize!

The committee (made up of Hans Westlund, RSAI president; Yoshiro Higano and Eduardo Haddad, LRPC members; and Lily Kiminami, RSAI Council member) in charge of selecting the recipient of the 2023 Hirotada Kohno award recommended Prof. Daniela Constantin (RRSA) to be the recipient of the award. The motivation provided by the committee reads as follows :
 Dr Daniela Constantin, Professor of Regional and Urban Economics and Policy at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania, has served the Regional Science community since the early 1990s. She has been the main character behind the establishment and development of the Romanian Section of the RSAI, for which she has served as President for over twenty years. Also, she is the Scientific Director of the

Romanian Journal of Regional Science (founded 2007).

Daniela Constantin has been a member of the ERSA Council for more than 20 years, and has over the years had an innumerable number of commissions for ERSA. Currently, she is one of the editors of the

“Papers in Regional Science” under Rosella Nicolini’s leadership as well as a member of the editorial boards of “Regional Science Policy and Practice” and “Region”. When the RSAI World Congress was held in Timisoara 2012, Professor Constantin served as Co-President of the Organising Committee. Thereafter, she has among other things been elected as Councilor-at-Large of the RSAI Council for two consecutive terms (2020-2022 and 2023-2025).

Dr Daniela Constantin’s long-term, selfless involvement at different levels in the Regional Science community makes her a worthy recipient of the Kohno Award.

The Martin Beckmann RSAI Annual Award

The jury consisting of Budy Resosudarmo (PRSCO), William Strange (NARSC), Isabelle Thomas (ERSA) and Rosella Nicolini, EiC of the journal chose the article:

[Jhorland Ayala-García](#) and [Sandy Dall'Erba](#) (2022) [The Impact of preemptive investments on Natural disasters](#), published in Papers in Regional Science, Volume 101, Issue 5, Pages 1087-1103.

Motivation:

This study delivers a very original contribution to the current and relevant debate on the role of institutions and public policies aiming at contrasting the socioeconomic impact of natural disasters on citizens’ life. The authors implement a precise research strategy approaching physical geography to regional science. They exploit novel and original data combining satellite information with public finance data for Colombian municipality and propose different indicators for approximating the market and non-market losses of landslide-related events (associated with extreme rainfalls events due to climate change). The empirical analysis relies on a robust IV approach building on a very attentive selection of covariates fitting the proposed indicators. The conclusion is a direct message to institutions and policy-makers demanding effective measures to protect lives and assets of the most vulnerable population.

as the winner of the Martin Beckmann Prize as the best paper published in Papers in Regional Science in 2022.

The Peter Nijkamp Research Encouragement Award

Not awarded in 2023.

RSAI Dissertation Award



Dr [Yunyu Tian](#) is chosen as the winner of the RSAI dissertation award in 2023 for her PhD dissertation entitled “Earth Observation data for assessing global urbanization-sustainability nexuses”, which was successfully defended (with a cum laude distinction) on 6 June 2023 at Wageningen

University and Research.

The cum laude distinction (only given to around 5% of all PhD students at Wageningen University) was awarded by an extended evaluation committee of nine persons. Dr Tian’s PhD dissertation made significant contributions towards the knowledge of urbanization

and environmental changes at the global scale. The thesis included highly innovative methodological features such as the use of multi-source (and high quality) Earth Observation data and social data, contributing to academic and policy knowledge relating to global urbanization and sustainability as well as their nexus at the neighbourhood level. Part of the thesis has already been published in the form of academic peer-reviewed papers in the journals *Landscape and Urban Planning* (2022) and *Environmental Research Letters* (2022).

The RSAI congratulates Dr. Tian and her supervisors Professor Martin Herold and Professor Eveline van Leeuwen (Wageningen University).

The Jean Paelinck RSAI Award



[Prof. Paul Elhorst](#), University of Groningen, the Netherlands, is awarded the 2023 edition of the Jean Paelinck award!

The Jean Paelinck committee, made up of Geoffrey Hewings (Chair), Isabelle Thomas, Janet Kohlase, Juan Cuadrado-Roura, and Kieran Donaghy, provided the following motivation:

*Paul Elhorst is Professor of Spatial Econometrics at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands, Fellow of the Spatial Econometrics Association and Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Spatial Economic Analysis*. During his 40 years academic career he has maintained an active research and publication schedule, a career that demonstrates his commitment to research and scholarship in regional science methods. In the 1990s his research activities focused on regional labor market analysis and then shifted increasingly to spatial econometric methods (theory and applications), with applications in a diversity of research areas such as economic growth, research productivity, regional tax competition, military spending, foreign direct investment and transport economics.*

*Paul is known for his innovative work on spatial panel models. He has made a host of contributions to spatial panel data models highlighted in his 2014 book *Spatial Econometrics: From Cross-Sectional Data to Spatial Panels*. Aside from its major themes, including static and dynamic spatial panel data models, this book bridges the gap between theoretical spatial econometricians and practitioners, contains a host of useful observations and illustrations, and provides Matlab routines with which researchers can run on their own empirical problems. The more than 2,000 Google citations this book has received clearly demonstrate the international impact of his research in enhancing the use of regional science methods to understand and interpret the spatial structure of economies.*

Czamanski Dissertation Award

Not awarded in 2023.

RSAI Fellows

In 2023 the following RSAI Fellows have been elected:



[Carlos Azzoni](#)

University of Sao Paulo, BRAZIL



[Denise Pumain](#)

Géographie-cités, FRANCE



[H.W.A. \(Erik\) Dietzenbacher](#)

University of Groningen, THE
NETHERLANDS

RSPP Annual Paper Award

The winners of the RSPP Annual Paper Award 2023 were:



Daniel S. A. Carvalho and Gervásio F. Santos (2022) Transport and density of population groups in the urban area of the city of Salvador. *Regional Science Policy Practice* 14(6), 234-253. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12496>

The paper tries to find the effect of geographical features in transport accessibility for white and black in Salvador (Brazil), estimates an index of accessibility and applies a two-stage least square regression relating it to history using the proxy of geography (valleys), to density and to race. Conclusions indicate the trade-offs density and accessibility while indicating the effect of transport policies in the social profile or the urban structure. It is an important topic of human interaction within space, analysed with replicable methods and creative generation of data, leading to interesting policy awareness. The paper has a very nice background information on Salvador, focus an interesting topic with a well-executed analysis that includes physical geographic variables and using transport mode-choice issue which is important in Latin America.

AND



Harry Aginta (2022) Spatio-temporal analysis of regional inflation in an emerging country: the case of Indonesia. *Regional Science Policy Practice* 14(3), 667-688. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12539>

This paper analyzes regional inflation dynamics in Indonesia and, estimation a spatio-econometric model, finds the transmission of price changes from regions to regions. Results are very interesting for an archipelago but also can be very useful for large monetary areas. A study that is ahead and leads to

way to study the interaction between regional and monetary policies. It is an innovative space-time analysis. The adjustment to the Indonesian archipelago spatial context makes of an interesting application with the results for different components of inflation of general interest.

RSPP Special Issue Award

Following the rules of the RSPP Special Issue Award the recipients of the RSPP Special Issue Award in 2023 based on the special published in 2021 and approved by the Jury composed by Hans Westlund, Eduardo Haddad, Gordon Mulligan, David Plane and Phillip McCann are:



1st Place

Neil Reid for the Special Issues on "[Effects and Policies of Covid-19](#)" with 8 papers and 44 Cite Score citations (ratio 5,50) in September 2023.



2nd Place

Eveline S. van Leeuwen and Solmaria Halleck Vega for the Special Issue "[Voting and the rise of populism: Spatial perspectives and applications across Europe](#)" with 10 papers and 50 Cite Score Citations (ratio 5,00) in September 2023.



3rd Place

Paolo Postiglione for the Special Issue "[New directions for regional analysis: Methods and applications](#)" with 11 papers and 49 Cite Scores citations (ratio 4,45) in September 2023.

RSAl Young Researchers Prize

Not awarded in 2023.

RSAl Founder's Medal

Not awarded in 2023.

4. RSAI Membership

Table 3. –RSAI Members by year

Year	Members
2008	3100
2009	3043
2010	3550
2011	3535
2012	3956
2013	3940
2014	4288
2015	4363
2016	4254
2017	4443
2018	3929
2019	4415
2020	3986
2021	3679
2022	4370
2023	4245

5. RSAI Accounts of 2023

In 2023 RSAI achieved a net surplus of 34 594,08€ (Net profit for the exercise).

There are sections that do not have enrolled members in 2023; there are sections that have relatively few members relative to the population of the respective areas of influence.

The bank account evolved from 546 201,37 € in December 2022 to 582 157,66 € in December 2023.

Table 4. Accounts from January 2022 till December 2022

Bank account in Euros		
1	Balance brought forward from 2021 (01-01-2022)	546 201,37 €
2	Closing Balance carried forward (until 31/12/2023)	582 157,66 €
3=(2-1)	Margin of 2023	35 956,29 €

ACCOUNTS FROM 2023			
Description	Revenues	Costs	NET PROFIT
General	-€	7 921,25 €	- 7 921,25 €
ACCOUNTING	-€	1 593,33 €	- 1 593,33 €
WEBSERVER	-€	-€	-€

RSAI Report and Accounts of 2023

MAILING SYSTEM ANUAL FEE	-€	295,20 €	- 295,20 €
RSAI SECRETARIATE	-€	6 000,00 €	- 6 000,00 €
OTHERS (credit card system charges and other bank charges)	-€	32,72 €	-32,72 €
Others	14 400,00 €	12 414,78 €	1 985,22 €
Return transfer	-€	-€	-€
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE support to AISRe 2023 conference (Profit is VAT that will be paid in 2024)	14 400,00 €	12 414,78 €	1 985,22 €
Executive Directorate	-€	18 994,46 €	- 18 994,46 €
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EXPENDITURES 2023	-€	7 445,72 €	- 7 445,72 €
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EXPENDITURES 2021	-€	7 031,13 €	- 7 031,13 €
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EXPENDITURES 2020	-€	4 517,61 €	- 4 517,61 €
Editorial Activity	-€	28 354,11 €	- 28 354,11 €
RSAI NEWSLETTER PAYMENT 2023	-€	1 641,89 €	- 1 641,89 €
RSAI NEWSLETTER PRINTING	-€	-€	-€
PIRS EDITORIAL OFFICE ANUAL EXPENSES	-€	8 500,00 €	- 8 500,00 €
PIRS EDITORIAL FOR EDITORS 2023	-€	4 011,00 €	- 4 011,00 €
PIRS EDITORIAL FOR EDITORS 2022	-€	1 618,00 €	- 1 618,00 €
RSPP EDITORIAL OFFICE ANUAL EXPENSES	-€	6 000,00 €	- 6 000,00 €
RSPP EDITORIAL FOR EDITORS	-€	5 000,00 €	- 5 000,00 €
RSPP SPECIAL ISSUE UKRAINE PRINTING	-€	864,63 €	- 864,63 €
Lawer - Consulenza legale. Review of journal publishing agreement between RSAI and Elsevier	-€	718,59 €	- 718,59 €
ARQUIVIST	-€	-€	-€
REGIONAL SCIENCE RESEARCH	-€	-€	-€
Wiley - Blackwell	86 174,43 €	-€	86 174,43 €
PIRS AND RSPP 2022 PROFIT SHARE	21 184,05 €	-€	21 184,05 €
PIRS AND RSPP ADVANCE ON EDITORIAL AND TRAVEL EXPENSES 2023	64 990,38 €	-€	64 990,38 €
RSAI Awards	565,00 €	2 921,17 €	- 2 356,17 €
MARTIN BECKMANN AWARD (500€) - CASH 2023	565,00 €	1 213,09 €	- 648,09 €
RSAI YOUNG PRIZE 2021 - 1º Prize - CASH	-€	-€	-€
RSAI YOUNG PRIZE 2021 - 2º Prize - CASH	-€	-€	-€
DISSERTATION AWARD - CASH 2023	-€	750,99 €	- 750,99 €
PETER NIJKAMP AWARD - CASH 20223	-€	-€	-€
RSPP ANNUAL PAPER AWARD - CASH 2023	-€	785,30 €	- 785,30 €
PLAQUES	-€	171,79 €	- 171,79 €
RSAI Supports	-€	29 556,16 €	- 29 556,16 €
NURTURING NEW TALENT 2020	-€	2 402,30 €	- 2 402,30 €
NURTURING NEW TALENT 2023	-€	18 475,48 €	- 18 475,48 €
NURTURING NEW TALENT 2023 - from the 2021 congress profit	-€	7 246,28 €	- 7 246,28 €
BULDING BRIDGES 2023	-€	1 432,10 €	- 1 432,10 €
Memberships	32 472,27 €	-€	32 472,27 €
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIPS	1 102,10 €	-€	1 102,10 €
MEMBERSHIP ARGENTINA SECTION	-€	-€	-€
MEMBERSHIP ARMENIA SECTION	-€	-€	-€
MEMBERSHIP ARSC SECTION	1 450,00 €	-€	1 450,00 €
MEMBERSHIP AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND SECTION	-€	-€	-€
MEMBERSHIP BALTIC SECTION	200,00 €	-€	200,00 €
MEMBERSHIP BANGLADESH SECTION	88,81 €	-€	88,81 €
MEMBERSHIP BRAZIL SECTION (2022 and 2023)	1 390,00 €	-€	1 390,00 €
MEMBERSHIP BRITISH AND IRISH SECTION	740,00 €	-€	740,00 €
MEMBERSHIP BULGARIAN SECTION (2021, 2022 and 2023)	585,00 €	-€	585,00 €
MEMBERSHIP CHILEAN SECTION (2022 and 2023)	866,89 €	-€	866,89 €
MEMBERSHIP CHINA SECTION	785,00 €	-€	785,00 €
MEMBERSHIP COLOMBIAN SECTION	147,07 €	-€	147,07 €
MEMBERSHIP CROATIA SECTION	320,00 €	-€	320,00 €
MEMBERSHIP DUTCH SECTION	1 190,00 €	-€	1 190,00 €

