

# Minutes

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## RSAI COUNCIL MEETING JUNE 2023

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1. Apologies (Annex 1)
2. Approval of the minutes of the Apr. 13, 2023 meeting (Annex 2)
3. Recommendations of the committee for deciding RSAI policies for assigning APC waivers (Annex 3, Andrea Caragliu)
4. Decision on the 2024 World Congress of the RSAI (Annex 4)
5. RSAI activities on PRSCO soil (Hans Westlund)
6. Renewal of LARSA representatives on the RSAI Council (Andrea Caragliu)
7. Status of the work of the committee in charge of restructuring PRSCO (Andrea Caragliu)
8. Proposal to Allocate RSPP extra revenues to finance RSAI waivers (Tomaz Dentinho, Annex 5)
9. AOB
10. Next meeting

At 16.10 pm GMT+7, prof. Hans Westlund greets attending council members,

### **Members attending in presence:**

Andrea Caragliu (RSAI Executive Director)

Hans Westlund (RSAI President)

Hidehiko Kanegae (PRSCO President)

Rosella Nicolini (PiRS EiC and at large)

Soushi Suzuki (PRSCO Executive Director)

Tomaz Dentinho (RSPP EiC and at large)

### **Members attending online:**

André Torre (ERSA President)

Daniela Constantin (at large)

Martijn Smit (RSAI newsletter editor)

Roberta Capello (LRPC and publications committee)

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies from Lise Bordieau and Jouke Van Dijk.

Not reaching enough voting members, the council pledges to circulate a ballot to formally approve the decisions made today, according to article 8 of the RSAI constitution, stating that *“If the number of voting Council members at any meeting of the Council is less than 50 percent of the total voting membership of the Council any decisions taken shall not be considered final until they have been submitted by the Executive Director to the full Council in written form and approved by ballot”*.

## **2. Approval of the minutes of the Apr. 13, 2023 meeting (Annex 2)**

Andrea Caragliu says that there was no request for amendments. Rosella Nicolini proposes to approve, Tomaz Dentinho seconds. Minutes of the previous meeting are unanimously approved.

## **3. Recommendations of the committee for deciding RAI policies for assigning APC waivers (Annex 3, Andrea Caragliu)**

Andrea Caragliu suggests Roberta Capello can summarize the outcome of the discussion of the committee, as chair of the committee itself. She starts summarizing how the process went, and the outcomes of the online meeting. The members of the committee included Prof. Peter Nijkamp (Chair; LRPC); Prof. Roberta Capello (RAI Publications Committee); Prof. Budy Resosudarmo (PRSCO representative); Prof. Sandy Dall'erba (NARSC representative); Prof. Rosella Nicolini (PiRS EiC); Prof. Tomaz Dentinho (RSPP EiC); Prof. Andrea Caragliu (RAI Executive Director); plus Elisabete Martins (joining as RAI administrative office).

Roberta Capello says that the goals of the committee meeting was to clarify the goals of the committee itself, i.e. not to lose publishable papers due to the open access system. Moreover, the committee recommends all authors should belong to a treated category, irrespective of the corresponding authors' affiliation, to avoid strategic behaviors. Again not to lose papers, not all authors have to be RAI members, in order to remain an open association. No quota has to be allocated to categories, to maximize flexibility in achieving the aim of the waivers. And, lastly, Editor-in-Chiefs should be responsible for the correct applications of the waivers rules, according to the specific needs of the journals.

In terms of the categories treated with the waivers, the committee suggests the following ones: (i.) Junior faculty and graduate students (irrespective of the number of authors) without senior co-authors; (ii.) Retired faculty without research funds; (iii.) Authors located in low- and lower-middle income countries (as defined by the World Bank) not covered by Elsevier's Research4Life programme and (iv.) Specific cases of authors from upper middle-high income countries whose institutions have no transformative agreement with Elsevier. In all cases, precondition is the absence of a transformative agreement between the submitting author's institution and Elsevier; moreover, waivers are only granted to members of the RAI in good standing.

Some specific items remain open: (i.) A fine-tuning the definition of categories, and (ii.) How to deal with authors that have a not fully covered APC within Research4life (e.g. group b has 50% of waivers paid) and pertain to our categories. Should the RAI grant them a full waiver, or a partial one, if possible?

Hans Westlund stresses that he in general agrees with the principles, but also points out some details need to be fine-tuned. Tomaz Dentinho adds that he understood that the Council will somehow control the fair attribution of the waivers. Andrea Caragliu adds that some fine-tuning of the initial proposal will happen, and will be discussed at the next Council meeting in Alicante (at the ERSA congress). Moreover, some learning-by-doing will take place as the new contract unfolds. Prof. Dentinho proposes not to approve the last slide in Annex 3. Rosella Nicolini suggests not to approve formally the document, because there is really no decision to be made. Hans Westlund suggests to recommend the committee to fine-tune the proposal, in terms of clarifying slide 4 (questions).

## **4. Decision on the 2024 World Congress of the RAI (Annex 4)**

Andrea Caragliu explains the procedure and the open call. Farhod Ahrorov (Samarkand university) and József Kárpáti are let in.

Prof. Ahrorov explains that their best timing would be in May 28-31, 2024, with a back-up option for August 2024. He tells about the good accessibility of Samarkand, despite the lack of access to the sea. The airport is new and offers several international connections. Prof. Ahrorov stresses that their relatively new university would benefit substantially from the networks this congress may trigger. He also mentions a recent positive experience with organizing the world congress of Agricultural Economists (with more than 100 attendees).

It is then Prof. Kárpáti's turn. He represents the Hungarian candidature. Prof. Kárpáti summarizes the proposal. He stresses that Kecskemét, the see of John Von Neumann university, also hosts a large Daimler production plant. The university is a relatively recent institution. He shows the location of the candidature, central to Hungary (80 kms South of the capital Budapest, which means 40 minutes by car from central Budapest). He stresses that a new PhD school in Economics will be launched in 2024. The university is small in size (about 3,500 students), but with a substantial staff (450 employees). The candidature is presented as being attractive due to its central position, for the presence for several walking distance hotel rooms, and for a sustainable budget, provided that at least 350 participants join.

Andrea Caragliu leaves the floor to Council members. Rosella Nicolini asks the Samarkand proponents about (i.) the exact dates of the congress, and (ii.) what the proponent means by Central Asian association. She asks what PRSCO thinks about this application. Prof. Ahrorov replies that the two dates (May and August, 2024) are both available, and he leaves the option to the RSAI Council. André Torre has two questions for the Hungarian section's proposal, one related to ERSA's support. Prof. Kárpáti replies that the event would be organized a week before, or a week after Europe's Easter. Prof. Kanegae asks both candidatures whether there is the chance of a hybrid event, and Prof. Kárpáti replies that their candidature also foresees the chance to have a hybrid conference. The same applies to the Samarkand candidature.

Prof. Constantin asks Prof. Ahrorov whether there is any letter of support from a local institution, and, along the same lines, what PRSCO's position is w.r.t. this event. Prof. Kanegae says there was no request from the proponents. Prof. Ahrorov replies that the government officially endorsed the Samarkand candidature.

Prof. Kanegae asks about how easy it is to obtain visas to both congresses. Prof. Ahrorov replies that for about 90 countries there is no major issue (especially for European Countries). Prof. Dentinho asks about visas from low-income countries. Prof. Kárpáti replies that a colleague is also well experienced in handling visas since he is currently appointed as representative to a Chinese institution in Shanghai.

In order to allow a safe discussion, Profss. Ahrorov and Kárpáti temporarily leave the meeting.

Prof. Caragliu explains the process leading to these two candidatures. Prof. Dentinho explains that he attended the Almaty RSAI-sponsored conference in May 2023, and found very good colleagues and decent premises. He adds that the central Asian candidature would be attractive for the hospitality of local colleagues, and it would be enticing for international colleagues. Prof. Constantin worries about the lack of the support of a supranational section. Prof. Kanegae replies that PRSCO is a very large section, so that in the medium run perhaps a new supranational section should emerge, also encompassing countries located in this macro-area. Prof. Torre finds both candidatures rather incomplete. So he wonders how intense the support of the RSAI would be, because this would be decisive in steering the quality of the final result. Prof. Dentinho stresses that it is important to

let the Council decide about the destination. Prof. Westlund is worried about the lack of a section in Samarkand. Prof. Caragliu proposes to freeze the Samarkand event for the time being, and invest in the Hungarian candidature in the short run. Prof. Torre underlines the need for the RSAI council to be supportive of the event, in both cases.

Prof. Westlund proposes to vote. The majority of attending council members votes for the Hungarian candidature, with one member voting for the Samarkand proposal and one member abstaining; however. Prof. Westlund stresses that the Samarkand candidature would be encouraged to be submitted for 2026. Profss. Ahrorov and Kárpáti rejoin the meeting. They are notified of the outcome of the decision. The RSAI Council will have to ratify the decision with an online ballot. Prof. Westlund also thanks the candidates for their candidature. Prof. Kárpáti thanks the Council about the decision, and invites the Samarkand candidates to also join the organization of the Hungarian World Congress.

#### **5. RSAI activities on PRSCO soil (Hans Westlund)**

Prof. Westlund stresses the great work made by the new management and explains about the intense investment of the RSAI in Asian soil, including the Central Asian conference in Almaty, and the Siem Reap summer institute hosting this meeting.

#### **6. Renewal of LARSA representatives on the RSAI Council (Andrea Caragliu)**

Andrea Caragliu tells the Council that LARSA has been holding valid three council representatives despite their term being ended. He notifies the council that a decision about who will replace the three councilors will be hopefully notified to the RSAI President and Executive Director soon, and the RSAI council composition will be accordingly readjusted.

#### **7. Status of the work of the committee in charge of restructuring PRSCO (Andrea Caragliu)**

Andrea Caragliu summarized the item, congratulating PRSCO on the remarkable activity shown over the past couple of years. Two nurturing talent events recently taking place in the macro-area, without a section yet (Kazakhstan and Cambodia). However, the supranational section now runs from the Caucasus to Western states in the US and Latin America. Consequently, in 2019, a dedicated RSAI committee was tasked with the aim to propose possible ways to restructure PRSCO in case it becomes too large. Past members included Rachel Franklin (PRSCO president), Yoshiro Higano (JRSA), Paul Snow (RSAC), Sumana Bandyopadhyay (RSA-India), Brian Kim (KRSA), Mark Partridge (RSAI president), Budy Resosudarmo and Kingsley Haines (LRPC). Ideal replacements in this committee would imply a new composition as follows: Hidehiko Kanegae (PRSCO president), Paul Snow (RSAC), Sumana Bandyopadhyay (RSA-India), Brian Kim (KRSA), Hans Westlund (RSAI president), Budy Resosudarmo and Kingsley Haines (LRPC). The committee made little advance, due mostly to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the light of the pressing urge for reforming RSAI bodies, a tentative schedule of activities for the committee, with a heavy involvement of eminent PRSCO scholars, is therefore welcome.

