



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

“EU Regional Development Dialogues: From Policy to Research”

28-29 SEPTEMBER 2026,
TECHNOLOGY PARK SPLIT (TPS), CROATIA

ORGANISER



HRVATSKA SEKCIJA EUROPSKOG
UDRUŽENJA REGIONALNIH
ISTRAŽIVANJA

CO-ORGANISERS



Faculty of Economics,
Business and Tourism
University of Split



Institut za razvoj i međunarodne odnose
Institute for Development and International Relations



European
Commission



TEDAM

Territorial Data Analysis and Modelling

THE CONFERENCE IS TAKING PLACE IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION
IN CROATIA

GENERAL PARTNER



CONFERENCE PARTNERS





ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The conference, themed “**EU Regional Development Dialogues: From Policy to Research**,” aims to stimulate discussion on the future and sustainability of regional development in Croatia and the EU.

Organised by the Croatian Section of the European Regional Science Association (**HR ERSA**), with the Faculty of Economics, Business and Tourism, University of Split (**EFST**), the Institute for Development and International Relations (**IRMO**), and the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (**JRC**) as co-organisers, and in partnership with the **European Commission** Representation in Croatia and the Split Development Agency (**RaST**), the conference brings together policymakers, regional strategists, representatives of public institutions and agencies involved in the design and implementation of regional policies in Europe and Croatia, as well as researchers and members of the academic community.

The annual meeting will be a two-day event:

1. Day I (September 28, 2026) – **Policy-oriented**, focusing on dialogue among policymakers, practitioners, and researchers.

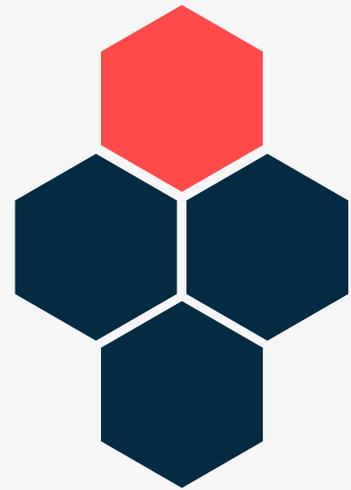
2. Day II (September 29, 2026) – **Research-oriented**, designed as a Regional Science Research Incubator Workshop, where early-career and senior scholars can engage in methodological discussions and receive feedback on their work.

Programme

Day 1

Monday, 28 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)



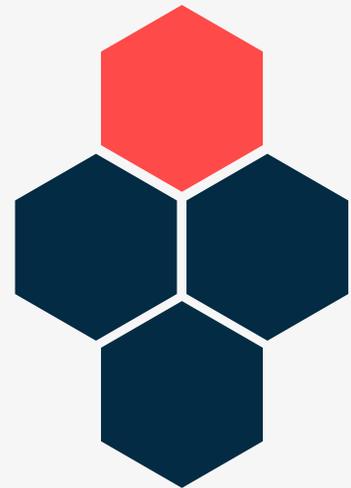
Time	Event
10:00 - 10:30	Registration
10:30 - 11:00	Introductory remarks Opening speeches by Representatives of the organiser, co-organisers and partners

Programme

Day 1

Monday, 28 September 2026

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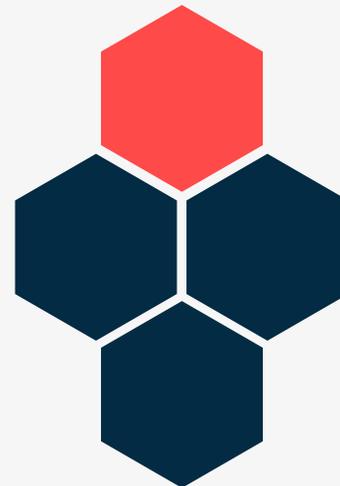
Time	Event
11:00 - 12:15	<p>Opening plenary panel</p> <p>Making sense of regional development and regional policies in the age of uncertainty</p> <p>Andrea Conte, Head of the Territorial Economic Data, Analysis and Modelling, JRC</p> <p>Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Princesa de Asturias Chair and is a Professor of Economic Geography at the London School of Economics (LSE)</p> <p>Francesco Molica, Director at European Association of Development Agencies (EURADA)</p> <p>Moderator: Blanka Šimundić, Associate Professor at Faculty of Economics, Business and Tourism, University of Split</p>
12:15 - 12:45	Coffee break

Programme

Day 1

Monday, 28 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)



Time	Event
12:45 - 14:00	<p>Roundtable</p> <p>The future of cohesion policy amid persistent and emerging territorial challenges</p> <p>Sébastien Bourdin, Professor of Economic Geography and Environmental Management , IESEG School of Management</p> <p>Goran Batinić, CEO at RaST Development Agency and Technology park Split</p> <p>Jakša Puljiz, Director of Institute for Development and International Relations</p> <p>Ministry of Regional Development and EU funds in Croatia - TBC</p> <p>Moderator: Nataša Nater Drvenkar, Faculty of Economics and Business in Osijek</p>
14:00 - 15:00	Lunch

Programme

Day 1

Monday, 28 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)



Time	Event
15:00 - 17:00	<p>JRC Special Session</p> <p>Industrial transitions and open strategic autonomy: implications for regional development</p> <p>Sandro Montresor, Professor of Applied Economics, University of Trento</p> <p>Katerina Ciampi Stankova, policy analyst, OECD,</p> <p>Vedran Kružić, Director, Regional Development Agency Primorje - TBC</p> <p>Roberto Antonietti, Professor of Economic Policy, University Padua</p> <p>Camilla Lenzi, Professor of Regional and Urban Economics, Polytechnic Milan</p> <p>Moderator: Andrea Conte, Head of the Territorial Economic Data, Analysis and Modelling, JRC</p>
19:30 - 23:30	<p>Get-together/Dinner & networking - TBD</p>