RSAI Report and Accounts of 2023

MEMBERSHIP ECUADORIAN SECTION	175,60 €	-€	175,60 €
MEMBERSHIP FRENCH SECTION	2 920,00 €	-€	2 920,00 €
MEMBERSHIP GERMAN SECTION	2 190,00 €	-€	2 190,00 €
MEMBERSHIP GREEK SECTION	710,00 €	-€	710,00 €
MEMBERSHIP HUNGARIAN SECTION	1 330,00 €	-€	1 330,00 €
MEMBERSHIP INDIA SECTION (2022)	123,62 €	-€	123,62 €
MEMBERSHIP INDONESIAN SECTION	676,83 €	-€	676,83 €
MEMBERSHIP ISRAEL SECTION	-€	-€	-€
MEMBERSHIP ITALIAN SECTION	3 660,00 €	-€	3 660,00 €
MEMBERSHIP JAPANESE SECTION	-€	-€	-€
MEMBERSHIP KOREAN SECTION	210,00 €	-€	210,00 €
MEMBERSHIP MEXICAN SECTION (2024)	360,00 €	-€	360,00 €
MEMBERSHIP MOROCCAN SECTION	-€	-€	-€
MEMBERSHIP NARSC SECTION (2022)	4 907,92 €	-€	4 907,92 €
MEMBERSHIP NORDIC SECTION	370,00 €	-€	370,00 €
MEMBERSHIP POLISH SECTION	-€	-€	-€
MEMBERSHIP PORTUGUESE SECTION	1 410,00 €	-€	1 410,00 €
MEMBERSHIP ROMANIAN SECTION	385,00 €	-€	385,00 €
MEMBERSHIP RUSSIAN SECTION	50,00 €	-€	50,00 €
MEMBERSHIP SLOVAKIA SECTION	340,00 €	-€	340,00 €
MEMBERSHIP SPANISH SECTION	3 350,00 €	-€	3 350,00 €
MEMBERSHIP THAILAND SECTION	23,43 €	-€	23,43 €
MEMBERSHIP TURKISH SECTION	415,00 €	-€	415,00 €
2024 RSAI World Congress	3 210,87 €	704,35 €	2 506,52 €
Oxford abstract system	-€	704,35 €	- 704,35 €
Registration Fees	3 210,87 €	-€	3 210,87 €
TOTAL	136 822,57 €	100 866,28 €	35 956,29 €

Regional Science Association International

Taxpayer 509754090

Currency EUR

Balance Sheet on december

2023

Items	Notes	2023	2022
Assets			
Non-current assets			
Intangible fixed assets			
Other financial assets			
Subtotal		0,00	0,00
Currents Assets			
Clients		33 105,00	44 653,77
State and other governmental entities		-564,00	
Other revenues to receive		3 509,69	1 305,69
Cashier and Bank Deposits		582 157,66	546 201,37
Subtotal		618 208,35	592 160,83
Total do activo		618 208,35	592 160,83
CAPITAL PROPRIO E PASSIVO			
Equities			
Capital (Funds)		176 588,39	176 588,39
Other reserves		372 650,67	331 879,09
Adjustments on financial assets			
Subtotal		549 239,06	508 467,48
Net profit of the exercise		34 594,08	40 771,58
Total Equity		583 833,14	549 239,06
Liabilities			
Non-current liabilities			
Subtotal		0,00	0,00
Current Liability			
Other revenues to receive		32 389,00	42 357,77
Subtotal		34 375,21	42 357,77
Total Liabilities		34 375,21	42 357,77
Total equity plus liabilities		618 208,35	591 596,83

Regional Science Association International

Tax Pay 509754090 509754090

Currenc EUR EUR

Income Statement at December 2023

Conta		Revenues and Expenditures	Notas	2023	2022
Pos	Neg				
71/72		Sales and services*		136 367,17	116 497,63
75		Operating subsidies			
785+792	685	Gains / Losses allocated to subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures		0,00	0,00
73		Inventory variation in production		0,00	0,00
74		Work for the entity itself		0,00	0,00
	61	Cost of goods sold and materials consumed		0,00	0,00
	62	Supplies and services		-53 823,09	-28 775,08
	63	Personnel expenses		0,00	0,00
7622	652	Impairment of inventories (losses / reversals)		0,00	0,00
7621	651	Impairment of receivables (losses / reversals)		0,00	0,00
763	67	Provisions (increases / decreases)		0,00	0,00
7623;7627/8	653;657/8	Impairment of Investments non-depreciable / amortizable (losses / reversals)		0,00	0,00
77	66	Increases / Decreases in fair value			
78...+791		Other income and gains		0,00	10 000,00
	69-685+69...	Other expenses and losses		-47 950,00	-56 950,97
		Profit before depreciation, financial costs and taxes		34 594,08	40 771,58
761	64	Expenditures / reversals of depreciation and amortization		0,00	0,00
7624/6	654/6	Impairment of depreciable / amortizable assets (losses / reversals)		0,00	0,00
		Operational results (before financial costs and taxes)		34 594,08	40 771,58
7915		Interest and similar income		0,00	0,00
	6911/21/81	Interest and similar expenses paid		0,00	0,00
		Profit before Taxes		34 594,08	40 771,58
	812	Taxes on profits		0,00	0,00
		Net profit for the exercise		34 594,08	40 771,58

Report July 2024

Summary

The most salient results of Papers in Regional Science are:

1. **The number of submissions up to July 2024** is relatively stable (around 200) despite having moved to gold open access;
2. **Improving the quality of the selected manuscripts:** the rejection rate is around 90%, which is a strong signal of the seriousness and selectivity of the Editors in choosing high-quality contributions.
3. **Diversifying the topics** by publishing contribution in areas as: gender and regional science; cultural heritage at regional level; climate change, natural disasters and regional development;
4. **The JCR impact factor increases in absolute and relative terms in 2023;**
5. **Opening new editorial challenge from 2024:** PiRS is now a gold open access journal published by Elsevier; all the archives are also accessible open access.

1. EDITORIAL CHALLENGES

The current Editorial Team of PiRS has been appointed the RSAI council in November 2022. The editorial proposal submitted for consideration in that council developed around a central strategy: consolidate the scientific heritage of the previous Editorial Team but opening the range of interest of the journal given the changing scientific environment in regional science.

The current Editorial Team of Papers in Regional Science (PiRS) will end its term next December 31 2024. During the period 2022-2024 the most important achievements for the journal have been:

6. **Increasing the number of submissions:** in 2023 the total number of submissions is approaching almost 500 submissions.
7. **Improving the quality of the selected manuscripts:** the rejection rate is around 90%, which is a strong signal of the seriousness and selectivity of the Editors in choosing high-quality contributions.
8. **Diversifying the topics** by publishing contribution in areas as: gender and regional science; cultural heritage at regional level; climate change, natural disasters and regional development;
9. **Increasing the 5-years impact factor JRC** and maintaining a leading position in Scopus;
10. **Opening new editorial challenge from 2024:** PiRS is now a gold open access journal published by Elsevier; all the archives are also accessible open access.

In the last RSAI meeting (April 2024), the Editor-in-Chief (Rosella Nicolini) has been appointed by the RSAI council for another term (2025-2027). A new development plan and editorial team will be submitted to the last RSAI council in November 2024.

Being consistent with those target the Editorial team in charge of the journal for the period 2022-2024 has been able to gather valuable submissions achieving tangible quantitative results:

1.1. Statistics on the editorial activity

Table 1 presents the number of submissions and rejection rates, together with pending manuscripts, i.e. papers that are in the website system at different stages from 2013 up to present.

Table 1. Number of submissions and rejection rates

Year	Submissions	Acceptance rate	Rejection rate	Pending manuscripts
2013	221	0,21	0,79	
2014	231	0,22	0,78	
2015	224	0,24	0,76	
2016	222	0,21	0,79	
2017	265	0,24	0,76	
2018	288	0,21	0,79	
2019	354	0,20	0,80	
2020	408	0,15	0,85	
2021	484	0,11	0,89	
2022	493	0,10	0,90	
2023	482	0,08	0,92	8
2024 (July)	184	0,04	0,96	39

In 2022 and 2023, **the number of submissions approached 500** with a rejection rate of around 90% that includes a sizable percentage of desk rejections. In Fall 2023, the Journal moved to the gold open access format and the rate of submission slightly decreased but the percentage of desk rejections dropped impressively. As for the first term in 2024, the Journal got around 200 submissions and 30 of them are under review.

In academic terms, the new format of the journal definitely improved the quality of the submissions.

Despite the increase of the submission, the editorial team was able to keep high productivity standards. We registered **good performance in terms of a decision process reached over the last 7 years** in all phases of the process to publication (Tables 1, 2 and 3). On average, the first decision takes place in less than one month. In addition, the speed of publication after the final decision has improved, reaching less than 3 months (no backlog). It is impressive is that it is now (roughly) half of what it was in 2019. **It is worth mentioning that these results have been achieved despite of the important production delays** experienced with the former publisher (Wiley) and exacerbated by the transition from the Wiley to the Elsevier platform. At time being, we are still experiencing production issues with Elseviers but we are in permanent contacts of the correspondent officer in order to solve them.