#### **8. Proposal to Allocate RSP extra revenues to finance RSAI waivers (Tomaz Dentinho, Annex 5)**

The proposal has been circulated to the Council and drafted by Tomaz Dentinho. He steps up to illustrate the proposal. He suggests to consider investing some of the extra revenues from the Elsevier contract to finance more waivers for RSPP. Prof. Westlund suggests not to sell the bear's skin before having killed it, and advises to wait for the whole 2024 to observe the state of the art with the new contract with Elsevier.

#### **9. AOB**

Prof. Westlund briefly remarks that the newly established committees are insufficiently fulfilling their scope, and that a new RSAI president will enter the Council in January 2024, and work with Prof. Westlund. By tradition the next president will come from PRSCO.

#### **10. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Alicante, where Prof. Westlund hopes to see people in the real life. At 6.06 pm, with nothing more to discuss, Prof. Westlund adjourns the meeting.

# Minutes

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## RSAI COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 2023

Tuesday, June 12, 2023, 2 CEET

Zoom

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2. Approval of the minutes of the Apr. 13, 2023 meeting (Annex 2)
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7. AOB
8. Next meeting

### Minutes of the Apr. 12, 2023 meeting

At 2.04 pm CET Prof. Westlund welcomes council members. The following members join the meeting:

- Andrea Caragliu (RSAI Executive Director)
- Elizabeth Mack (NARSC representative)
- Eveline Van Leeuwen (ERSA representative)
- Hans Westlund (RSAI President)
- Hidehiko Kanegae (PRSCO President and representative)
- Jouke Van Dijk (Councillor at-large)
- Lily Kiminami (PRSCO representative)
- Martijn Smit (RSAI newsletter Editor)
- Mina Akhavan (RSAI newsletter Editor)
- Rosella Nicolini (councillor at large, EiC of PiRS)
- Tomaz Dentinho (councillor at-large, EiC of RSPP)

Voting members participate in the number of nine. Andrea Caragliu stresses that this means that the council meeting does not meet the requirements for voting decisions to be binding. He reminds the Council that, according to the RSAI constitution, Article V, Section 8:

*“If the number of voting Council members at any meeting of the Council is less than 50 percent of the total voting membership of the Council any decisions taken shall not be considered final until they have been:*

*submitted by the Executive Director to the full Council in written form and approved by ballot, or formally voted upon at the next meeting of the Council at which a quorum is present.”*

Prof. Caragliu suggests that any decision made at the current meeting will be circulated and voted online by all Council members non attending today. The voting of non-attending members has been subsequently unanimously in favor of approving all motions in the present minutes.

## **1. Apologies (Annex 1)**

Apologies received from Carlos Azzoni, Daniela Constantin, Soushi Suzuki, and Serena Erendira.

## **2. Approval of the minutes of the online meeting (Feb 7, 2023; Annex 2)**

Andrea Caragliu reports a suggestion from Rosella Nicolini. Lily Kiminami asks to correct her name on the minutes. Prof. Smit reports two minor typographic issues: "our" address is listed in the header as "offices at University of Azores, Oficce 155-156", which should be "Office", not "Oficce". He also suggests to amend the following statement: "The Publisher shall include the notice: An official Journal of The Regional Science Association International" - should that not be "of the Regional..." rather than "of The Regional..."? Prof. Smit stresses that the acronym of the association is RSAI, not TRSAI.

Prof. Westlund suggests to approve the minutes in their present form, while the rest of the council will report any suggestion within Friday Apr. 14. Minutes are officially approved.

## **3. Approval of the contract with Elsevier for publishing PiRS and RSPP (Andrea Caragliu, Annex 3)**

Andrea Caragliu reports about the procedure of approving the contract. Elsevier's draft was reviewed by a lawyer (Dr. Letizia Belfiore, from the LIEN law firm in Paris/Milan), and by the President and the Executive Director.

Rosella Nicolini reports that she had a very fruitful meeting with the Elsevier staff. She reports concerns about article 3.2.a, which talks about review articles, which PiRS does not publish. She suggests to eliminate this item. At article 3.2.b, APCs seem to be applied also to review articles. She suggests to clarify whether this refers to review articles, or to book reviews; in the latter case, she suggests to fully waive all APCs. Andrea Caragliu replies he agrees it is best to eliminate this reference from the contract. Martijn Smit suggests that this may be due to Elsevier's vast experience with hard sciences and medicine, where Reviewe articles are way more frequent.

Tomaz Dentinho adds that p. 6 in the draft contract mentions the EiC or some other RSAI officer in charge of assigning waivers. Prof. Van Dijk stresses that as the clause is stated it seems it is actually two officials with the veto power. Prof. Westlund stresses that this change increased flexibility. Eveline Van Leeuwen argues that it is good to have both the EiC and the President/Executive Director. Andrea Caragliu suggests to change the formulation from "*The Society, through the Editor-in-Chief or another individual designated by the Society*" to "*The Society, through the Editor-in-Chief, after consulting with the President and/or the Executive Director*".

Prof. Dentinho stresses that only articles have APCs – book reviews typically don't. Rosella Nicolini proposes to approve the contract with the presently suggested changes, Jouke Van Dijk seconds. The contract is unanimously approved, with the proviso by Prof. Westlund hat these decisions are sent out to voting members who are requested to have their saying within Friday, Apr. 14, 2023 at the latest.

## **4. Creation of a committee for deciding RSAI policies for assigning APC waivers (Hans Westlund, Annex 4)**

Prof. Westlund explains that he would like to create a committee to propose policy guidelines for APC waivers. He indicated possible committee members, including the RSAI ED, the two EiCs of the

RSAI journals, Prof. Peter Nijkamp from the LRPC, Prof. Roberta Capello from the publications committee and immediate past EiC of PiRS, and a representative from the supranationals not covered by these colleagues.

For PRSCO, Prof. Kanegae says he will consult with Prof. Kiminami, Prof. Kim, and Prof. Suzuki about alternative solutions. Prof. Westlund replies he would like to have a member from each supranational. Prof. Van Dijk adds that no persons from low income countries are indicated. Prof. Dentinho suggests Budy Resosudarmo (PRSCO), or Patricio Aroca or Carlos Azzoni (LARSA). Rosella Nicolini further stresses, agreeing with Hans Westlund, that Presidents of the supranational sections should have a saying. Andrea Caragliu stresses the need to find someone with knowledge about geographical heterogeneity in the exposure to APCs costs. Prof. Kanegae asks whether this committee will decide about the allocation a budget. Andrea Caragliu replies that no discussion about the extra budget will be tasked to this committee. Prof. Mack suggests to consider using these policies to also promote a renewal in the authorship of the journals, for instance by not granting two consecutive waivers.

## **5. AOB**

No OB is reported.

## **6. Next meeting**

The next RSAI Council meeting will take place in Siem Reap, Cambodia, at the forthcoming PRSCO summer institute to be held on June 13-14, 2023.

With no more items to discuss, Prof. Westlund adjourns the meeting at 2.58 PM CET.



## **Recommendations from the Waivers' allocation committee**

Prof. Peter Nijkamp (Chair; LRPC)

Prof. Roberta Capello (RSAI Publications Committee)

Prof. Budy Resosudarmo (PRSCO representative)

Prof. Sandy Dall'erba (NARSC representative)

Prof. Rosella Nicolini (PiRS EiC)

Prof. Tomaz Dentinho (RSPP EiC)

Prof. Andrea Caragliu (RSAI Executive Director)

Also joining: Ms. Elisabete Martins, RSAI Administrative Office

Online meeting, 7 June 2023

## **Main general recommendations**

**Aim of waivers distribution:** to make sure RSAI journals do not lose publishable papers due to the open access system.

**All authors should belong to a treated category,** irrespective of the corresponding authors' affiliation, to avoid strategic behaviors.

**Not all authors have to be RSAI members,** in order to remain an open association.

**No quota has to be allocated to categories,** to maximize flexibility in achieving the aim of the waivers.

**Editors are responsible for the correct applications of the waivers rules,** according to the specific needs of the journals.

## Definition of categories for the allocation of waivers

- Junior faculty and graduate students (irrespective of the number of authors) without senior co-authors
- Retired faculty without research funds
- Authors located in low- and lower-middle income countries (as defined by the World Bank) not covered by Elsevier's *Research4Life* programme
- Specific cases of authors from upper middle-high income countries whose institutions have no transformative agreement with Elsevier

In all cases, precondition is the absence of a transformative agreement between the submitting author's institution and Elsevier; moreover, waivers are only granted to members of the RSAI in good standing.

## Open questions

- Fine-tuning the definition of categories.
- How to deal with authors that have a not fully covered APC within Research4life (e.g. group b has 50% of waivers paid) and pertain to our categories.
  - Do we give them a full waiver?
  - Do we give them a half waiver?

# PROPOSAL

**2024 RSAI Congress**

## **Regional Science Dialogues for Peace and Sustainable Development**

**11-12 August, 2024, Samarkand, Uzbekistan**

**Main Venue:** Yoshlar Markazi (Centre of Youth) of Samarkand

Proposal subscribed by:

Uzbekistan section of Asian Regional Science Association

Tashkent State University of Economics

Samarkand branch of Tashkent State University of Economics

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## Introduction

Regional Science looks at People's and Places Interactions within Space with advanced, understandable, and replicable methods. Regional Science has the scientific scope and adequate methodological tools to understand the dialogues between people and between places.

This conference aims highlight the dialogue between researchers to better understand human interaction within space and to improve regional policies. The Congress will be single platform for debates, discussions, dissemination and findings between theory and methods, data and techniques, results and policies.

It is envisioned that the focal theme of Regional Science Dialogues for Peace and Development will be analysed from the point of view across plenary, special, and regular sessions.

The Congress is in the Samarkand, Uzbekistan, located in the Centre of Asia.

## Purpose of the Congress

This congress aims at providing a scientific platform for addressing research agenda of the present times, in the arena of Regional Science, Development Planning and Spatial Studies. This academic programme is an opportunity for strengthening the linkages amongst the existing network established ERSA. Also, it creates a platform for knowledge exchange between students and scholars across the world.

This Congress is open to Delegates (speakers, scientific contributors, or attending persons), Exhibitors (including advertisers - legal entities or persons who will dispose of a stand during the Congress or an advertising space during the Congress, in documentation, on the website, in the Congress book or otherwise) and Sponsors (legal entities, natural persons, institutions, authorities, etc.) who will support the Congress.

As part of the Congress, meetings of the councils, executive bodies of the concerned associations like Regional Science Association International ("RSAI") will take place.