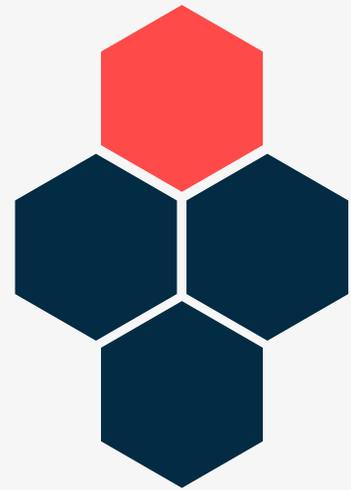
Programme

Day 2

I part - Methodological Lectures

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)



Time	Event	
09:30 - 10:00		Registration
10:00 - 10:30	Keynote lecture	Özge Öner Associate Professor in Spatial Economics and Real Estate, University of Cambridge <i>How to Ask Good Questions: A Methodological Roadmap for Early-Career Regional Researchers</i>
10:30 - 11:00	Keynote lecture	Katarzyna Kopczewska Associate Professor at University of Warsaw <i>Turning Data Into Insight: Methodological Approaches for the Next Generation of Regional Scientists</i>
11:00 - 11:30		Coffee break

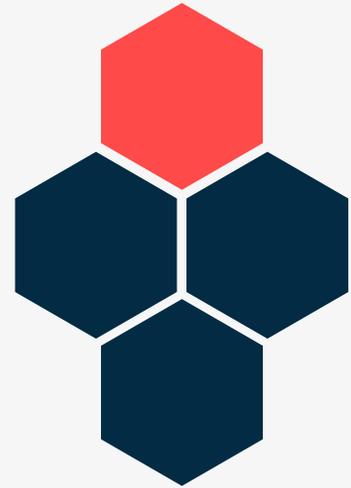
Programme

Day 2

II part - Roundtable with editors

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)



Time	Event
11:30 - 12:30	<p>Roundtable</p> <p>Publishing Regional Research That Matters: Editors on Trends, Biases, and Opportunities</p> <p>Katarzyna Kopczewska University of Warsaw, Editor of Networks and Spatial Economics</p> <p>Andrés Rodríguez-Pose LSE, Editor of Economic Geography</p> <p>Sébastien Bourdin IESEG School of Management, Associate Editor of The Annals of Regional Science, Associate Editor</p> <p>Moderator: Özge Öner University of Cambridge</p>
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch

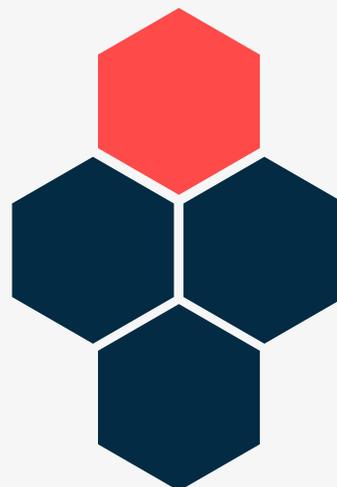
Programme

Day 2

III part - A Research Incubator Workshop

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)



Time	Event
13:30 - 15:00	<p>A Research Incubator Workshop (RIW)</p> <p>The RIW gives early-career scholars and ERSA members tailored pre-publication feedback at any project stage from distinguished senior researchers (Sébastien Bourdin, Katarzyna Kopczewska, Özge Öner, Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Stjepan Srhoj)</p> <p>See the following page for details.</p>
15:00 - 15:30	<hr/> <p>Closing ceremony</p>
19:00 - 23:00	<hr/> <p>Dinner & networking - TBD</p>

Details about the Research Incubator Workshop (RIW)

Guidelines for the submission

Applicants must submit a research summary via email to ersa@efst.hr by **15 June 2026**.

Submission should have **the following structure**:

- Brief abstract and four keywords
- Overview of the research
- Research topic
- Conceptual framework
- Research questions
- Methods
- Challenges (these are the areas on which you would like to focus discussion).
- References

Indicate **the membership** in **ERSA Croatia** or **other ERSA national sections**. The paper upload is not mandatory.

Eligibility of applicants

To present in a RIW, the presenting author must:

- Applicants must be **under 35 years of age on 1 October 2026** or must have obtained their **PhD no more than 7 years earlier**.
- If the submission is part of a **multiple-authored** paper, these two criteria do **not apply** to the co-authors.

Members of ERSA Croatia or other national ERSA sections will be given priority during the selection process.

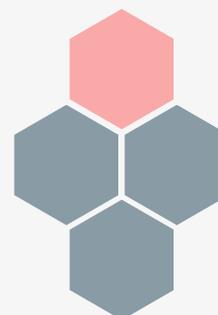
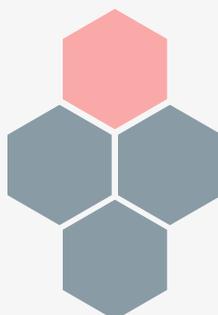
Important dates

- Application deadline – **June 15th, 2026** (only by email: ersa@efst.hr).
- Notification of acceptance – June 25th, 2026.
- Final registration: September 2nd, 2026.
- Conference: – September 28 and 29, 2026

No participation fee

There is **no fee** for participation. However, it is mandatory to register (after receiving notification of acceptance) **through the system** that will be available from **June 15, 2026**. A registered participant has the following benefits:

- Full access to the programme of both dates.
- Eminent professors are assigned as discussants (only for A Research Incubator Workshop).
- Free access to Social event(s)
- Lunches and coffee breaks.



CONTACT

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