Table 2. Summary of activity for the journal office between Jan 01, 2024 and Jul 08, 2024 (*The statistics are an indication of how long key activities are taking in the process*)

Submission to Editor Assignment <i>Average number of days between the date the manuscript was received and the first Editor was assigned.</i>	0.8
Submission to Reviewer Invitation <i>Average number of days between the date the manuscript was received and the first Reviewer was invited.</i>	5.3
Submission to First Decision <i>Average number of days between the date the manuscript was received and the first decision.</i>	15

Table 3. Decision Summary of activity for the journal office between Jan 01, 2024 and Jul 08, 2024 (*Total Decisions is the number of decisions made by the Editor with final decision-making authority for each submission during the specified time period. The Average Time to Decision is the number of days between the date the manuscript was received by the journal office, and the date the final decision was made. For a Revision, the Average Time to Decision is the average number of days between the date the Revision was submitted to the journal office and the date the final decision was made.*)

Original Submission

Editor Decision Term	Total Decisions	Frequency of Decision	Average Time to Decision
Accept	4	2.3%	4
Major Revision	19	10.9%	98.2
Minor Revision	3	1.7%	72.7
Reject	51	29.1%	24.5
Reject - Invite to resubmit	8	4.6%	62.9
Reject - Out of Scope	90	51.4%	2
Total Editor Decisions	175	100%	23

Revision 1

Editor Decision Term	Total Decisions	Frequency of Decision	Average Time to Decision
Accept	3	60%	20
Major Revision	1	20%	46
Minor Revision	1	20%	5
Total Editor Decisions	5	100%	22.2

Revision 2

Editor Decision Term	Total Decisions	Frequency of Decision	Average Time to Decision
Accept	1	50%	3
Major Revision	1	50%	48
Total Editor Decisions	2	100%	25.5

1.2. Salient features of submissions, published articles and reviewers

Figure 1 presents the geographical distribution of submissions. **The trends show a drastic increase of authors from the Pacific area, probably as the result of the high number of Chinese papers submitted.** European submissions are therefore no longer the highest, while the Americas' shares remain stable. Interestingly enough, the increase in the total submissions is due to an increase in submission from PRSCO.

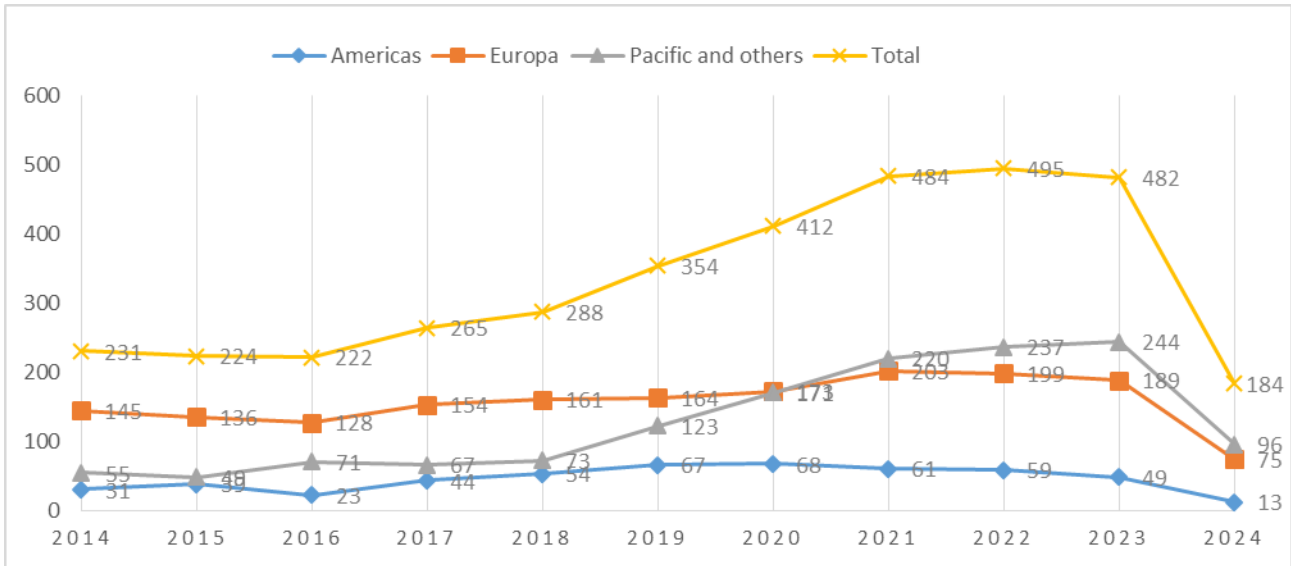


Figure 1. Geographically detailed number of submissions, 2014–2024 (until July)

In terms of accepted articles, statistics rebalances in favor of a drop of European scientists and an increase in the scientists from the Americas (Figure 2).

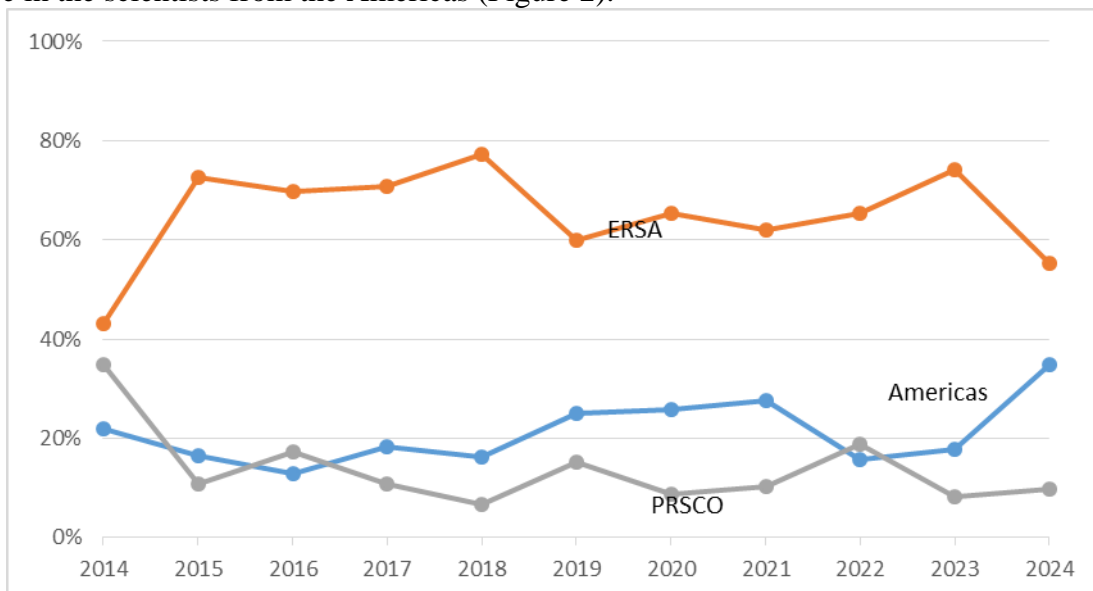


Figure 2. Geographic distribution of authors in author pages (% per year and proportion), Vol. 93–103, 2014–2024 (until issue 3)

Statistics on reviewers witness that the number of referees keeping being diminishing (the number of desk-rejection increased). The geographical distribution of referees has registered an increase in Europe and in PRSCO area with a decrease in Americas.

Table 4. Number of reviewers and proportion of reviewers by supra region

Year	Reviewers	ERSA	Americas	PRSCO
2014	325	62%	25%	13%
2015	369	61%	22%	17%
2016	318	62%	26%	12%
2017	375	60%	25%	15%
2018	368	49%	38%	13%
2019	468	47%	45%	8%
2020	403	63%	31%	6%

2021	378	50%	36%	14%
2022	233	59%	33%	8%
2023	211	73%	19%	8%
2024 (until July)	182	77%	12%	11%

All in all, the previous data sources confirm that a clear challenge for the next years would be to still keep on *rebalancing the geographical composition of the authors* and reviewers something that could be connected with the international consolidation and visibility of RSAI. In this respect, given the relevance to consolidate the RSAI reputation – referring to reviewers- the former publisher did not sent out the 2023 Reviewers’ certificates and knowing the importance of sending those certificates, we overcame this problem by producing and sending them out directly from the Editorial Office. Also, we reinforced the visibility of published articles in the RSAI official webpage and RSAI newsletter as well as in the social media of ERSA and NARSC. *The expected impact of the marketing strategy for PiRS that Elsevier committed to implement (by including this journal in their major database for scientific dissemination, ScienceDirect) should help to this scope.*

In terms of scientific areas, Figure 3 reports the distribution of pages by discipline: economics shrinks a bit whereas geography, public policies and engineering are increasing their share.

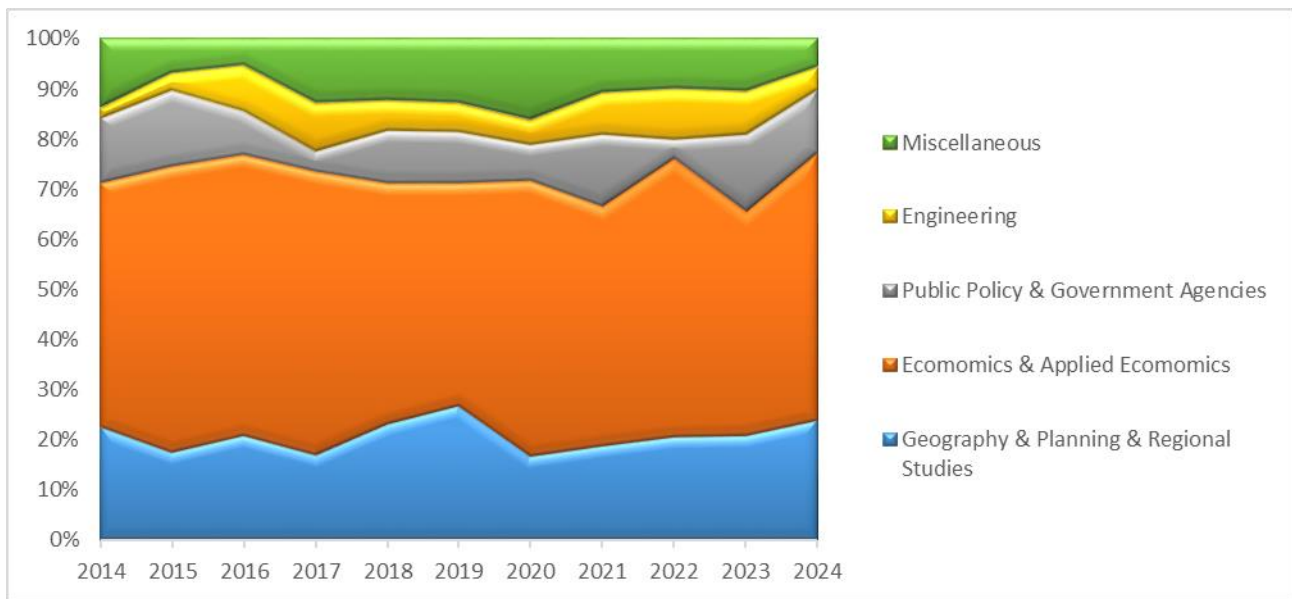


Figure 3. Author pages by affiliation of the author(s), Vol. 93–103, 2014–2024(until issue 3)

Even if the general breakdown in terms of areas keeps relatively stable, in each area, the last numbers and issues of the *journal published innovative and relevant research topics under the lens of the regional science: gender issues, natural disasters and cultural heritage*. It is worth nothing the that 2023 and 2024 Martin Backman award went to two contributions belonging to these new research topics.

2. IMPACT FACTOR

The IF increase from 2.1 in 2022 to 2.4 in 2023. In relative terms PIRS is really close to the Q1 in Economics (72.4 percentile) and it is-de facto- Q1 in Geography (75.1 percentile). Some preliminary hints from the CiteScore Tracker (4.3, in March 2024) make reasonable expectations that PiRS should consolidate its positions in the international rankings. The position of PIRS is relatively stable and moving upward but the target is to reduce the difference with the two direct competitors (JRS and RSUE).