## Congress Theme

Focal Theme: Regional Science Dialogues for Peace and Development

Subthemes:

- Understanding Geopolitical Crisis
- Spatially defined institutions and the development of people and places
- Post pandemic spaces
- Migration and Integration.
- Scales and Scopes of the Circular Economy.
- Tourism competitiveness and sustainable regional development

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- Human interactions within sustainable oceans.
- Climate Related Hazards, People’s Vulnerability and Places Resilience.
- Contemporary Issues in planning and management of urban spaces
- Regional Development: Theory, Methods and Practice
- Rural Development in depopulated areas
- Entrepreneurial, Innovative, and Sustainable Ecosystems in the Regions
- Climate change mitigation and sustainable regional development

## Dates and Location

Dates of Conference: 28-31 May 2024

Main Venue: Yoshlar Markazi (Centre of Youth) of Samarkand

## The Venue

### Centre of Youth of Samarkand



**Address:**

Abdurahmon Jomiy street 98th House, Samarkand, 140105

### [Get Directions](#)



## Tourism Information

### About Uzbekistan



Uzbekistan is a [doubly landlocked country](#) located in [Central Asia](#). It is surrounded by five landlocked countries: [Kazakhstan](#) to the [north](#); [Kyrgyzstan](#) to the [northeast](#); [Tajikistan](#) to the [southeast](#); [Afghanistan](#) to the [south](#); and [Turkmenistan](#) to the [southwest](#). Its [capital](#) and largest city is [Tashkent](#). Uzbekistan is part of the [Turkic](#) world, as well as a member of the [Organization of Turkic States](#). The [Uzbek language](#) is the majority-spoken language in Uzbekistan, while [Russian](#) is widely spoken and understood throughout the country. [Tajik](#) is also spoken as a minority language, predominantly in [Samarkand](#) and [Bukhara](#). [Islam](#) is the predominant religion in Uzbekistan, most Uzbeks being [Sunni Muslims](#).

Uzbekistan lies between latitudes [37°](#) and [46° N](#), and longitudes [56°](#) and [74° E](#). It stretches 1,425 kilometres (885 mi) from west to east and 930 kilometres (580 mi) from north to south. Bordering [Kazakhstan](#) and the [Aralkum Desert](#) (former [Aral Sea](#)) to the north and northwest, [Turkmenistan](#) and [Afghanistan](#) to the southwest, [Tajikistan](#) to the southeast, and [Kyrgyzstan](#) to the northeast, Uzbekistan is one of the largest [Central Asian](#) states and the only Central Asian state to border all the other four. Uzbekistan also shares a short border (less than 150 km or 93 mi) with [Afghanistan](#) to the south.

## Samarkand

The cultural heritage of Samarkand is quite large, for many centuries the city has been a key centre of the Great Silk Road. At the beginning of the XXI century, the city was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List under the name “Samarkand – Crossroads of Cultures”.



Registan square





The flat ceiling optical illusion inside Tillaqori





Gur Emir Mausoleum



“Old city” Samarkand

## Bukhara

Bukhara, situated in Uzbekistan, is among the oldest cities in Central Asia. In days gone by, the renowned Silk Road caravans traversed through this historic city. The ancient section of Bukhara has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, attracting thousands of tourists from across the globe each year. Today, Bukhara is a vibrant, thriving city with a population exceeding 275,000 residents.

Scholars believe that Bukhara was established around the middle of the first millennium BC. During archaeological excavations within the city, artifacts such as pottery, jewelry, and remnants of 5th-century BC structures have been uncovered.

The city of Bukhara was first mentioned between the 4th and 5th centuries on coins bearing its name. In the 7th century, the Chinese scholar and translator Xuanzang wrote about the city. The name "Bukhara" is derived from the Old Uighur language, meaning "prayer house" or "temple." However, various sources have referred to the city by different names, including Nyumi, Bukho, Buhe, Bukhala, Bumiskat, Fuho, and Anxi.

Throughout its history, Bukhara has been a coveted city for many rulers, changing hands from one conqueror to another. In pre-Islamic times, it served as a cultural hub for Central Asia.

During the 9th and 10th centuries, Bukhara became the capital of the Samanid Empire. Renowned figures, such as Abu Ali Ibn Sina, Abu Abdullah Jafar Ibn Muhammad Rudaki, Omar Khayyam, and others, lived and worked within its borders.

In the ensuing centuries, architectural brilliance flourished in Bukhara even as it ceased to be the capital. Numerous medieval structures have been preserved to this day. Under the reign of Tamerlane (Amir



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Timur), Bukhara began to emerge as a religious center, earning the moniker Bukhoroi Sharif, or Holy Bukhara.



The Ark fortress in Bukhara



Lyabi Hauz

The ancient **Ark fortress** is one of the architectural symbols of Bukhara and the oldest monument of the city. This citadel is synonymous with impregnability and grandeur. Documentarily the fortress existed already in V century, and archeological excavations have confirmed that on this territory there was a defensive construction in IV century B.C. In VIII century the first city mosque was constructed here. On the territory of the citadel there was a palace, reception halls, hotels, library, mint, bath, prison and much more. Ibn Sino, Omar Khayyam and Rudaki all worked within the walls of the Arch. Today the Arch is a museum-reserve, where you can see how the rulers of the Middle Ages lived and the archaeological finds of scholars, as well as admire the oriental architecture.

**Registan Square** is not only in Samarkand. This square, the name of which is translated as "sandy place", is located near the Ark fortress. In the Middle Ages there were trading rows as well as administrative buildings and mosques.

**Bolo Hauz** is the only surviving complex of the Registan. It consists of mosque, minaret and hauz (pond). Mosque and hauz were built in 1712. After 200 years, a minaret was built next to the mosque.

**Samanid Mausoleum** serves as the burial site for the Samanid dynasty, who once ruled Bukhara. Constructed in the late 9th and early 10th centuries, it is the only surviving structure from that era. In 1993, the mausoleum was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List. Remarkably, the brick building has remained virtually unchanged for a thousand years.

**Poi-Kalyan** (Po-i-Kalan, or Poi Kalan) is an architectural ensemble located in the heart of Bukhara. Its name translates to "foot of the Great" or "foot of the Kalyan Minaret." The ensemble comprises the Kalyan Minaret (Kalon) at its center, the Kalyan Mosque and the Miri-Arab madrasa facing each other, and the Amir Alim-khan madrasa.

Built in 1127, the **Kalyan Minaret** is a towering brick structure designed for Muslim clergymen to call the faithful to prayer from its summit. Standing at 46.5 meters tall, the minaret tapers upward from its 30.43-meter base. Its walls are adorned with geometric patterns and religious inscriptions.

**Kalyan Mosque** serves as Bukhara's primary Friday mosque, with the capacity to accommodate 12,000 worshippers simultaneously. Constructed in 1514, the current building replaced the original mosque that was destroyed by Genghis Khan's forces. The mosque features intricate decorations both on its exterior and interior.

**Miri-Arab** is a madrasah, an educational institution established in 1536. Until 1920, it was considered one of the finest in Central Asia, with many notable individuals teaching and studying within its walls. For instance, the first mufti of Ufa, Muhammedjan Husain, and the first mufti of Russian Muslims, Galimdzhan Barudi, were both graduates of this esteemed institution. However, following the 1917 revolution, the madrasah was closed and its clergy repressed. Believers campaigned for the resumption of educational activities after the Second World War, and between 1946-1956 and 1961-1989, the Miri-Arab madrasah was the only functioning madrasah in the entire Soviet Union.

## Khiva

Khiva is a museum city that impresses with its tranquility. No wonder it is considered the pearl of Uzbekistan, located in the desert. Once the caravans of the Great Silk Road passed here. Khiva was also the capital of the Khanate of Khiva. Once in Khiva, you will find yourself in a real medieval city, where the spirit of modernity is given out only by electric wires. Cobble streets, clay mosques, elaborate patterns and majestic fortress walls will impress even the most advanced tourist. The entire old town is included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

According to legend, Khiva grew up around a well called Heyvak, which was dug by Sim, the son of the righteous Noah. Archaeologists claim that Khiva already existed in the VI century BC and was indeed called Kheyvak. And the well of the same name still stands in the center of the city. Before the Arab conquest, Khiva was a Zoroastrian city. In 712, after Qutayb Ibn Muslim came to power, scientists and representatives of noble families were destroyed in Khiva. In the IX-XI centuries, Khiva was transformed into a major center of religion and science. For example, scientists Al-Khorezmi and Al-Beruni worked here. In 1220, Khiva was destroyed by Genghis Khan's soldiers.

In the XVI century, Uzbek nomadic tribes came to Khiva. In 1598, Khiva was proclaimed the capital of the Khanate of Khiva and in the first half of the XVII century became one of the Islamic centers. Many mosques have been erected here, as well as madrassas – educational institutions for the study of Islam. The XVIII-XIX centuries also gave Khiva many architectural attractions. Then several majestic khan palaces were erected. In 1873, the Khanate of Khiva was partially conquered by Russian troops. In 1920, the last khan, Said Abdullah Khan, was overthrown in the city. In 1924, Khiva became part of the Uzbek SSR.





Itchan Kala in Khiva

**Ichan-Kala** is the Khiva point of attraction. This is an ancient fortress surrounded by a high defensive wall. Ichan-Kala occupies 26 hectares. Today, about 300 families live here, most of whom are hereditary artisans. The state Historical and Archaeological Museum-reserve is located on the territory of the fortress. All the significant attractions of Khiva are located in Ichan-Kale. The construction of the fortress began in 1598. Most of the buildings that have survived to the present day were built in the XVIII-XIX centuries, but there are also earlier ones. Scientists suggest that Ichan-Kala stands on an old fortification, which was located here in the V century.

The defensive walls of the Ichan-Kala fortress are a separate attraction. They have a thickness of 5-6 meters, a height of 8-10 meters and a length of 6250 meters. You can climb them from the side of the northern gate and look at Ichan-Kala through the battlements. There are also several gates and defensive towers preserved here. Of particular interest are Ata-Darvaza (main gate), Bagcha-Darvaza (garden gate), Tash-Darvoza (stone gate) and Palvan-Darvaza (heroic gate).

**The Kalta Minor Minaret** (Kalta Minar) is perhaps the most iconic landmark of the city. Translated from Uzbek, "kalta minor" means "short minaret". According to the plan of the initiator of the construction, Muhammad Amin Khan, the height of the minaret was to reach 70-80 meters, which would make it the highest in the Muslim world. But in 1855, when the height of the minaret was at around 29 meters, the construction was stopped. Historians say that this is due to the death of Muhammad Amin Khan. The minaret was decorated with blue, green and white majolica and tiles. Today, Kalta Minor is one of the most beautiful minarets in Central Asia.

**The madrasah of Muhammad Amin Khan** was built in 1855. It is located near the Kalta Minor minaret. The construction of the madrasah was carried out simultaneously with the construction of the minaret. The initiator of the construction of the spiritual educational institution was Muhammad Amin Khan. This is the largest madrasah in Khiva. It is also decorated richer than the rest. There were 125 cells, in which 260

students lived. The peculiarity of the cells lies in their duality. Today, a hotel and a cafe are located in the building of the former madrasah.