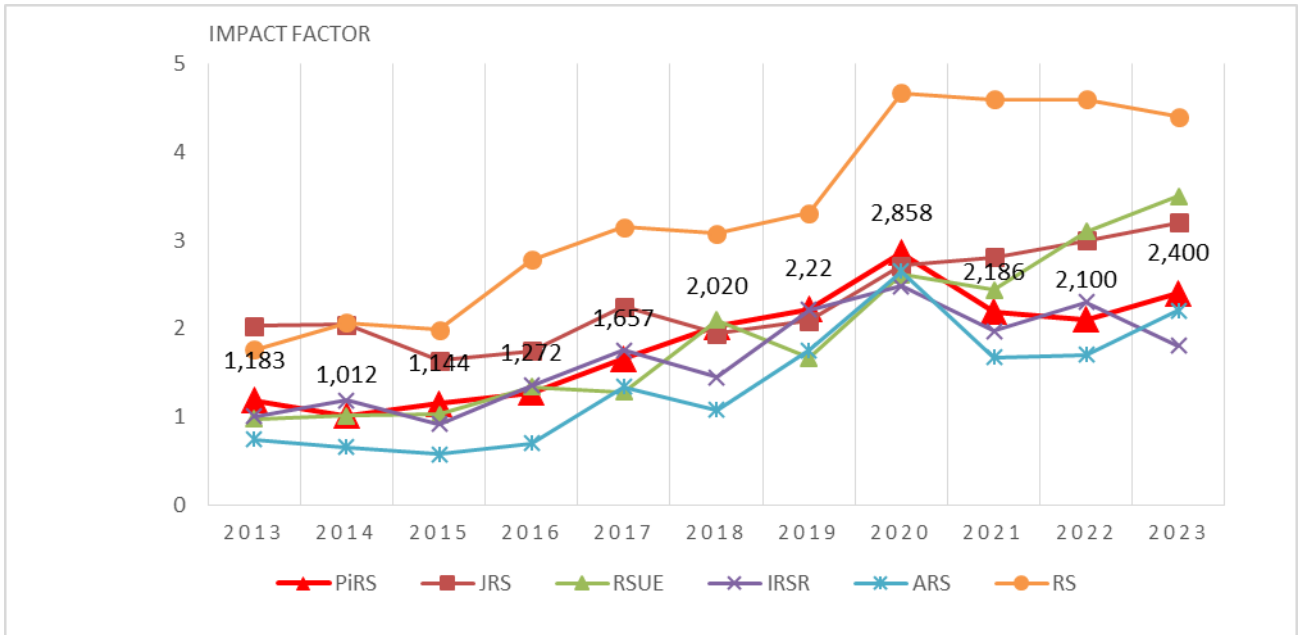


Fig. 4. Citation Impact Factor for various regional science journals, 2013–2023

The last available data for SCIMAGO PiRS confirms its position in the first quartile. In addition,

1. The **number of cited documents consolidates around 160**, while non cited ones drop from 65 to 40.
2. The total citations grew are stables (around 600). PiRS keeps its position in the best quartile for what concerns both Environmental Science and Social Science (Geography, Planning and Development) with an IF of 0.84.

Since the end of 2022, PiRS has been experiencing huge delays in the production and release of articles and issues due to not well clarified production problems of the Publishers (Wiley, but also Elsevier given that the February issue in 2024 was released end of March 2024). As EiC, I am permanently in contact with the officers in charge of the production and insisting for speeding the release on the online articles. These delays are really harming the number of citations given that the inaccessibility of the articles during the period of reference of the computation of the index reduces the visibility of the scientific contributions published in PiRS. This question has been discussed with the production officer at Elsevier with the explicit request for reverting the situation with no further delay.

The decision to move to a gold open access journal with all the archive free available online will generate a tangible return for the 2024 IF index onward. In addition, the increasing relevance of the underpinning commitments of the CoARA and DORA agreement towards open science practices will call PiRS to implement initiatives to make research material available in peers-to-peers platforms as, for instance, a repository for the databases of the published articles to replicate results.

3 CONCLUDING REMARKS

The action and initiatives implemented by the current Editorial team helped PiRS to consolidate its reputation and visibility in academia and serving RSAI in its dissemination mission.

The most visible achievements are the increase in the number of submissions, the drop of the delay in managing and publishing contributions as well as the opening of new lines of scientific discussion of interest for the scientific communities.

The transformation of the journal from the hybrid to the gold open access format and the changing conditions of the scientific environment moving towards an open science model entail important challenges for the Journal and call for new initiatives to keep being PiRS a point of reference in regional science.

Rosella Nicolini
Editor-in-chief, on the behalf of the Editorial Team

Bellaterra (Barcelona), Spain

July 21 2024



RSPP Editorial Report of 2024

August 2024

Summary*

Along 2024 RSPP received the submission of 115 papers, rejected 52, accepted 10 and 53 are being processed. The impact factor kept same level as 2023 at 1,7 because there was an increase of 25% in the number of papers. Most submissions in 2024 come from Spain, Italy, India, Iran and Indonesia. The RSPP Paper Award 2024 was allocated to two papers: "Using mobile phone data to probe the mobility- related well-being of rural residents: A case study of Chengdu, China", by X Gao, L Liu, D Ou, H Yuwu; and "Urban agglomeration, city size, and spatial density effects on wage flexibility: New evidence on the wage curve in Brazil" by Ana Barufi, Eduardo Haddad and Peter Nijkamp .The Special Issue Award will be allocated by the end of August. Elsevier moved the journal from the area of Geography into the area of Regional and Urban Planning. Emmanouil Tranos, Maria Abreu, Isabelle Nilsson and Patrícia Melo asked to leave the Editorial Team by the end of 2023 after serving the journal for seven years. The Editorial Team promoted workshops in Sarajevo, Samarkanda, Kaisery and Maputo. Since 75% of the papers to be published in 2024 were submitted in 2023, only 10 of the 50 waivers were requested so far. Special Issues will become Special Compiled Issues based on papers of the same topic and editor, published before in the monthly issues.

* Once we receive the Report from Elsevier we can present a full report involving the analysis of the evolution of RSPP along the years.

1. Introduction

This report refers to the activity of Regional Science Policy and Practice from January 2024 to August 2024). In Section 2, we present the journal metrics, in Section 3 presents the activity of the editorial team and in Section 4 concludes.

2. Editorial statistics for 2024

2.1 Journal Accountability Report

RSPP received 115 submissions from Jan 01, 2024 and Aug 02, 2024. 52 manuscripts were rejected, 10 accepted and 53 are being revised.

Editor Decision Term	Total Decisions	Frequency of Decision	Average Time to Decision
Accepted	10	8.7%	7
Major Revision	40	34.8%	100.2
Minor Revision	13	11.3%	97.5
Reject	9	7.8%	35.3
Reject - Out of Scope	10	8.7%	3.1
Reject and Resubmit	33	28.7%	17.8
Total Editor Decisions	115	100%	54.6

Table 1: Summary of activity for the journal office between Jan 01, 2024 and Aug 02, 2024.

2.2 Manuscript submitted by Country/Region of Origin Summary Report for 2024

The distribution of submissions by country quite spread. Nevertheless, it is important to notice the importance of Spain, Italy, India, Iran and Indonesia.

	In progress	Accepted	Rejected	Withdrawn	Total
ALBANIA	2				2
AUSTRALIA	2		1		3
AUSTRIA			1		1
BANGLADESH	1		2		3
BENIN	1				1
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	2	1			3
BRAZIL	2		2		4
BURKINA FASO	1		1		2
CANADA	1				1
CHILE	1				1
CHINA	3		1	1	5
CZECH REPUBLIC	2				2
ECUADOR	1		3		4
EGYPT			2		2
FRANCE		1	1		2
GERMANY	1		1		2
GHANA	2		2		4
GREECE	3				3
HUNGARY	2		1		3
INDIA	5	2	4	1	12
INDONESIA	5	1			6
IRAN	5		5		10
IRELAND		1			1
ITALY	8		2		10
JAPAN	1				1
KAZAKHSTAN	2				2
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF	1				1
KYRGYZSTAN			3		3
MALAYSIA	1				1
MEXICO	1				1
MOROCCO	2				2
MOZAMBIQUE	1				1
NETHERLANDS	2	2	1		5
PORTUGAL	1				1
ROMANIA			1		1
RUSSIAN FEDERATION		1			1
SINGAPORE	1		1		2
SLOVAKIA	1				1
SOUTH AFRICA			1		1
SPAIN	7	2	2		11
SUDAN			1		1
SWEDEN	1				1
TAIWAN	2				2
THAILAND	1				1
TUNISIA	2				2
TURKEY		1			1
UKRAINE			1		1
UAE			1		1
UNITED KINGDOM	3		1		4
UNITED STATES	1		4		5
UZBEKISTAN	2		2	1	5
ZIMBABWE	1				1

Manuscript submitted by Country/Region of Origin

2.3 Performance Indicators

According to Google Scholar, citations on Regional Science Policy and Practice reached more than 1552 in 2022, 1805 in 2023 and 1344 until August 2024. It is expected that in the end of 2024 will reach 2250

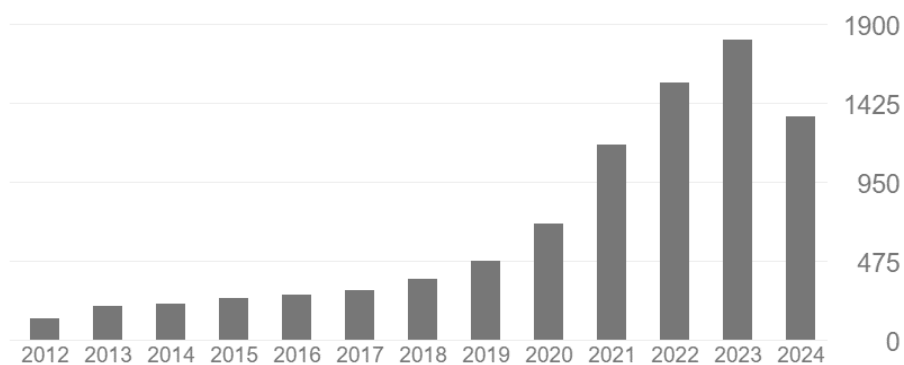


Figure 1: Google Scholar RSPP Citations (statistics from August 2024)

According to Scopus (<https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/21100435556>) the Cite Score was 0.2 in 2015, 0.7 in 2016, 1.0 in 2017, 1.4 in 2018, 0.9 in 2019, 1.4 in 2020, 2.3 in 2021, 3.1 in 2022 and 3.6 in 2023. The drop in 2019 was due to the strong increase in the number of papers from 2018 to 2019. The impact factor kept same level as 2023 at 1,7 because there was an increase of 25% in the number of papers published in the reference period and the citations did not increase more that 25% for the same period. The current CiteScoreTracker for 2024 is 2.7, with 9 issues already published. Hopefully this indicator will recover since it includes 9 months of papers in 2024 and 6 months of citations in 2024.

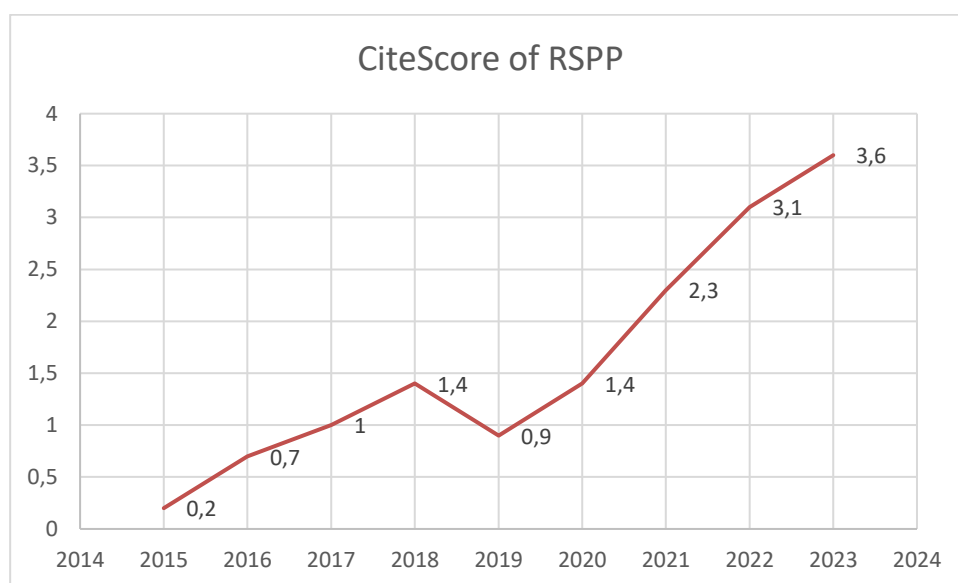


Figure 2: Scopus Cite score of RSPP

3. Editorial Management

3.1 RSPP Paper Award

The winners of the 2024 RSPP paper ward based on papers published in 2023 were:

Winners 2024

X Gao, L Liu, D Ou, H Yuwu (2023), Using mobile phone data to probe the mobility- related well-being of rural residents: A case study of Chengdu, China. *Regional Science Policy Practice* 2023 15 (9), 1893-1907. DOI: [10.1111/rsp3.12604](https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12604)

Focusing on Chengdu Region in China the paper uses mobile phone data to understand rural mobility and the social and orographic factors that influence it. The look into human mobility in remote rural areas, the innovative use of big data and the clear methodological approach allow robust new

evidence on rural mobility and justify adequate policy advises.

AND

Ana Maria Bonomi Barufi, Eduardo Amaral Haddad, Peter Nijkamp (2023), Urban agglomeration, city size, and spatial density effects on wage flexibility: New evidence on the wage curve in Brazil. *Regional Science Policy Practice* 2023 15 (9) Pages 1998-2026. DOI: [10.1111/rsp3.12669](https://doi.org/10.1111/rsp3.12669)

The paper estimates the relation between wages and unemployment considering spatial interaction. Results show the existence of diverse labor markets and concludes that policy makers should be aware of measures to protect formal jobs that, at local level, can increase the wage with informal workers. It is clearly a very good paper able to generate a new common sense on the functioning of labor markets when space is considered.

3.2 RSPP Special Issue Award

The decision will be announced soon.

3.3 Expected results

In 2023, RSPP published 109 papers in 9 issues. The target for 2024 is to publish 120 papers in twelve monthly issues and nine compiled special issues.

The aim is to achieve an Impact Factor of 1,9 in July 2025 in the top of Quartile 2.

Elsevier accomplish to move the journal from the area of Geography into Regional and Urban Planning.

3.4 Editorial Team

Emmanouil Tranos, Maria Abreu, Isabelle Nilsson and Patrícia Melo asked to leave the Editorial Team by the end of 2023.

The editorial team is now composed by Peter Nijkamp, Ana Vinuela, Carlos Azzoni, Katarzyna kkopczewska, Neil Reid, Abdul Shaban, Budy Resosudarmo, Patricio Aroca, Andre Torre, Eveline Van Leeuwen, Gabriela Pascariu, Sumana Banerjee, Jiang Wang, Karima Kourtit, Karina Sass, Louafi Bouzouina, Paul Snow, Samuel Odei, Laura Atuesta, Esteban Fernández, Alfredo Cartone, Vinicius Almeida and Tomaz Ponce Dentinho.

4. Accounts

RSAP in 2024 allocates to RSPP, 6000 Euros for the secretariat and 5000 euros for the editorial team. The 5000 Euros for the editorial team in 2024 went to support RSPP workshops in Sarajevo (April, 2024), Samarkand (May, 2024), Kayseri (May, 2024) and Maputo (June, 2024). 750 Euros are to be allocated for the Special Issue Award.

5. Final remarks

Along 2024 the transference of RSPP from Wiley to Elsevier was accomplished.

Many of the papers published in 2024 were submitted in 2023 corresponding to 9 of the 12 issues planned for 2024. Therefore only 10 waivers were requested so far and there are still 40 to allocate in 2024. Next November an indicative plan to allocate waivers for 2025 will be presented.

With Elsevier, papers are published in monthly issues when they are accepted. Special Issues will be compiled based on papers already published on monthly issues, introduced by the editor of the special issue and with a specific cover photo. Special Issue will become Special Compiled Issues.

Annex 1

RSPP Accounts of 2024 (until August 2024)

RSPP Accounts 2024			
Date	Description	Revenues	Expenses
01/01/2024	Balance brought forward from 2023	169,63 €	
20/02/2024	RSPP Support - Patricio Aroca - speaker in ERSA 2024	- €	1 004,00 €
06/03/2024	RSPP EDITORIAL AND TRAVEL SUPPORT FOR 2024 (from RSAI)	5 000,00 €	- €
15/03/2024	Travel Maputo Tazviona Richman Gambe	- €	354,00 €
05/04/2024	RSPP Support - Conference in Samarkanda	- €	1 000,00 €
05/04/2024	TRF CR SEPA+ PONTUAL - bank charges	- €	0,99 €
09/04/2024	RSPP Support - Travel Carolina Guevara ERSA 2024	- €	400,00 €
16/04/2024	RSPP Support - Sarajevo conference	- €	674,70 €
31/05/2024	RSPP Support - Conference in Maputo	- €	700,00 €
	RSPP Special Issue Award 2024 - retained	- €	750,00 €
	TOTAL	5 169,63 €	4 883,69 €
		Balance	285,94 €
	Retained for maintenance of expenses ACDA (5% of the Revenues)		250,00 €
	Closing Balance for 2024		35,94 €

RSAI payment to RSPP is transferred to the ACDA (Associação para a Ciência e Desenvolvimento dos Açores) that hires Eng. Elisabete Martins and takes and overheads of 5%.

Annex 2

Current Issues of 2024

[Volume 16, Issue 10](#)

In progress (October 2024)

[Volume 16, Issue 9](#)

September 2024

[Volume 16, Issue 8](#)

August 2024

[Volume 16, Issue 7](#)

July 2024

[Volume 16, Issue 6](#)

June 2024

[Volume 16, Issue 5](#)

May 2024

[Volume 16, Issue 4](#)

April 2024

[Volume 16, Issue 3](#)

March 2024

[Volume 16, Issue 2](#)

February 2024

[Volume 16, Issue 1](#)

January 2024

2026 RSAI WORLD CONGRESS PROPOSAL

Venue: Quito

RED ECUATORIANA
DE CIENCIA
REGIONAL (RECIR)



Quito, Ecuador

+593 995299013
inforecir@gmail.com

PROPOSAL RSAI WORLD CONGRESS “WELL-BEING AND SUSTAINABILITY, REGIONAL SCIENCE DISCUSSIONS AT THE EARTH’S CORE”

Contenido

Introduction and justification	3
Objectives of the congress	2
Tentative program	3
Logistics	6
Support letters	15

Introduction and justification

The organization of the 2026 RSAI World Congress in Quito, Ecuador, is led by the Ecuadorian Regional Science Network (RECiR) and the Department of Quantitative Economics of Escuela Politécnica Nacional. RECiR is an entity that has demonstrated a firm commitment to the advancement and dissemination of knowledge in regional science. It was founded with the purpose of promoting research and collaboration between academics, professionals and politicians interested in regional development, RECiR has positioned itself as a nucleus of scientific and academic activity in Ecuador and the Andean region. The choice of RECiR as organizer of the conference responds to its growing capacity to attract participants, evidenced by its success in previous events and its active participation in international academic networks. Their experience not only guarantees an efficient organization of the congress, but also ensures a program that reflects the most current and relevant topics in the field of regional science. The Department of Quantitative Economics of Escuela Politécnica Nacional has a large trajectory in organizing the International Meeting of Economics, which is a congress organized bi-annually. In 2023, the seventh edition of this congress was organized.

Quito, as the host city, offers multiple advantages that justify its choice. First, its accessibility is remarkable (see Map); Quito, Ecuador's capital city, is served by an international airport that connects directly to the main cities of the Americas such as Miami, Toronto, Atlanta, Mexico, Sao Paulo, Lima, Santiago, among others and has convenient connections to Europe with cities such as Madrid, Amsterdam and Paris and the rest of the world. This facilitates logistics and access for international participants from LARSA, ERSA, NARSC and PRSCO.

Quito International Airport has been awarded the coveted 5-star rating by the British Examiner SKYTRAX, becoming the first in the Americas (North, Central, South America and the Caribbean) to win this 5-star category.

For internal transportation, Quito has a good public transportation system, including a very modern Metro system.

Direct Flights / Vuelos Directos





Quito Airport



For transportation to and from the Quito International Airport we have:

- Taxis
- Charter bus service
- Public transport
- Hotel shuttle service.

Para transportarnos desde y hacia el Aeropuerto Internacional de Quito contamos con:

- Taxis
- Buses particulares con servicio exclusivo y directo
- Transporte público
- Transporte desde / hacia el hotel

From a cultural and scientific point of view, Quito is a great city for visitors, recognized for its rich history and cultural heritage. It obtained the recognition of the First Cultural Heritage City of Humanity. This city, surrounded by a beautiful mountainous landscape, is located in the Middle of the World, at the latitude $0^{\circ}0'0''$, where you can step in the North hemisphere and South hemisphere of the world at the same time. It is literally a place like no other! After all, where else can you stand with each foot in a different hemisphere? This visit to the middle of the world is a MUST for every regional scientist.

From Quito you can enter the great megadiversity that characterizes Ecuador, expressed in its 4 worlds: the Pacific Coast, the Highland region with its Avenue of the Volcanoes - named after the expeditionary Humboldt-, the Amazon and the Galapagos Islands unique in the world, narrating, live and direct, the theory of evolution of Charles Darwin.

The city has a fairly constant cool and healthy climate due to its elevation and proximity to the equator. The average temperature during the day is 66°F (19°C), which generally falls to an average of slightly below 50°F (10°C) at night. The average temperature annually is 64°F (18°C). Quito is ideal to host the RSAI World Congress any time of the year. The weather will always be nice!





Quito is also an epicenter of intellectual activity in the region. The city is home home to several of Ecuador's leading universities and research institutions and offers an inspiring environment for academic and cultural exchange. It is a big city with many urban amenities, where people can enjoy life.