**Kunya-Ark** is a fortress within a fortress. The citadel began to be built in 1688 in the walls of Ichan-Kala. Kunya-Ark was fenced off from the main fortress by a wall and served as the residence of the khans of Khorezm. Two mosques (summer and winter), the khan's office, reception room, harem, Mint, and utility rooms were erected here.

**The Islam-Khoja complex**, which unites the madrasah and minaret of the same name, was built in 1910. The madrasah is dedicated to the Prime Minister of the Khiva ruler Asfandiyar - Islam Khoja. The buildings were built in the traditions of the XIV century. The 56-meter minaret is considered the tallest in Khiva. It can be seen from almost anywhere in the old town.

The first **Juma mosque** was built here in the 10th century. The modern Friday mosque was built at the end of the XVIII century. The building is unique in that it has neither portals nor domes. Inside the mosque there are 213 columns made of wood, which, as it were, support the ceiling. At the same time, 21 columns have been preserved since the X-XII centuries. And the oldest carved doors of this mosque were created in 1316.



The mausoleum of Pahlavan Makhmud

**The mausoleum of Pahlavan Mahmud** is a sacred place for the people of Khiva. Pahlavan Mahmud, who lived in the XII-XIII centuries, was a hero. Coming from a family of artisans, he became famous for his exploits and became revered among ordinary people. After his death, people began to come to the grave. Later, a mosque and a khanaka Sufi monastery were built next to the mausoleum. Noble rulers were also buried here. In 1913, rooms for reciters of the holy book of the Koran and iwans (terraces) were built here. And today hundreds of believers are coming to the grave of Pahlavan Mahmud.

**The Tash-Hovli Palace** (Tash-Howli), which was the main palace of the rulers of Khiva, was built by Allakuli Khan in 1838. The building is decorated with frescoes, carvings and ganch. The palace had a living

room of the khan, a separate half for wives, a guest courtyard (mekhmonkhona), a room for official ceremonies and reception of the people, a courtroom and rooms for servants.

**The mausoleum of Said Allauddin** is one of the few old buildings in Khiva. The tomb was built in the XIV century, and in 1825 large-scale restoration work was carried out here. Said Allauddin was a relative of the Prophet Muhammad and a famous preacher. Muslim pilgrims from different countries of the world began to come here almost immediately. The pilgrimage continues to this day.

In 1835, at the behest of Allakuli Khan, a madrasah was erected, which was named after the ruler. A religious educational institution was built near the Tash-hovli Palace. In addition to the two-story cells (hujr), there was a mosque, a library and a classroom. The facades of the buildings are lined with colored majolica. Today there are souvenir shops in the walls of the madrasah of Allakuli Khan.

**Ak Mosque (white mosque)**, built in the first half of the XIX century, stands on the old foundation of 1647. This small mosque – 25.5 by 13.5 meters – is different from other mosques in Khiva. It is built in an ascetic style, where only carved windows and doors are among the decorations.

**The Arab Muhammad Khan Madrasah** was erected in 1616 in memory of the transfer of the capital to Khiva. It was built by the ruler of the Arab Muhammad Khan. The madrasah was built of brick and had a mosque, one-story cells (hujras) and a classroom. Unlike other madrasahs of Khiva, Arab Muhammad Khan Madrasah is not decorated with majolica and other decorative elements.

## Travel Information

### Useful Information

#### Average costs to fly to Tashkent – Estimates based on 2023 -27/8-2/9

Country	Itinerary	Average Value
Italy	Rome Tashkent Tashkent Rome	1000 €
UK	London Tashkent Tashkent-London	900 €
France	Paris-Tashkent Tashkent-Paris	900 €
Austria	Vienna -Tashkent Tashkent-Vienna	700€
China	Beijing Tashkent Tashkent-Beijing	500 €
India	India-Tashkent Tashkent-Indoa	1000€
USA	New York-Tashkent Tashkent-New York	2200 €

### Passport and Entry Visa

To enter Uzbekistan, you need a Passport. But citizens of more than 150 countries can enter without visa for 30 days. Passports must be valid for up to six months (depending on your nationality) and are required by all.

Although it is not obligatory to have a return ticket, it is advisable to have one because, if you don't, you may have to prove sufficient means of financial support to return.

## Health and Vaccination Information for Uzbekistan

You will not require any vaccinations to visit Uzbekistan, unless you are coming from an infected area. The most likely infection being 'Yellow Fever'. Make a point of checking with your tour operator or local Uzbek Embassy if in any doubt.

Yellow Fever Vaccination - International Certificate of Vaccination for Yellow Fever is required only when traveling from an infected area and when the traveler is more than one year of age.

## Going to Uzbekistan

International commercial airports are Tashkent Islam Karimov (TAS) (Tashkent) and **Samarkand international airport**.

## How to Get There

The best way to get to Samarkand is by plane (Airport of Islam Karimov). There are daily flights from many European, American and Asian countries to Tashkent. From Tashkent one can easily book a fast train "Afrasiab" to Samarkand.

Train travel in Uzbekistan is much more convenient than by car. You have a choice of various Uzbekistan trains to reach the most popular tourist destinations. Afrosiyob and Sharq carry out regular runs to Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent. The most convenient option for traveling between Tashkent and Samarkand is the high-speed Afrosiyob train. Tashkent railway station, which is about 10 kilometers (6 miles) away from the airport. You can take a taxi or use a pre-arranged airport transfer service. The train offers different classes, such as Business Class and Economy Class. The Afrosiyob train typically completes the journey in around 2 hours, making it the fastest option available.

## From Getting Around

Urban public transport – in the main towns, there are a complete public transport networks.

Taxis are painted yellow. Once outside urban boundaries the service is charged by the kilometer, and includes the price of the driver's return trip to his starting point. From 10 pm to 6 am, the rate increases by 20%. Luggage is charged according to a fixed rate. All taxis have an updated chart in two languages.

## Time

Uzbekistan time is GMT+5.

## Climate

Climate in Uzbekistan is extreme continental. It is expressed in sharp amplitudes of day and night, as well as, summer and winter temperatures. The sunny country has an arid nature and low relative humidity.



Uzbekistan climate is dictated by its double landlocked geographical location. Length of the day in summer is about 15 hours in the winter at least nine.

The coldest month is January. The temperature drops in the north to 8 C and below, and the extreme south, near the town of Termez, it is above zero. The absolute minimum winter temperatures of 35-38 degrees below zero.

The hottest months are July and August. During this period the average temperature on the plains and foothills is 25-30 degrees Celsius, while in the south (Termez - Sherabad) it reaches 41-42 degrees. The maximum temperature was registered in the city of Termez - 50 degrees (July 1944).

In most of the annual rainfall does not exceed 200-300 mm. Lakes in the country are small, largest of them - the Aral, since it takes quite a large area, it became known as the sea. Over the past 30 years the Aral Sea has dropped by 12-14 meters, the banks went to tens of kilometers. Its water table has decreased by five times. Uzbekistan, in cooperation with Central Asian states and with the support of the international community takes urgent action to downplayed the negative effects of this environmental catastrophe.

In spring and summer you may wear light clothes, such as t-shirt, and shorts, in late autumn and winter it is a little bit cold.

## Language

The official language in Uzbekistan is Uzbek. English is widely used in the tourism industry and is gaining momentum in the tourism cities, such as Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva, due to being officially a required language in early schooling.

## Emergency services

103 is the number for medical emergencies.

There are 3 hospitals, Republican, Regional and City hospitals.

## The Currency

Uzbek currency monetary is the Uzbek soum. Visitors from countries must resort to exchanging the currency at the prevailing exchange rate. The best places to exchange your currency are the local banks which are usually open from 09:00 to 18:00 Monday through Friday.

Credit cards are accepted most anywhere as well as debit cards. All banks feature ATM where your debit card can be used to extract money as well as your credit card (make sure you bring your pin).

## Accommodation

Samarkand offers a vast number of types of accommodation to relax, with different types of experiences. Downtown, by the seaside or in rural areas, places where time seems to pass slower and the sounds of nature are louder, you can choose between: hotels, hostels, rural tourism, residential tourism, inns up to local accommodation and campsites.

<https://www.exploreterceira.com/en/planear/where-to-stay/>

## Language

The Congress will be conducted in English.

## Congress Schedule/Deadlines

8 November 2023 - Call for Special Sessions

10 December 2023 - Deadline Special Sessions Proposals

24 December 2023 - Extended Deadline Special Sessions Proposals

17 December 2023 - Open submission for abstracts (and papers)

28 February 2024 - Deadline abstract (and paper) submission

31 March 2024 - Notification of acceptance

4 April 2024 - Start of registration

15 2024 - Deadline registration for being included in the programme (online part)

28 May 2024 - Deadline registration

28-31 May 2024 - RSAI Congress

## The Speakers

A Tentative List from whom confirmation may be sought

### **For the Keynote Address:**

Selected by RSAI

### **Other Plenary speakers:**

Selected by RSAI)

## Congress Programme

### **Main Conference:**

- Plenary Sessions – approximately six

## Committees of the Conference

### Committee (EC)

- President of RSAI - Hans Westlund
- Executive Director of RSAI – Andrea Caragliu

### Local Organising Committee (LOC)

- Farhod Ahrorov [fahrrov@yahoo.com](mailto:fahrrov@yahoo.com)
- Azizjon Bobojonov [abobojonov@gmail.com](mailto:abobojonov@gmail.com)
- Makhabbat Ramazanova [ramazanova@mail.upt.pt](mailto:ramazanova@mail.upt.pt)

### Scientific Programme Committee (proposed)

- Tomaz Ponce Dentinho
- Ana Viñuela
- Gabriela Carmen Pescariu
- Katarzyna Kopczewska
- Rosella Nicolini
- André Torre
- Andres Rodriguez Pose
- Emmanouil Tranos
- Eveline Van Leeuwen
- Gabriela Pascariu
- Peter Nijkamp
- Peter W. J. Batey
- Roberta Capello

## Budget and Finances

# 2024 RSAI CONGRESS | PROPOSAL

## Fees

### ONSITE FEES

Congress fees (in EURO p.p.)	Early fees Until 15 May	Late fees After 15 May
<b>RSAI member* - Standard fee</b>	€ 410	€ 480
<b>RSAI member* - Special fee**</b>	€ 290	€ 350
<b>Non-RSAI member - Standard fee</b>	€ 480	€ 550
<b>Non-RSAI member - Special fee**</b>	€ 310	€ 370
<b>Accompanying person***</b>	€ 170	€ 170

### ONLINE FEES

Congress fees (in EURO p.p.)	Early fees Until 15 May	Late fees After 15 May
<b>RSAI member* - Standard fee</b>	€ 105	€ 140
<b>RSAI member* - Special fee**</b>	€ 85	€ 110
<b>Non-RSAI member - Standard fee</b>	€ 125	€ 170
<b>Non-RSAI member - Special fee**</b>	€ 100	€ 120

\* RSAI member fee is applicable to members of [ERSA sections](#) (i.e. RSAI-BIS, ASRDLF, AISRe, GfR, APDR, ...) and to members of the other supraregional Sections or associations of [RSAI](#) ( i.e. NARSC, PRSCO, LARCSA).

\*\* The Special fee is applicable for:

- PhD-students who have not reached the age of 33 years on September 1st 2024
- Participants of the ERSA Summer/Winter School 2023 and 2024 (students/young researchers attending the lectures)
- Participants from lower income countries (with annual GDP per capita lower than 20,000 USD) according to the latest [World Bank Figures](#).
- Retired faculty

\*\*\* The Accompanying Person fee is intended for those persons who accompany a participant to the Congress, but they will not be allowed to participate in the scientific programme.



# 2024 RSAI CONGRESS | PROPOSAL

## Expected Budget for 750 participants (660 in situ)

Estimated revenues from participants' fees			Amount	€/unit	TOTAL
RSAI member* - Standard fee			300	410 €	123 000 €
RSAI member* - Special fee**			180	290 €	52 200 €
Non-RSAI member - Standard fee			90	480 €	43 200 €
Non-RSAI member - Special fee**			15	310 €	4 650 €
Accompanying person***			75	170 €	12 750 €
Total In situ			660		
RSAI member* - Standard fee			30	105 €	3 150 €
RSAI member* - Special fee**			15	85 €	1 275 €
Non-RSAI member - Standard fee			15	125 €	1 875 €
Non-RSAI member - Special fee**			30	100 €	3 000 €
Total On-line			90		
<b>Total Revenues</b>					<b>245 100,00 €</b>
Arrangement of the venue			1	30 000,00 €	30 000,00 €
Secretariat Assistance			1	5 000,00 €	5 000,00 €
Welcome reception			660	10,00 €	6 600,00 €
Dinner			660	35,00 €	23 100,00 €
Lunches	5	times	3300	15,00 €	49 500,00 €
Coffee-break	10	times	6600	2,00 €	13 200,00 €
Transfers	5	times	3300	3,00 €	9 900,00 €
Travel and accommodation of Key Speakers			2	3 000,00 €	6 000,00 €
Design of Communication materials			1	2 000,00 €	2 000,00 €
Printing of Posters and other marketing material for the congress			1	1 500,00 €	1 500,00 €
Abstract book			660	10,00 €	6 600,00 €
Conference Kit			660	5,00 €	3 300,00 €
Conference Material			660	2,50 €	1 650,00 €
<b>Total Costs</b>					<b>158 350,00 €</b>
<b>Revenues-Costs</b>					<b>86 750,00 €</b>
<b>Expected Margin for ERSA</b>					<b>86 750,00 €</b>
<b>Expected Public Support for APDR</b>					<b>21 050,00 €</b>

## Revenues and Expenditures

All the revenues and expenditures will be registered with the support of legal documents.

## Sponsors

The support from Central Asia Sponsors will go to Central Asia Regional Science Association to promote regional science in Central Asia.

To the  
Council of The Regional Science Association International (RSAI)

NJE-GTK/103/2023

## LETTER OF SUPPORT

As the rector of John von Neumann University, Kecskemét, Hungary, I the undersigned express my full support for the submission of the application for organising the 2024 RSAI World Congress in our institution in Hungary.

Our university, both in terms of infrastructure and human capabilities of managing such a large-scale event is able and willing to do its best to successfully accomplish the congress. Our local environment is attractive and welcoming the program.

I trust that the dean of the Economics and Business Faculty, *Dr. József Kárpáti*, and one of our most experienced regional scientists, *Dr. Balázs Forman*, associate professor are going to succeed with the submission of the application, as their professional background and their living contacts with the scene of regional science, including ERSA, the Hungarian Regional Science Society and other professional bodies enable them to prepare the first initial steps in accordance with the expectations.

Following a positive decision, during the detailed planning, preparation and implementation of the conference, we offer our full cooperation for the Association.

Kecskemét, the 26th May, 2023



Dr. habil Tamás FÜLÖP  
rector



**1** Sustainable mobility for the Present and the Future  
2024 RSAI World Congress

**John von Neumann University  
Kecskemét**

**Tender documentation  
Scientific Program, Suggested Sessions**

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## Introduction

The title of the conference "Sustainable mobility for the present and the future" wants to reflect on the many challenges of our day and point to the search for solutions.

Mobility here and now is also a plural symbol. Mobility is also a symbol of Kecskemét, John von Neumann University, John von Neumann himself and the science of Martians.

Kecskemét as a city has come a long way during its history. The time horizon can be the last 15 years or the last 300 or even 500 years. 14 years ago, the Daimler-Benz group announced that they would build their new Central European car assembly plant in Kecskemét. This created the possibility of a new development path for the city. This year, the production of electric cars also started at the plant. This also indicates that the Mercedes car manufacturing plant in Kecskemét is at the center of the world's technical changes and development. 300 years ago, Kecskemét was one of the strongholds of the Hungarian Reformation. The market town of Kecskemét was a place of freedom and opportunities for many. From here, the Danube-Tisza region, which was depopulated during the Turkish subjugation, was populated. The people of the Great Plain started from here 300 years ago to reconquer and turn the desertified Danube-Tisza region, the Homokhátság, into a cultural landscape.

The hard work of the people living here has turned Kecskemét and its surroundings into one of Hungary's orchards. In addition to agriculture, Kecskemét has also become one of the defining locations of Hungarian culture. Zoltán Kodály, folk song collector, composer, innovator of music teaching methodology, was born here. He stated that music belongs to everyone.

"The purpose of music is to better understand, flourish and fulfill our inner world. The legends of the peoples are believed to be of divine origin. And where we reach the limits of human cognition, music reaches beyond them, into a world that cannot be known, but can only be guessed at." - Zoltán Kodály.

Kecskemét is the home of world-famous Hungarian cartoon production. The biggest professional recognition of the work of the studios here was the Oscar award for Ferenc Rufusz's animated film "The Fly".

Kecskemét now wants to join the global development of science through the John von Neumann University.

John von Neumann University received its independent university status 7 years ago. The university is the legal successor of the former Technical College of Engineering and Automation. In addition to engineering, the university now also offers economics and horticultural engineering. According to its mission, the university wants to answer the three biggest challenges of Kecskemét and its surroundings. The challenges are the retention of the local population, the challenges of climate change and industrialization, and local economic development. The first goal is to retain the youth and increase their education through the university's courses that provide up-to-date knowledge. The challenge is multifaceted, as the universities of Budapest and Szeged, which have greater traditions and provide versatile training, have to compete for applying students. You can only compete with high-quality and internationally recognized training programs. Climate change is once again presenting challenges to the people living here. Based on the different climate scenarios, the danger of desertification is also very high between the Danube and the Tisza. The reason is the very poor



natural water balance of the area wedged between the river valleys and the changing climatic conditions. The university must contribute to the solution of the region's problems through its research, horticulture and environmental protection education programs, or by performing direct consulting and expert work. Industrialization and the emergence of the automobile industry also pose serious challenges. The university must supply the car factory operating here with suitably qualified technical and economic specialists. But the students who are not directly employed in the car factory must be prepared so that, through their knowledge and competences, they are able to take risks and establish and manage successful small and medium-sized enterprises.

John von Neumann, the namesake of the university, himself has come a long way in his life. He was born in Budapest along with the other Martians. His personal journey led to the United States of America via Vienna, Zurich, Berlin, Hamburg, Karlsruhe. He received his doctorate in mathematics in Budapest. He obtained his degree in chemical engineering in Zurich. He studied physics in Berlin. In Karlsruhe, he formulated the mathematical foundations of quantum mechanics. In the United States, he participated in research into the use of nuclear energy, formulated game theory and the basics of how modern computers work. The university pays tribute to his life's journey with the Neumann Memorial Year. The most significant international scientific event of the commemorative year would be the organization of the RSAI global conference.

Science, innovation, talent mobility is no longer so simple. In terms of John von Neumann's life path, mobility went hand in hand with the accumulation of knowledge capital. His high school years in Hungary and in Budapest were decisive for him. For the Martians, after the high school years, the opportunities offered by Hungary, which was defeated in the First World War, became limited. The first journey of János Neumann and his companions led to the stronghold of the natural sciences at that time. The German education and university system trained him, and the German chemical and electrotechnical industry demanded those scientists who revolutionized physics and chemistry with their research. Martians born in Budapest arrived in this environment. However, politics intervened, and John von Neumann and his companions were forced to leave Germany due to their origins. The United States welcomed them with open arms to work on the greatest achievements of the 20th century - the utilization of nuclear energy, the creation of the computer. Incomparable talent and outstanding knowledge sought out the places where they could implement their ideas and visions.

The life and scientific work of John von Neumann is interesting and of fundamental importance not only for physicists, mathematicians, economists, and computer scientists, but also for representatives of regional science. The mobility of talent, knowledge, innovation and information is also an interesting area for regional science and contains many new challenges. That is why sustainable mobility became the title of the conference and the most important organizing concept.

## 1. Criteria for a successful 2024 world congress

- 1.1. The world congress should aim to have significant participation from members of Sections of all four supra-regional organisations – ERSA, LARSA, NARSC and PRSCO.

When defining the topics and sections of the conference, we strove to ensure that all members of the global community of regional science find the appropriate connection points for their interests and research areas. We strove to focus not only on the research topics of a narrow region or country, but on topics that can be interpreted and are relevant in all countries and regions of the world.

- 1.2. The conference should also endeavour to attract regional scientists resident in countries in which no RSAI Section has yet been established. Subsidies may be available to selected applicants for participation through RSAI's "Building Bridges" programme.

By organizing the conference, John von Neumann University aims to build a bridge to all representatives of the regional and geographical sciences, in line with the organizational and scientific goals of the RSAI. This means at the same time the expansion of the community of regional science to as many countries as possible geographically, and on the other hand horizontally by involving representatives of new research areas, topics, and frontier sciences. The location of the event endeavours to attract regional scientists from **the Balkans countries**, as they can reach the venue even by car easily.

- 1.3. The 2024 World Congress may be held as a standalone event. Alternatively, proposals may suggest to organise it jointly or "back-to-back" with another event. Such a joint or back-to-back event could be an RSAI Section meeting, a supra-regional congress, or an event held jointly with other organizations with similar objectives or networks.

The conference is planned to be a standalone four-day event. As the re-scheduled congress is planned to be held in April 2024, considering the Easter Holidays and 1<sup>st</sup> of May holiday in Europe, the suggested dates of the conference week could be

- 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 (Mo-Th) or 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2024 (Mo-Th) with arrivals to Kecskemét on the days before.