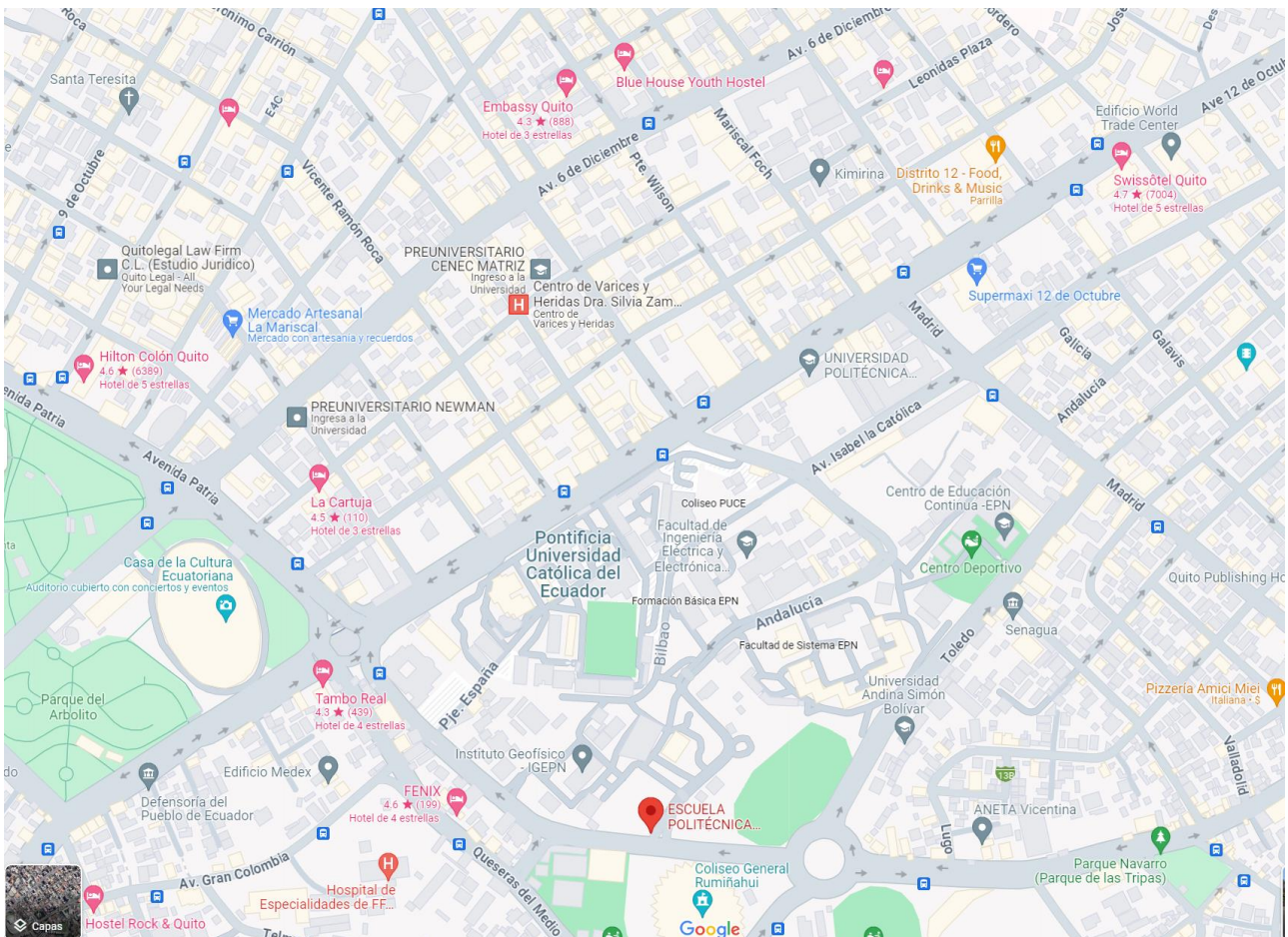
In addition, Quito has an adequate infrastructure for international events, with numerous convention centers, hotels and complementary services that can accommodate the needs of a large-scale congress. The city has hosted numerous academic and professional events, demonstrating its ability to host an event such as the RSAI World Congress. The host for the next 2026 RSAI World Congress will be the Escuela Politécnica Nacional (EPN), a modern and versatile space located in the center of Quito. This university is known for its ability to host large international events, with multiple auditoriums, rooms and classrooms that can be configured according to the specific needs of the conference.





The cost of living in Quito is not expensive. Costs of accommodation, food and transportation are very modest. Therefore, the registration fee for the 2026 RSAI World Congress will be relatively low. The currency in Ecuador is the US dollar.

Affordable accommodation is available within 15 minute walking from the venue, Escuela Politécnica Nacional. As shown in the following figure, there are hotels near the university such as: Hilton Colon Quito, Swissotel Quito, Hotel Quito, Fenix and much more.



Map showing hotels nearby Escuela Politécnica Nacional

Quito, the first Cultural Heritage City of Humanity, it is an honor to be a candidate to host the next 2026 RSAI World Congress!



Travel information Información para el viaje



TAXIS / TAXIS

Minimum rate on a short stretch.
Pago mínimo de un tramo en taxi.

USD 1,5

Night taxi minimum rate
Carrera de taxi nocturna.

USD 1,75



METRO

0,50 CTVS



CURRENCY / TAXIS

US Dollars is the official currency all around Ecuador.
Dólar estadounidense es la moneda oficial en todo el Ecuador



BUS

Urban service bus stretch rate
Pago por tramo en un bus de servicio urbano.

0,25 CTVS



HOTELES / HOTELS

More than 52 hotels between four and five stars
Más de 52 hoteles cinco, cuatro estrellas



PLUG - VOLTAGE/ ENCHUFES/VOLTAJES

In Ecuador, electric energy is 110V & 60Hz, and interruptors are two wire monofase.
En Ecuador, la energía eléctrica es de 110 v y 60 Hz, y los tomacorrientes son monofásicos de dos hilos.



MUSEUM / MUSEOS

Ecuador has an enormous cultural and archeological richness all around its regions.
Ecuador posee una enorme riqueza arqueológica y cultural en todas sus regiones.

www.fundacionmuseosquito.gob.ec



EMERGENCY 911 / EMERGENCIA 911

Public and private hospitals exist distributed in every region of Ecuador to guarantee immediate attention on any emergency situation.
En el Ecuador existen clínicas y hospitales públicos y privados, que aseguran atención inmediata ante cualquier emergencia.



RENT A CAR / ALQUILER DE AUTOS

International Operators
Operadores Internacionales



TELEPHONY INTERNET/ TELEFONÍA INTERNET

In Ecuador are four telephone and ethernet servers: Claro, Movistar, CNT, Tuenti.
En Ecuador hay 4 operadores de telefonía celular e Internet: Claro, Movistar, CNT y Tuenti.

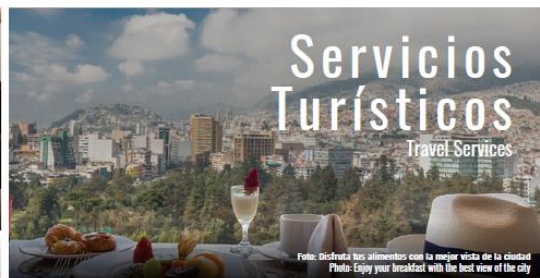


TOURISTIC INFO / INFORMACIÓN TURÍSTICA

Quito offers 4 information offices and 4 tourist security offices. Quito ofrece 4 oficinas de información y 4 oficinas de Seguridad turística

In addition, Quito stands out for its commitment to sustainability and wellbeing issues, perfectly aligned with the central theme of the congress. In fact, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Quito is the most sustainable city in Ecuador. The city has implemented numerous green initiatives and policies to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants and preserve its natural environment. This not only enriches the conference experience, but also provides a practical case study for participants interested in these crucial topics. Quito is a great city for visitors, and the safety is not an issue. Security measures have been implemented at the national level to provide safety. It is then possible to travel to Ecuador. Our airport, maritime ports and roads are operational, with reinforced security measures to ensure the safety of all travellers.

The combination of RECIR as organizer and Quito as host of the RSAI World Congress promises not only an event of high academic and professional level, but also an enriching experience that will leave a lasting legacy for both the participants and the local community.



Objectives of the congress

The RSAI World Congress organized by the Ecuadorian Regional Science Network (RECIr) at the Escuela Politécnica Nacional in Quito, with the central theme *"Wellbeing and Sustainability: Regional Science discussions at the Earth's Core"* aims to foster a deep and multidisciplinary understanding about how well-being and sustainability are crucial for regional development. This broad theme involves topics covering regional and urban economics, entrepreneurship, innovation, Artificial intelligence challenges for regional development, governance, regional networks and social inclusion.

The specific objectives of the congress will be:

a. **Multidisciplinary Approach of Wellbeing and Sustainability:**

The conference will seek to address these issues from various disciplines, including economics, geography, politics, environmental sciences and public health, to provide a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and solutions in regional contexts. It will explore how human well-being and environmental sustainability interconnect and impact regional planning and development.

b. **Promotion of Innovative Research:**

To encourage the presentation and discussion of research that provides new perspectives and innovative solutions for the improvement of community well-being and sustainable resource management in different regions. The conference will serve as a platform for emerging and established researchers to present their work, thereby promoting academic exchange and collaboration.

c. **Integration of Sustainable Practices in Regional Planning:**

To discuss how sustainable practices can be integrated into regional planning and management, with a focus on policies that promote a balance between economic growth and environmental conservation. This will include sessions on sustainable urbanism, renewable energy, waste management and biodiversity conservation in urban and rural contexts.

d. **Promotion of Social Welfare through Public Policies:**

To analyze the role of public policies in promoting social well-being and resilience, especially in disadvantaged regions. Approaches that address

inequality, access to basic services, education and health will be considered as foundations for equitable regional development.

e. **Strengthening Regional Resilience in the Face of Global Changes:**

It will focus on how regions can strengthen their resilience to global challenges such as climate change, pandemics and economic crises. The idea is to explore regional strategies that can absorb impacts, adapt and positively transform in the face of such challenges.

f. **International Collaboration and Knowledge Transfer:**

To promote collaboration between regions and countries for the exchange of knowledge and best practices on well-being and sustainability issues. This includes strengthening networks between academics, practitioners, and policy makers, thus facilitating international cooperation on regional projects and policies.

Tentative program

To offer an attractive program of interest to the global scientific community, we plan to include academic, networking and workshop activities. For keynote speeches, we plan to invite some world-famous scientists (e.g. Carlos Moreno and a Nobel Lauréate-still to be confirmed). Plenary sessions discussing topics of interest are planned.

Dedicated sessions for young scholars are also included ('meet the professor') in the program. These sessions will be co-organized with the Chilean Society of Regional Studies SOCHER (Chilean RSAI section) and will offer a short training on cutting-edge regional science and the possibility to exchange more closely with expert professors in the field. To do so, we are going to apply for RSAI funds regarding the "Nurturing New Talent" program. This short training is intended to continue be nurtured over time to develop a certification with a rotating basis in country RSAI sections, mainly from Latin America Regional Science Association LARSA.

To ensure the academic quality of the program, a strong scientific committee will be made up of scientists from different research institutions around the world.

The proposed dates for the 2026 RSAI World Congress are: **May 25th to 28th, 2026**. However, as indicated Quito accounts for a remarkably good weather throughout the year, so these dates are open to negotiating with RSAI and other supranational sections.

A tentative program structure for the RSAI World Congress in Quito under the theme *"Wellbeing and Sustainability: Regional Science discussions at the Earth's Core"*, organized by the Ecuadorian Regional Science Network (RECiR) at Escuela Politécnica Nacional, is detailed below.

Day 0: Icebreaking activities

14h00 Walking tour in Quito

17h00 Welcome reception (cocktail)

Day 1: Opening and Introduction to the Topic

- Registration and Welcome: Early start with registration followed by a welcome breakfast.
- Opening Ceremony: Speeches by local authorities and prominent members of RECIR and RSAI.
- Keynote 1: "Urban Sustainability and Wellbeing: Challenges for Regional Science" by an international expert in sustainable urban development.
- Plenary session 1: "Public Policies for Regional Wellbeing" with panelists from various countries discussing successful strategies and pending challenges.
- Parallel Sessions: Various rooms with simultaneous sessions where researchers present their work in progress or completed.
- Sessions for the young research paper competition.

Day 2: Research and Networking

- Parallel Sessions: Various rooms with simultaneous sessions where researchers present their work in progress or complete
- Keynote Lecture 2: "Green Economy and Regional Opportunities" by a renowned economist specialized in green economies.
- Plenary session 2: "Technology and Sustainability: Innovations that Change Regions" exploring how technology can support regional sustainability.

- Young Scholar Initiative session dedicated for young scholars, Ph.D students and young Ph.D scholars.
- Meet RSAI Editors: a session dedicated to present the RSAI journal editors
- Gala Dinner with a Cultural Program and Award Ceremony: Activities that showcase the rich culture of Ecuador, including music, dance and local art.

Workshops and Discussions

- Thematic Workshop for young scholars: Interactive spaces led by international experts. Examples of workshops may include "Economic Models for Regional Wellbeing", "Environmental Impact Assessment Tools", and "Participatory Urban Planning".
- Round Tables: Open discussions on specific topics such as "Challenges of Wellbeing in Marginal Regions" and "The Role of Education in Promoting Sustainability."