- 1.4. The proposed dates of the congress must be such that they do not clash with other events that aim to attract the same regional science community, unless a joint conference is envisaged. The organizers will consult with the RSAI President and the RSAI executive Director in order to identify a mutually acceptable schedule for the event.

After previous consultations with ERSA and the Hungarian Regional Science Society (MRTT), the proposed dates are not conflicting with any other relevant event at the same or near dates in the spring of 2024.

- 1.5. The conference should be held at an easily accessible location in a globally accessible city.

The development of the Kecskemét airport is now underway. The transfer of the airport is not expected to take place by the time of the conference. However, the location is very well approachable from all areas of the world, as the near Budapest Airport serves as a hub in Europe for airline traffic. Usually, Budapest is reachable with direct flights or only one transit from almost any location of the world. Direct flights arrive from more than 100 destinations worldwide. InterCity trains to Kecskemét run every hour from the railway station belonging to the airport. The train journey time is 57 minutes. The city of Kecskemét is in a 45-minute distance by car from the airport.

The local organising committee offers a **free shuttle bus service** from the Airport to the conference location for a limited number of participants and speakers considered as VIPs. We try to organize the time of these free transfers in such a way that the participants must spend as little time waiting as possible.

We also plan to deploy university students prepared for this purpose providing useful advice for arriving guests at the Budapest Airport and at the train station in Kecskemét.

- 1.6. Accommodation should be available at the conference venue (when the conference is held at a hotel or convention centre). Alternatively, a range of affordable accommodation should be available within 15 minutes walking from the venue.

The venue of the conference will be the newly built central building of the university. The John von Neumann University fully supports the event by providing the location, the new Campus (address: Izsáki str. 5., 6000 Kecskemét, Hungary) free of charge for the purposes of the event and the university also provides the necessary on-site assistance and staff for the entire week.

All sessions and locations of the programme will be fully supported by English-speaking students of the university as staff. The dean of the Business and Economics Faculty and Prof. Balazs Forman are the point of contact for the organisers during preparatory work and decisions. There will be an appointed manager of staff for the on-site events.

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The commitment of the university is stated by the letter of support of the rector, Dr. habil Tamás Fülöp (see attached).

The Four Points by Sheraton Kecskemét Hotel is a 5-minute walk from here. The Aqua Hotel, integrated with the spa, is a 10-minute walk away.

- [Four Points By Sheraton](#) is an elegant four star hotel with 136 rooms; current rates are 95-105 Euro / person / night including breakfast
- [Hotel Aqua Kecskemét](#) is a newly built three star hotel with 41 rooms; current rates are 45-50 Euro / person / night including breakfast

The city centre offers further room capacity in other, different four- and three-star hotel quality levels between the price ranges of 50-110 Euro / person / night, in 15 minutes walking distance. Smaller boutique hotels and bed and breakfast accommodation are also available in sufficient quantity in a current price range of 30-50 Euro / person / night.

The campus is also accessible by the local bus line Nr.1. from the city centre easily.

A special room rate for the conference participants may be achieved – negotiations have started. For participants with a smaller budget, the university's dormitories are also available in limited number of rooms.

1.7. The congress should include plenary sessions of interest to the global scientific community. The overall conference theme and the selection of keynote speakers should reflect this. Of course, local perspectives and concerns may be interwoven with global perspectives and concerns.

We have asked the following persons to be Hungarian or Hungarian-born plenary speakers of the conference:

- Katalin Karikó is a biologist who currently lives in the USA and played an extremely important role in the defence against the COVID 19 epidemic.
- László Albert Barabási, physicist, network researcher, who currently lives in the USA and has achieved outstanding results in the field of network relations and economy.
- Marina von Neumann is an economist who lives in the USA and is the daughter of John von Neumann.

- Ilona Pálné Kovács, lawyer, member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.
- Zoltán Gál is the president of the Hungarian Regional Science Society, an excellent researcher of financial geography.

In addition, it is important for us that the Czech, Polish, Slovak, and Romanian colleagues who know Central Europe well also get decent opportunities to appear and give presentations. In this context, we would like to invite you to hold plenary lectures

- Petr Pavlínek (Czech Republic), who is an expert in Central European automotive industry investments,
- Martin Sokol (Slovakia, Ireland, Dublin Trinity College) financial geography,
- Dariusz Wojcik (Poland, UK, Oxford University)
- József Benedek (Romania, Cluj-Napoca, Babes-Bolyai University)

Furthermore, we would like to invite the president of RSAI and 2 other professors recommended by RSAI to hold a plenary lecture.

1.8. Proposals should include initiatives to encourage participation from developing countries and from other countries in which no RSAI Sections have yet been established. RSAI can assist financially in meeting this objective through its “Building Bridges” programme but other funding initiatives (e.g. subsidies for participating postgraduate students) are also encouraged.

The aim of the conference is to develop and expand the community of regional science in developing countries, as well as among young researchers. We believe that community building and mutual knowledge are best served if everyone performs in thematic sections. We will try to organize the sections in such a way that representatives of 3-4 countries will perform in each of them. On the other hand, the sections that fall on the first date of the second, third, and fourth day are reserved for special sections of developing countries that intend to present themselves and for young researchers. Participation in special sessions does not count towards the one participation fee one presentation quota. Participants from emerging countries receive a 50% discount on the conference registration fee. Furthermore, we compile a list of recommended accommodation for conference participants, including colleges of our university, so that everyone can find an affordable accommodation, depending on their financial means.

The Hungarian Regional Science Society is an institutional member of ERSA. I am also a member of the management of the Hungarian company. Many are individual members of the Regional Studies Association. I am currently the RSA Ambassador to Hungary. Although with varying intensity, we are constantly present in the work and conferences of the AAG. I have been a member of the AAG since 2012 and have attended 7 of their conferences during this time.

Due to the geographical proximity, we naturally count on the participation of colleagues from Albania, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia, Serbia. In order to encourage their greater participation, we extend the discounted participation fee to them as well. We will contact colleagues there via personal e-mails or, if possible, in person and encourage them to participate. At the conference,

we will provide an opportunity to create special sections of the Western Balkan countries and to present their achievements in regional science. We would like to provide an opportunity at the conference for the formation of a new national section of the RSAI.

1.9. The programme could also include one or more workshops for professional development of emerging scholars and postgraduate students, who may not be in a position to contribute a full paper to the formal scientific programme.

By organizing poster sections and special sections, the organizers of the conference wish to contribute to the participation of colleagues whose abstracts do not yet reach the level expected from a section presentation. In the special sections, such colleagues can receive a shortened presentation time - 8-10 minutes. In these sections, we want to delegate not only a section leader, but also a discussant who can perform mentoring tasks. Our goal is that at the end of the conference, all participants feel that they not only gave, but also received something: knowledge, opportunities, connections.

1.10. The working language of the congress is English but proposals may include arrangements for simultaneous translation of plenary sessions where this is deemed to be desirable.

The official language of the conference is English. We want to build a community, so we consider it important to have a common language for all of the participants. At the moment, our university cannot provide enough assistance for the sessions to be held in other languages, as well as for the general use of languages other than English. Renting simultaneous translation service and technical devices may have a strong negative impact on the total budget of the congress.

1.11. Proposals should include a risk assessment regarding contingencies that could impact on the viability and success of the congress. Ways in which potential risks can be managed should be outlined.

The range of risks can be divided into three groups. We can talk about political, economic and health risks.

Among the political risks, we consider the current Russian-Ukrainian war to be the most important. So far, we do not have any meaningful information on the outcome and end of the war. We also only hope that the war will end as soon as possible. Hungary is a member of NATO. As a NATO country, its protection is guaranteed by all member states of the community. For this reason, we currently do not consider it likely that the territory of Hungary would be hit by a military attack from the direction of Ukraine. This would bring the global scope of what is currently underway. In this case, the conference should be canceled or postponed indefinitely.

Among economic risks, Hungarian inflation and energy supply risks must be taken into account. Inflation in Hungary stems from the depreciation of the Hungarian forint against foreign



currencies and the explosive rise in energy prices. This will not affect the participation fees to be determined in euros. Accommodation costs can also be paid in euros. Thus, we also try to ensure their unexpected increase during the negotiations with the accommodation. The central building hosting the event is heated with geothermal energy and lit by solar panels. Thus, the rise in energy prices will not affect the location of the conference under any circumstances. Among the health risks, the COVID 19 epidemic should be highlighted. The Hungarian government has so far been able to take effective measures to contain the epidemic. The use of masks, which is necessary during the epidemic period, and the limitation of contacts between people have so far been enough to curb the epidemic. Choosing a late summer, early September date means minimizing the risks associated with the epidemic. Between the waves of the COVID 19 epidemic, the periods at the end of summer were always the lowest point. At that time, the number of illnesses was the lowest. Compared to the peak period, the number of infected people was barely 3-4%. Health risks are mitigated by a wide range of vaccinations that affect almost the entire Hungarian population. The newly opened hospital of Kecskemét is located 2 km from the university building and the conference venue.

#### 1.12. A detailed financial plan providing details on the economic aspects of the congress should also be submitted along with the candidature.

The budget planning for the conference has some main corner numbers as follows:

The building and offices serving as the venue for the conference are provided free of charge by the John von Neumann University and the foundation that maintains the university.

#### Detailed conference room types and capacities in the Campus

The campus main building features the following lecture and meeting rooms that will be provided (see also the photo attachments):

- *Grand auditorium* with 300 seats, 32 sqm flat 4kHD LED wall for presenting, audio equipment
- *Two extension rooms for the grand auditorium* (rotating rooms) with 78 and 122 seats each. These can be turned in to the auditorium to extend the seating capacity to 500 persons on plenary sessions, or, can work as separate lecture rooms for parallel sessions.
- *3 further lecture rooms* with 120 seats capacity each. These rooms are standard lecture rooms, and are equipped with projectors and sound system
- *8 seminar rooms* with 30 seats each for smaller scale parallel sessions. These rooms feature smart tv screens for presentation purposes. If needed, 2 of these rooms can be further separated in two 15 seater rooms.
- *1 VIP meeting room* (book corner room) with couches, armchairs and a meeting desk, seating up to 30 persons in exclusive environment, allowing online meeting with a built-in smart screen and panoramic web camera. This room is ideal for a book presentation or a compact round table discussion in a friendly environment.

- The organizers can get further space for storage purposes and a work office during the event.

In addition to the offered 14+1 rooms, further standard lecture rooms are also available on the old campus, which is located on the opposite side of Izsáki str.

In advance, we expect 500 participants in an ideal scenario. For budget planning, we modelled the case of 400 and as worst case, 300 participants.

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### **Proposed conference fees & registration**

We propose different rates for in-person and online participants, in-person day rates, members and non-members and have tiered members' conference fees depending on the sending country's Group and the participant's career stage. If you are not yet an RSAI member, then now is a good time to join the community.

Signing up as an RSAI member and then registering for the conference is likely to be cheaper than paying the non-members rate. For more details on membership categories, groups, benefits and rates, please see the relevant career-stage category. The non-member participation fee is 450 Euro for the four days. Discounts in different forms are available as follows. **The proposed fees and composition of tiers is subject to further negotiations with RSAI – we are open to additional changes.**

**Early bird conference registration is offered until 31st December 2023**

#### **1st group (“Group A”) early bird price:**

- **350 Euro** - GDP/capita depends on border or country group. European Economic Area, NAFTA, OPEC countries, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, other countries possible
- **240 Euro** - PhD students, retired members and participants under the age of 26 of the country group “A”

#### **2nd group (“Group B”) early bird price: 240 Euro -**

- members of HRSA, members of the Hungarian Economic Association, members of the Hungarian Geographic Association.
- Citizens of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan.
- Citizens of countries in Asia and Latin America that do not belong to group A.
- Participants from all African countries.
- **175 Euro** - PhD students, retired members and participants under the age of 26 of the country group “B”



### 3rd group (“Group C”) price:

- **175 Euro** - John von Neumann University lecturers and PhD students, retired members,
- **Free admission** for the students of the organising university

Summary table of in-person early bird rates for a four-day pass, until 31st December 2023 (in Euro)

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Early Bird	Individual Members	Early Career/Retired Members	Student members
Group A	350	240	240
Group B	240	175	175
Group C	175	175	Free

Non-member “rack rate” fee: 450 Euro

Summary table of in-person regular conference rates for a four-day pass, from 1st January 2024 (in Euro)

Regular	Individual Members	Early Career/Retired Members	Student members
Group A	400	280	280
Group B	280	200	200
Group C	200	200	Free

Non-member fee: 500 Euro

All in-person rates include for four days: participation in all subject matter events, daily coffee breaks with snacks and an extensive rich buffet lunch with beverages (non-alc).

Daily conference rates (also including daily coffee breaks and the lunch for the specific date):

- Early bird until 31st December 2023: 150 Euro
- Normal rate from 1st January 2024: 200 Euro

Summary table of rates for Online Participation Pass in Euro:

Regular	Individual Members	Early Career/Retired Members	Student members
Group A	150	100	100
Group B	100	75	75
Group C	75	75	Free

Non-member online fee: 200 Euro

## Budgetary considerations and cost based risk assessment

We expect 400 persons to attend the conference with a four-day pass, counting early bird rates. We carried out a calculation on the basis of 400 or 300 participants as follows.

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- 200 /150 participants pay the full amount
- 50 / 50 VIPs do not pay any registration fee
- 100 / 50 persons pay 70%,
- 50 people get a 50% discount.

	<b>400 participants</b>	<b>300 participants</b>
Planned ticket sales revenue 100% early bird applications	102.750 EUR	73.250 EUR
<i>50% early bird – 50% normal</i>	<i>113.000 EUR</i>	<i>79.250 EUR</i>
Venue, transfer and assistance	0 EUR	0 EUR
20% share of paid fees held by RSAI	20.500-22.600 EUR	14.650-20.000 EUR
Planned direct expenses for 400 participants, including free gala dinner entry for the 50 VIPs	90.000 EUR	70.000 EUR

Based on our calculations, **a visitor number of 350-400 persons shall be reached**, as these, depending on the distribution of different registration fee-categories and the participants registering on an early-bird or a later stage, would cover the basic costs of the conference to zero profit, applying the 20% deduction of RSAI. *Below 300 visitors it is certain that the expected revenues (considering the amount of discounted or VIP, free of charge participant costs) do not cover the total cost of the conference.* In that case the level of services (e.g. variety of lunch offerings etc.) shall be revised but the event is still feasible with the support of sponsors.

Based on our current experience with the amount of 450 live conference participants in bioeconomics (February 2023) in our Campus, the premises serve comfortably the guests, in a very attractive and elegant service format. In terms of the number of attendants, the event is open upwards to around or even above 500. In such a case, the number of VIPs remains 50.

- **The cost of the daily meals and the gala dinner for the VIP guests** will fully be included in the conference budget. The other participants will pay the market price for the gala dinner on top of the registration fee. This is expected to be at 50 Euro per person.
- **Guided tours within the city of Kecskemét** will be free of charge if meals are not included.
- **Tours planned for other locations** with travel will be arranged on self-expense. Their expected cost is 40 Euro per person.

The management of John von Neumann University and the sustaining foundation propose the following in the financial plan and memorandum:

The foundation of the John von Neumann University undertakes to host the leading officials of RSAI - President, Vice President, Executive Director, Councilors (ERSA, NARSC, LARSA, PRSCO), Councilors-at-large - during the conference at the Four Points in Kecskemét by Sheraton Kecskemét Hotel and Conference Center. This hotel is a 3-minute walk from the conference venue.

Approximately 90,000 euros would cover the expenses of the conference, the organization, catering at the conference venue, buffet lunches, electronic and printed publications, abstract volumes and a limited amount of costs to be eventually paid for the plenary speakers if so.

The conference is expected to be sponsored by the Central Bank of Hungary (MNB), the Ministry of Culture, the Municipality of Kecskemét and Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing Hungary.

### 1.13. Members of the local organizing committee

Balázs Forman, chairman of the organizing committee  
Tamás Fülöp, Rector of John von Neumann University  
Szabolcs Szemerey, strategic director of John von Neumann University  
Norbert Csizmadia, President of the John von Neumann Foundation,  
József Kárpáti, Dean of the Faculty of Economics at John von Neumann University  
István Tózsza, head of the Department of Settlement Marketing and Economic Geography  
Vince Maráz, financial director of John von Neumann University  
Zoltán Gál, president of the Hungarian Regional Science Society  
Szilárd Rácz, secretary of the Hungarian Regional Science Society.

## 2. Timetable

**The planned date of the conference would be between April 8 and 11, 2024., alternatively one week later.**

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John von Neumann University undertakes to open the webpage presenting the conference on the university's website 15 days after the signing of the contract on the organization of the conference and to make available to RSAI the data that RSAI will upload to its own website.

The registration period starts in August and goes as early bird registration until the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.

- a) First confirmation of participation will be sent to applicants continuously by the end of the early bird registration period and then onwards.
- b) The preliminary section schedule will be prepared by January 20.
- c) The final program of the conference will be published for the participants by 30th January.
- d) The abstract volume of the conference will be available online from March 15 to the participants.
- e) You can apply for the planned professional trips in advance until March 20. You can only apply for professional trips that actually start on site.

We organize professional trips into three groups.

1. On April 6 and 7, 2024, we are planning longer, even full-day trips to the Southern Great Plain.
2. On April 9 and 10, 2024, we are planning organized trips to Kecskemét and its immediate vicinity.
3. We are planning organized trips to Budapest for April 12, 2024.

### 3. Professional Trips – several alternate options introduced

#### 3.1. Professional Trips in the Southern Alföld

##### 3.1.1. Following the Korda brothers.

Where the defining filmmakers of the 30s and 40s, the Korda brothers, were born and spent their childhood. Túrkeve, Szolnok, Kecskemét.

##### 3.1.2. Makó, Galamb, Pulitzer and Makovecz.

József Makó is the hometown of József Galamb, the constructor of the world's first passenger car produced on an assembly line, the Ford Model T. The journalist Joseph Pulitzer, who created the Pulitzer Prize, was also born here. The city is home to 14 buildings by Hungarian Gaudi, the most prominent representative of Hungarian organic architecture, Imre Makovecz.

##### 3.1.3. Cambridge, Szeged, vitamin C, Nobel.

Albert Szent-Györgyi, the world-famous Nobel Prize-winning scientist, began his research career in Cambridge. His Nobel Prize-winning research was already carried out at the University of Szeged. After the Second World War, however, he lived in the USA. The tour presenting his memories and work ends with the consumption of a Szeged fish juice packed with vitamin C.

##### 3.1.4. Szeged-Hódmezővásárhely- Mórahalom.

The tram-train is a symbol of the renewed Southern Great Plain. How can traffic habits be transformed within and between two big cities? How did a farm center become a spa town?

##### 3.1.5. Szeged is the city of science

Szeged is home to the Laser Research Center of the European Union. Those interested will be shown this and other locations of the scientific life of the region.

##### 3.1.6. Baja and Hajós

Baja is the capital of fish soup, Hajós is the wine region

##### 3.1.7. In the wake of Hungarian culture I Kalocsa, Kiskörös, Petőfi

Kalocsa is the town of paprika. Kiskörös, the best-known Hungarian poet, is the hometown of Sándor Petőfi.

##### 3.1.8. In the wake of Hungarian culture Békéscsaba, Gyula and Szabadkígyós

Ferenc Erkel, born in Gyula, is the founder of the Hungarian national opera, the former director of the Hungarian Academy of Music and the Hungarian State Opera House. Today, Gyula, a multi-ethnic city, is mostly famous for its spa, sausages and the Airbus parts manufacturing plant established here. Szatkígyós is known for Wenckheim Castle.

3.1.9. Following migrations - Szarvas, Orosháza, Tótkomlós,  
Mezőhegyes

Szarvas was re-founded by the Slovaks who settled there. Today, it is known, among other things, for its agricultural research institute. Orosháza is the homeland of special high-quality wheat and flour. The city of glass later became a machine industry center. Tótkomlós is an outstanding city for Slovaks living in Hungary. Mezőhegyes is known for the Lipica horse breeding and historic buildings of the state stud farm.

3.1.10. In the wake of Hungarian culture. Szeged is the city of Art  
Nouveau.

How a city was rebuilt from total destruction after the great flood. International cooperation is still reflected in the names of Szeged districts: Vienna, Berlin, Paris

3.1.11. The former socialist industrial city: Dunaújváros.

How was a socialist industrial city built in the 1950s? What will happen to the city, whose steel works today suffer the consequences of the Russian-Ukrainian war?

3.2. Kecskemét

3.2.1. Kecskemét is the city of Art Nouveau.

3.2.2. Daimler-Benz factory visit in Kecskemét.

3.3. Budapest as you have never seen it

3.3.1. The classicist Budapest

The city of János Hild and József Hild

3.3.2. Budapest 1900.

Budapest, as seen by John Lukács, a historian living in the USA.

3.3.3. Budapest of the Martians.

Where the Martians landed on Earth. You will be able to sit in the former benches of the high school of Martians. we recall the lessons of László Rátz, the former legendary mathematics teacher of the Martians.

- 3.3.4. Budapest's UNESCO heritages
- 3.3.5. The history of Budapest in one street
- 3.3.6. Following the Orient Express.

The world of Budapest railway stations. The lucky ones can see the assembly of the former legendary train. The Orient Express also stopped in Kecskemét before 1914.