Day 3: Integration and Future Projection

- Parallel Sessions: Various rooms with simultaneous sessions where researchers present their work in progress or completed, related to well-being and sustainability in regional contexts.
- Closing Panel: "Future Vision of Regional Science: Integrating Wellbeing and Sustainability", a discussion with visionaries of the area who propose paths for the future.
- Closing ceremony.
- Post-conference guided Tours: Tours of places of interest in Quito and other regions of Ecuador, that exemplify themes of well-being and sustainability. The description of the following tours is shown in an attached file.
 - City Walk in Old Quito: Exploring the Historic Downtown
 - Tour Chocolate + The Middle of the World
 - Tour Amazon, cocoa and culture experience
 - Galapagos islands

Complementary activities

- Networking Events: Spaces designed to encourage informal exchange between participants, including cocktails and dinners.

Logistics

The logistics planning for organizing the RSAI World Congress in Quito, Ecuador is detailed below:

a) Place

The congress will take place at the university Escuela Politécnica Nacional, a modern and versatile space located in the center of Quito. This university is known for its ability to host large international events, with multiple auditoriums, rooms and classrooms that can be configured according to the specific needs of the conference. In addition, it is equipped with the latest technology in audiovisuals and internet connectivity.













b) Accommodation

Quito offers a variety of accommodation options ranging from luxury hotels to more affordable options. For the congress, special rates will be negotiated with hotels near the university, such as the Hotel Quito and Hotel Fenix. Additionally, information on hostels and alternative accommodation will be provided to accommodate all budgets.

c) Local transportation

The Escuela Politécnica Nacional is conveniently located in the center of the city, making it easy for international visitors to access. For local transportation, shuttle services will be arranged to and from major hotels. In addition, Quito has an efficient public transportation network, including the metro system, buses and taxis, which are available to facilitate movement around the city.

d) Support services for participants

A participant service center will be established at the event site, help with local logistics, and general assistance during the event. In addition, special needs will be considered, ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities.

e) Registration process

Registration will be enabled through an online platform accessible from the congress website. Various fare categories will be offered, including standard fares, reduced fares for students and special fares for RSAI members. Early registration will allow participants to benefit from significant discounts.

f) Organizing committee

The Organizing Committee is composed by researchers and technical personnel of Escuela Politécnica Nacional and RECIR. They are:

- Carolina Guevara, Escuela Politécnica Nacional, Coordinator
- Fabian Vilema, Ecotec
- Janneth Peña, technical support
- Cristian Aucancela, technical support
- José Ramírez, Escuela Politécnica Nacional
- Diego Albuja, Escuela Politécnica Nacional
- Kathia Pinzón, Escuela Politécnica Nacional
- Viviana Huachizaca, Universidad Nacional de Loja, social media
- María del Cisne Tituaña, Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja
- Rodrigo Mendieta, Universidad de Cuenca
- Vanessa Macías, Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja

- Aura Guerrero, Universidad Católica de Cuenca
- Andrea Aguirre, Universidad de las Américas (UDLA)

A logistics committee will be formed by undergraduate students.

The scientific committee will be formed by scientists from several institutions such as:

- RECIR, RSAI section of Ecuador
- SOCHER, RSAI section of Chile
- SAER, RSAI section of Argentina
- Escuela Politécnica Nacional, Ecuador
- University of Cuenca, Ecuador
- Universidad del Rosario, Colombia
- Open University, Netherlands
- Development Studies Division of the Center of Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE), Mexico
- Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE), Ecuador
- University of Pecs, Hungary
- Among other international universities.

g) Strategies to Maximize Participation

To encourage high participation, a promotion campaign will be carried out through the Supranational RSAI sections and national RSAI sections, social networks, emails and collaborations with universities and research centers. Incentives such as group discounts and special early bird rates will be offered. In addition, social events and cultural tours will be planned to enrich the congress experience and showcase the cultural wealth of Quito.

Travel grants are planned for scientists from countries with no RSAI-sections and other developing countries, especially from Latin American countries due to their proximity. For this, we will make use of the RSAI Building bridges Program.

In addition, through the collaboration of sponsors such as Young Scholar Initiative (YSI), travel grants will be available for a number of participants with a limited budget.

h) Proceedings of the conference

The proceedings of the conference will be published with ISBN using the RSAI platform.

e) Risk assessment

As every event, this event could have some problems that could arise before, during and after it. Before the congress, we could face risks such as interruption in the supply of supplies for the conference. To mitigate this risk, we are going to hire a company specialized in organization of academic events. Other risk that we could have is a failure in operating equipment. To mitigate this issue, we are going to get a video conferencing system. Security for participants is ensured since to enter the university, there are permanent guards in all access entries. All of them will be informed timely about the conference and its participants. In case of a failure in the electricity provision, the conference venue is planned to take place in a building with independent electric generation plant. We also account for the support of a neighboring university (PUCE) in case of any problem in the facilities of EPN.

Support letters

All the support letters are attached to the email.

Escuela Politécnica Nacional-Venue Candidate



ESCUELA POLITÉCNICA NACIONAL
FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS
DECANATO

Official letter No. EPN-FCD-002-2024
Quito, D.M. 19 June 2024

Regional Science Association International (RSAI)
Universidade dos Açores, Gabinete 155 e 156,
Rua Capitão João D'Ávila 9700-042 Angra do Heroísmo, Portugal
Tif: 295333329
Email: rsai@apdr.pt

SUBJECT: Letter of support

On behalf of the Faculty of Sciences and the Department of Quantitative Economics of the Escuela Politécnica Nacional located in Quito, Ecuador, we are writing to express our strong support for the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science (Ecuadorian RSAI section), represented by Carolina Guevara, Ph.D, as the organizer of the next 2026 RSAI World Congress. With the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science (RECIR, acronym in Spanish) as the main organizer of this prestigious event, the Department of Quantitative Economics of our Faculty is committed to co-organize it, making the facilities of the university available for the development of the conference. This includes auditoriums, classrooms, technological infrastructure and assistance.

The Department of Quantitative Economics has a broad experience in organizing the International Meeting of Economics, which is a biannual congress that aims to bring together scholars not only from Ecuador but also from all over the world. Last year, the members of this department organized the 7th edition of this congress (more detail in this link: <https://vii-economia.epn.edu.ec/index.php/es/>), with the collaboration of the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science (RECIR) and the sponsorship of Young Scholar Initiative, the Society of Statistics of Ecuador, among other institutions. This multi-institution organization demonstrates the fidelity and strength of our relationships. The success of all the editions of this congress demonstrates the outstanding work and preparation of our academic team to organize academic events of high quality.

For these reasons, we would like to offer our support in the following aspects:

- Funding the travel and accommodation of a keynote speaker, considering the 2026 budget planning of our institution.
- Availability of facilities of the Escuela Politécnica Nacional.
- A team of scholars of our Department to collaborate in the organization of the event.

PO: Box 17-01-2759- Teléfono: (593) (02) 2976300, ext. 1501 - Quito-Ecuador



ESCUELA POLITÉCNICA NACIONAL
FACULTAD DE CIENCIAS
DECANATO

- Technological infrastructure and technical assistance for the conference development.

Thank you for considering my support of RECIR. I am confident that their ongoing efforts will yield a remarkable and high-quality academic conference.

Best regards



Polo Vaca, Ph.D
Dean of the Faculty of Sciences
Escuela Politécnica Nacional



Yasmín Salazar, Ph.D
Chief of the Department of
Quantitative Economics
Escuela Politécnica Nacional

Local organizations

Quito Turismo – Municipality of Quito



Regional Science Association International (RSAI)
 Universidade dos Açores, Gabinete 155 e 156,
 Rua Capitão João D'Ávila 9700-042 Angra do Heroísmo, Portugal

Dear Regional Science Association International,

For Quito, the capital of Ecuador, it is an honor to apply as the venue for the RSAI World, which will take place in 2026. It would be a very significant and will represent an extraordinary opportunity to show the world the potential tourism strengths that the country has and in particular, our Metropolitan District.

Quito is a patrimonial and modern city that has experience in organization of great events and that is committed to development, research, business, education, among other important topics of debate in the world.

In addition, the city is located in the heart of the Avenue of the Volcanoes and is the gateway to discover the megadiverse Ecuador of the 4 worlds: Sierra, Coast, Amazon and Galapagos.

One of the main attractions of Quito is the Chocó Andino, the seventh Biosphere Reserve of Ecuador, an ideal area for ecotourism, bird watching, camping, cycling and other activities that will disconnect you from the noise, just a few minutes from the city.

Quito is also the Capital of the Center of the World and has the ideal setting to practice adventure sports such as mountain climbing, hiking, rappelling, canyoning, canopy and many more activities in which you will also discover wonders of nature such as the Guagua Pichincha, Antisana, Cotopaxi or Cayambe volcanoes and they will be able to move to nearby adventure tourist areas in the Sierra, Costa and Amazon.

Quito was the first city to be declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, in 1978; American Capital of Culture by the International Bureau of Capitals of Culture, in 2011; and, awarded as South America's Leading Destination by the World Travel Awards for six consecutive years.

The Capital of the Center of the World has a modern infrastructure that goes from the Mariscal Sucre Airport, awarded as the best in South America and that has direct connectivity with 8 national and 13 international destinations, more than 25 five and four-star hotel accommodation establishments with standards international and a capacity of more than 2,700 rooms. All this mixed with a wide cultural offer, entertainment and a gastronomic proposal that fuses ancestral knowledge and flavors with avant-garde cuisine.

Additionally, we would like to express our support for the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science (Ecuadorian RSAI section, RECIR acronym in Spanish), represented by Carolina Guevara, Ph.D, as the organizer of the next 2026 RSAI World Congress at Escuela Politécnica Nacional in Quito.

Our support will be based on the following guidelines:

- Letters of support from other municipal entities
- Information and discounts on heritage spaces
- Contacts of the local industry (venues, hotels, planners, DMC)

www.quito-turismo.gob.ec
 Pasaje Oe3G Río Amazonas N51-20 y Calle N50B (Antiguo Aeropuerto)
 PBX 2 299 3300 al 299 3330

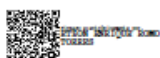
Quitorenace



- Promotion of the event in our social networks and web
- Promotional material about the city

As a manager of the Public Tourism Company Quito Turismo, I extend to you my most cordial invitation for our city host the RSAI World.

Sincerely,



Etzon Romo
 General Manager
 Quito Tourism Board
 Municipality of Quito

May 25, 2024

Local universities of Ecuador:

- Universidad de Cuenca



Cuenca, May 30, 2024

Dear Carolina Guevara Rosero,
President
Ecuadorian Regional Science Network (RECIR)

The Department of Economics, Business, and Sustainable Development at the Universidad de Cuenca expresses its support for the **Ecuadorian Regional Science Network (RECIR)** and the **Escuela Politécnica Nacional (EPN)** in their bid to have Quito as the next host city for the World Congress of Regional Science of the *Regional Science Association International (RSAI)* to be held in 2026. This support is given in recognition of the extensive experience and recognized leadership in the field of Regional Science of the mentioned institutions, endorsed by their excellent faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, and commitment to high-level research.

The Department of Economics, Business, and Sustainable Development at the Universidad de Cuenca would benefit from this prestigious event and is therefore committed to playing an active role in its organization.

Finally, I reiterate my highest consideration and respect.

Sincerely,



Econ. Rodrigo Mendietta, PhD
DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, BUSINESS, AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
 UNIVERSIDAD DE CUENCA

- Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja



Of. Nro. 161- DFCEE -UTPL-24
 Loja, June 12, 2024.

Ph. D.
 Carolina Guevara,
PRESIDENT OF THE ECUADORIAN NETWORK
OF REGIONAL SCIENCE (RECIR).

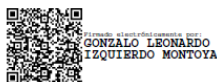
Dear Dr. Guevara,

Regarding your request for institutional support to nominate Quito as the next venue for the Regional Science Association International (RSAI) Congress in 2026, we are pleased to confirm our commitment and support for this initiative.

At UTPL, we believe that this congress will give RECIR and its partners a valuable opportunity to strengthen the network's position as a leader in promoting knowledge and scientific progress in the field of regional science at both regional and global levels. This congress will provide an excellent platform to showcase research conducted by our faculty members and students. It also presents an opportunity to establish new research networks focused on Regional Science.

On behalf of UTPL, I reiterate my willingness to work closely with you to ensure the success of this important event.

Sincerely,



Leonardo Izquierdo Montoya PhD.
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS
AND BUSINESS SCIENCES - UTPL

- Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador



FACULTAD DE ECONOMÍA

Regional Science Association International (RSAI)
Universidade dos Açores, Gabinete 155 e 156,
Rua Capitão João D'Ávila 9700-042 Angra do Heroísmo, Portugal
Tlf: 295333329
Email: rsai@apdr.pt

Subject: Letter of support

On behalf of the Research Direction and the Faculty of Economics of the Quito headquarters, Ecuador, we are writing to express our strong support for the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science (Ecuadorian RSAI section, RECIR acronym in Spanish), represented by Carolina Guevara, Ph.D, as the organizer of the next 2026 RSAI World Congress.

As Director and Dean of the PUCE. We have had the privilege of witnessing the success of the conference organized by RECIR jointly with the Association of Economics of Ecuador in June 2024 in the University of Cuenca, Ecuador. This event brought together scholars of Economics, not only from Ecuador but also from other countries of Latin America through a travel grant program, aiming to increase the participation and collaboration among scholars from different countries.


In my professional experience, I have seen RECIR's commitment and ability to work well and strong ethic work to achieve high standard academic meetings. For this reason, we would like to offer our support to RECIR for organizing the next 2026 RSAI World Congress in aspects such as participation of teachers in respective committees, logistics, physical spaces for holding panels.

Thank you for considering our support of RECIR. I am confident that their ongoing efforts will yield a remarkable and high-quality academic conference.

Best regards

Ruben Flores
Dean of the Faculty of Sciences
Sede Quito



HUGO  Firmado digitalmente por
GUILLERMO HUGO GUILLERMO
NAVARRETE
NAVARRETE ZAMBRANO
ZAMBRANO Fecha: 2024.06.27
15:30:21 -05'00'

Hugo Navarrete
Research Director

Dirección: Avenida 12 de Octubre 1076 y Vicente Ramón Roca
Código postal: 170525 / Teléfono: (593-2) 299 1700 Ext.: 1610
Quito - Ecuador / www.puce.edu.ec



JESUITAS ECUADOR

International organizations

LARSA



Sao Paulo, June 11th 2024

To

Hans Westlund

RSAI President

Dear Hans,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you of the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Science Association's enthusiastic support for the Ecuadorian Section of RSAI, the Red Ecuatoriana de Ciencia Regional (RECIR), represented by our esteemed colleague Carolina Guevara Rosero, in organizing the next RSAI International Conference in Ecuador.

We firmly believe that Ecuador, with its rich cultural heritage and diverse landscape, offers a unique and compelling backdrop for our next meeting. This setting will not only inspire but also provide a unique opportunity for the regional science community to exchange ideas, foster collaboration, and drive innovation.

The Latin American and Caribbean Regional Science Association is fully committed to supporting this initiative. We will be actively involved, working hand in hand with Carolina and their team, not just in promotional activities and logistical assistance, but also in the curation of a robust scientific program. This comprehensive support is designed to ensure the success of the event.

We are confident that hosting the meeting in Ecuador will not only enhance the visibility of regional science in Latin America but also serve as a catalyst for greater participation from our global community. This event represents a valuable opportunity to strengthen our international bonds, advance our shared goals, and contribute to the global scientific discourse.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working together to make the next International Meeting an exceptional and impactful event.

Sincerely

André Luis Squarizé Chagas
President

Latin American and Caribbean Regional Science Association
achagas@usp.br
+5511990209420

SOCHER



Regional Science Association International (RSAI)
Universidade dos Açores, Gabinete 155 e 156,
Rua Capitão João D'Ávila 9700-042 Angra do Heroísmo, Portugal
Tlf: 295333329
Email: rsai@apdr.pt

Subject: Letter of support

On behalf of the Chilean Society of Regional Studies SOCHER (Chilean RSAI section, SOCHER acronym in Spanish) located in Chillán, Chile, represented by Mauricio Oyarzo Aguilar, Ph.D, I am writing to express our strong support for the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science (Ecuadorian RSAI section, RECIR acronym in Spanish), represented by Carolina Guevara, Ph.D, as the organizer of the next 2026 RSAI World Congress.

As President of the SOCHER, I have had the privilege of witnessing the success of the conference organized by RECIR jointly with the Association of Economics of Ecuador in June 2024 in the University of Cuenca, Ecuador. This event brought together scholars of Economics, not only from Ecuador but also from other countries of Latin America through a travel grant program (YSI), aiming to increase the participation and collaboration among scholars from different countries.

In my professional experience, I have seen RECIR's commitment and ability to work well, and strong work ethic in achieving high-standard academic meetings. For this reason, on behalf of SOCHER, I would like to offer our support to RECIR for organizing the next 2026 RSAI World Congress in aspects such as collaborating on the dissemination of information through the SOCHER network, seeking funds to encourage the participation of SOCHER members in the 2026 RSAI World Congress, organizing contributed and/or discussion sessions or other kinds of academic activities within the context of the Congress, and supporting the search for keynote speakers.

Thank you for considering my support of RECIR. I am confident that their ongoing efforts will yield a remarkable and high-quality academic conference.

Best regards

Mauricio Oyarzo Aguilar

President of the Chilean Society of Regional Studies

SOCHER

SAER Argentina

Regional Science Association International (RSAI)

Universidade dos Açores, Gabinete 155 e 156,

Rua Capitão João D'Ávila 9700-042 Angra do Heroísmo, Portugal

Tlf: 295333329

Email: rsai@apdr.pt

Subject: Letter of support

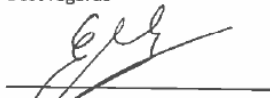
On behalf of the Faculty of the *Sociedad Argentina de Economía Regional* (SAER) located in Argentina we are writing to express our strong support for the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science (Ecuadorian RSAI section, RECIR acronym in Spanish), represented by Carolina Guevara, Ph.D, as the organizer of the next 2026 RSAI World Congress.

As President of SAER I have had the privilege of witnessing the rapid growth and development of the RECIR network reflected in the recent success of the conference organized by RECIR jointly with the Association of Economics of Ecuador in June 2024 in the University of Cuenca, Ecuador. The event brought together scholars of Economics, not only from Ecuador but also from other countries of Latin America through a travel grant program, aiming to increase the participation and collaboration among scholars from different countries.

Our colleagues' participants on this event and other interesting exchange programs have seen RECIR's commitment and ability to work well and strong ethic work and decision to enhance regional economic research at Ecuador and the region. For this reason, we would like to offer our support to RECIR for organizing the next 2026 RSAI World Congress and we commit to participate in aspects such as scientific committees and entertaining panels and encouraging SAER researchers' participation in all possible means. The event would be a significant support to the regional economic research in all the LATAM region.

Thank you for considering our support of RECIR being confident that their ongoing efforts will yield a remarkable and high-quality academic conference.

Best regards



President of SAER

PEDRO JOSÉ ECHEVERRI

Universidad del Rosario Colombia



Bogotá, June 18 2024

Regional Science Association International (RSAI)

Subject: Letter of support for the organization of the 2026 RSAI World Congress

I am pleased to write this letter to express my support for the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science as organizer of the next 2026 RSAI World Congress. The Ecuadorian Network has led similar initiatives that have significantly impacted both Ecuador and the region. Organizing the 2026 RSAI World Congress will provide an opportunity to strengthen the local and regional network, fostering synergies and potential collaborations among researchers. Under the leadership of Carolina Guevara, the Ecuadorian Network possesses the experience required to organize the 2026 RSAI World Congress and effectively coordinate the institutions required to ensure the event's success.

In case that the Ecuadorian Network be selected to host the 2026 RSAI World Congress, we would be honored to offer our support, both academically and in terms of dissemination and communication, to contribute to the event's success.

We look forward to the possibility of hosting this significant event in our region.

Sincerely,

Andrés García Suaza
Dean School of Economics
Universidad del Rosario

Sede Principal: Calle 12c N° 6 – 25 Bogotá, Colombia
InfoRosario: (571) 4225321 – 018000511888
www.urosario.edu.co

Development Studies Division of the Center of Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE), Mexico



GOBIERNO DE
MÉXICO



CONAHCYT
CONSEJO NACIONAL DE HUMANIDADES
CIENCIAS Y TECNOLOGÍAS



CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIÓN
Y DOCENCIA ECONÓMICAS A.C.

Regional Science Association International (RSAI)

Universidade dos Açores, Gabinete 155 e 156,
Rua Capitão João D'Ávila 9700-042 Angra do Heroísmo, Portugal
Tlf: 295333329 | Email: rsai@apdr.pt Associação

18 June 2024
Mexico City, MX

Subject: Letter of support for the candidacy of RECIR as organizer for the 2026 RSAI World Congress

To whom it may concern:

This letter expresses our support, as the Development Studies Division of the Center of Research and Teaching in Economics (CIDE), for the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science (RECIR) to organize the 2026 RSAI World Congress. Their representative, Dr. Carolina Guevara Rosero, is a highly respected community member. Her dedication and effort will undoubtedly result in an excellent conference.

The Development Studies Division's confidence in RECIR's organization of the next RSAI World Congress stems from their community's participation in projects undertaken by the organization, such as the VII International Meeting of Economics and the V National Meeting of Regional Science, which were notable for their scale and logistics. This event was co-organized with the Department of Quantitative Economics of the Escuela Politécnica Nacional, which is now proposed as the venue for the 2026 RSAI World Congress.

From the Development Studies Division, we express our eagerness to continue strengthening ties with RECIR and RSAI. Our shared activities and research lines create a natural convergence, and we believe that our collaboration will not only enhance the quality of the conference but also foster mutual growth and learning. CIDE is committed to contributing to the scientific committee and promoting the conference in various Mexican institutions.

Yours sincerely,

Rodrigo Alphat Rodríguez,
Director, Development Studies Division

Carretera México-Toluca No. 3655, Col. Lomas de Santa Fe, CP. 01210, CDMX. México
Tel: (55) 5727 9800 www.cide.edu



YSI

**Regional Science Association International (RSAI)**

Universidade dos Açores, Gabinete 155 e 156,
Rua Capitão João D'Ávila 9700-042 Angra do Heroísmo, Portugal
Tlf: 295333329 | Email: rsai@apdr.pt Associação

10 June 2024
New York, NY

Subject: Letter of support for the candidacy of RECIR as organizer of the 2026 RSAI World Congress

I am writing to express my strong support for the Ecuadorian Network of Regional Science (RECIR, acronym in Spanish) as organizer of the next 2026 RSAI World Congress. Represented by Carolina Guevara Rosero, RECIR has demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication to strengthen the academic community in regional science through the organization of academic events of high quality.

In June 2024, RECIR has organized a successful conference in collaboration with INET's Young Scholars Initiative, bringing together scholars of regional science, not only from Ecuador but also from other countries of Latin America through a travel grant program that increased the participation of scholars from different countries.

Through this collaboration, I have seen RECIR's commitment and capabilities when it comes to organizing academic meetings. We intend to cooperate again in the future, especially if RECIR comes to host the RSAI World Congress. Given the time-frame, we would need to review and approve a specific proposal within 12 months of the event, but we look forward to that when the time comes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heske van Doornen".

Heske van Doornen
Director, YSI

Young Scholars Initiative
Institute for New Economic Thinking
60 E 42nd St, New York, NY 10165
ysi.ineteconomics.org