## 4. Spatial mobility and spatial flows

The focus of the conference is sustainable mobility. Mobility can be spatial, economic or social. The sessions and partly the plenary lectures are organized around the concept of mobility.

**Spatial mobility** can also be called the geography and economics of flows. Spatial mobility includes the flow of goods, capital, services, people, knowledge, innovation, information, and environmental externalities. The scene of the flow can be local, regional, national, continental or even global. Flow speeds can range from walking speed to the speed of light. The flow may have physical, natural, institutional limits or even costs. Flows in different directions become routes. And the junctions of the flow paths become nodes over time.

The previously listed dimensions of spatial flows provide the representatives of regional science with a diversity and an endless range of research. From the wide variety of possible research topics, we therefore highlighted the following as the conference's most important topics dealing with spatial mobility.

### 1. The spatial mobility of people

The **spatial mobility of people**, its root causes, consequences, and effects is the first topic that the organizers of the conference want to work on.

#### 1.1. Mobility within cities, gentrification

Mobility within cities also includes very diverse topics. Urban mobility interacts with the architectural and urban structure of cities and gentrification. Urban mobility depends on the local residents' choice of residence, the organization of private and public transport, their costs and their substitutability. Here and in all topics, the organizers of the conference would also like to present the environmental effects of mobility.

### 1.1.1. Suggested sections

- 1.1.1.1. *Urban development in Europe*
- 1.1.1.2. *Urban development in North and South America*
- 1.1.1.3. *Urban development in Africa*
- 1.1.1.4. *Urban development in Asia*
- 1.1.1.5. *Urban development in Central Europe*
- 1.1.1.6. *Urban planning*
- 1.1.1.7. *Urban governance*
- 1.1.1.8. *Urban traffic*
- 1.1.1.9. *Urban sociology*
- 1.1.1.10. *Gentrification*
- 1.1.1.11. *Studentification*
- 1.1.1.12. *Urban life with disability*

## 1.2. Suburbanization

Mobility between the city and its surroundings, the phenomenon of suburbanization, also raises many questions. This may include, for example, housing, income or energy poverty. But here you can talk about real estate prices, the individual and social costs of transportation, certain methods of environmental assessment, or the political attitudes and voter behavior of suburban residents.

### 1.2.1. Suggested sections

- 1.2.1.1. *Housing markets*
- 1.2.1.2. *Suburbanization in Europe*
- 1.2.1.3. *Suburbanization in North America*
- 1.2.1.4. *Sustainability and crisis of suburbanization*
- 1.2.1.5. *Life style in suburbs*
- 1.2.1.6. *Sociology of suburbs*
- 1.2.1.7. *Political preferences in suburbs*
- 1.2.1.8. *Effect of crisis in suburbs*
- 1.2.1.9. *Environmental assessment of suburbanization*
- 1.2.1.10. *Transport planning*

## 1.3. Local and regional labor market

Mobility between the city and the countryside is a function of the local labor markets or leisure time and consumer habits. The preservation and transformation of the rural way of life goes hand in hand with greater mobility, which must be taken into account in rural development.



#### 1.3.1. Suggested sections

- 1.3.1.1. *Local labor market*
- 1.3.1.2. *Local enterprises in rural areas*
- 1.3.1.3. *Rural development*
- 1.3.1.4. *Commuting in rural areas*
- 1.3.1.5. *Small scale development in rural areas*
- 1.3.1.6. *Regional labor market*
- 1.3.1.7. *Agri-environmental policy in different countries*
- 1.3.1.8. *Renewable energies and rural energy markets*
- 1.3.1.9. *Supply chains in local food markets and agriculture*
- 1.3.1.10. *Decentralized state and community based development*

#### 1.4. Urbanization

Mobility or migration to big cities affects urbanization. Although we treat urbanization as a uniform process worldwide. But we still need to make a distinction behind the urbanization of different regions. We distinguish East Asian, West Asian, African, Latin American, North American and European urbanization. The size of the hinterland, the number of people moving to the city, and the regulation of the development of cities differentiate the process of urbanization in individual continents and countries.

##### 1.4.1. Suggested sections

- 1.4.1.1. *Urbanization in Western Europe*
- 1.4.1.2. *Urbanization in South Europe*
- 1.4.1.3. *Urbanization in North and South America*
- 1.4.1.4. *Urbanization in West Asia*
- 1.4.1.5. *Urbanization in East Asia*
- 1.4.1.6. *Urbanization in China*
- 1.4.1.7. *Social costs of urbanization*
- 1.4.1.8. *Environmental consequences of urbanization*
- 1.4.1.9. *Sociology of urbanization*
- 1.4.1.10. *Poverty and equal opportunities in urbanization*
- 1.4.1.11. *Urbanization and urban planning*
- 1.4.1.12. *Urbanization in Central Europe*

#### 1.5. International migration

International mobility is an option for many. Emigration from a country is a basic human right. Immigrating to a country is not, however. International mobility gives immigrant-receiving countries the opportunity to receive and employ cheap or highly qualified workers. The receiving countries can be classified into the following groups based on their geographical location and immigration policy: the American countries, with a similar policy to Australia and New Zealand, the countries of the European

Union and the countries of Great Britain and the Middle East, which has left. Individual regions usually welcome people from different countries. There are countries where immigration only solved the structural problems of the labor market. There are places where immigration has eased the absolute labor shortage. There are places where immigration served to conquer and populate frontier areas.

#### 1.5.1. Suggested sections

- 1.5.1.1. *Migration in Western Europe*
- 1.5.1.2. *Migration of Central European labors*
- 1.5.1.3. *Migration in and to the United States*
- 1.5.1.4. *Migration in Asia*
- 1.5.1.5. *Migration in Middle East*
- 1.5.1.6. *Migration in Africa*
- 1.5.1.7. *Political refugees and migration*
- 1.5.1.8. *Migration policy of the European Union and Turkey*
- 1.5.1.9. *Migrational consequences of different crisis – Venezuela, Ukraina, Syria*
- 1.5.1.10. *Migration in the United Kingdom and the Brexit*

#### 1.6. Tourism

The next category of people's mobility is tourism. The different types of tourism are also interesting: leisure, educational, medical or even business or conference tourism. Tourism, as an invisible export, is a means of selling local products and services locally, but still to foreigners. But infrastructure, real estate, settlement and destination developments in the framework of tourism are also important. But tourism also catalyzes settlement marketing, which can ultimately serve the interests and well-being of the local population.

#### 1.6.1. Suggested sections

- 1.6.1.1. *Sustainable tourism*
- 1.6.1.2. *Tourism and infrastucture development*
- 1.6.1.3. *Tourism and urban development*
- 1.6.1.4. *Rural tourism*
- 1.6.1.5. *Over-tourism*
- 1.6.1.6. *Interest conflict between local communities and tourist*
- 1.6.1.7. *Heritage planning and tourism*
- 1.6.1.8. *Tourism in and after 2008 crise*
- 1.6.1.9. *Tourism in and after COVID 19 crise*
- 1.6.1.10. *Touristical Destination Management*

#### 1.7. Sport events – sport tourism

But the biggest challenges for the development of tourism are the organization of the biggest sporting events. Huge crowds of athletes and tourists have to be hosted and accommodated in a short time. At the same time, the infrastructure costs of major sports

events and the construction costs of sports facilities are very high. The balance of supply and demand could only be achieved here at very high prices. On the other hand, the long-term utilization of sports facilities, accommodation, and infrastructure can set a city or a host country on a different development path.

#### 1.7.1. Suggested sections

1.7.1.1. *Football World Cup*

1.7.1.2. *UEFA Champions League in Europe*

1.7.1.3. *Forma 1, Swimming World Championship, Athletics World Championship*

1.7.1.4. *Urban and infrastructure development to mega sport events*

1.7.1.5. *Olympic Games*

## 2. The mobility of goods

The **mobility of goods** also means very diverse topics. The spatial flow of goods is a fundamental condition of today's global economy and globalization. The spatial flow of goods raises many questions, the answers to which are essential for understanding the functioning of the economy and society. These more important areas are: infrastructure development and operation, the transport companies, the production systems of the ordering companies, the external and internal environment of the companies' operations, the spatial division of labor, the operation of the value chains and the composition of the goods to be transported, and the rules of interregional and international trade. In addition to all this, the regional and global nodes of the flow of goods are interesting.

### 2.1. Infrastructure development

Infrastructure development is the task of the state. In order to speed up the solution to the challenges facing infrastructure development, states can attract external financial resources in the form of concessions, PPP, international grants or loans in addition to their own tax revenues. However, the various ways of raising funds should not forget that during financing, it is always necessary to answer who and when pays for the use or ownership of the infrastructure. How does this affect competition between transport sectors, social justice and the competitiveness of individual countries and regions. In the framework of infrastructure development, railway, public road, river navigation, sea and air transport, and cable transport infrastructure issues can be discussed. The question of critical infrastructure can be given a separate section.

### 2.1.1. Suggested sections

- 2.1.1.1. *High speed rails*
- 2.1.1.2. *Motorways*
- 2.1.1.3. *Transboundary connections in Europe*
- 2.1.1.4. *Airport development*
- 2.1.1.5. *Trans European Network*
- 2.1.1.6. *One Belt One Road projects in Europe*
- 2.1.1.7. *One Belt One Road projects in Asia and Africa*
- 2.1.1.8. *Infrastructure development in developing countries*
- 2.1.1.9. *Financing practices in infrastructure development*
- 2.1.1.10. *Critical infrastructure*
- 2.1.1.11. *Energy infrastructure*
- 2.1.1.12. *Internet and telecommunication infrastructure*
- 2.1.1.13. *Railways in modernization*

### 2.2. Transport companies

Investigating the operation of transport companies does not strictly belong to the scope of regional science investigations. However, some important connections can be made if we look at the business strategy of shipping companies. A strategic decision with a serious spatial impact is the performance of the complex logistics tasks of door-to-door delivery, cost-reducing solutions or choosing the location of delivery hubs. This can raise certain airports, ports, logistics centers, and the regions that support them to a higher level of development, but it can also push them into an economic crisis.

#### 2.2.1. Suggested sections

- 2.2.1.1. *Low-cost airlines and destination management*
- 2.2.1.2. *Inter-modal transportation and regional development*
- 2.2.1.3. *Competition between transport companies*

### 2.3. Production systems

The operating system of the production companies significantly influences the transport needs. We can distinguish the production systems developed by Ford, Toyota and Mercedes. Individual production systems induce material flows in different directions. We encounter hierarchical, networked production organizational models. All of these impose different requirements on the employees and infrastructure of each region. And the decrease in specific transport costs encouraged companies to extend their supply and transport chains.

### 2.3.1. Suggested sections

- 2.3.1.1. *American firms*
- 2.3.1.2. *German firms*
- 2.3.1.3. *Fordism versus Toyotism*
- 2.3.1.4. *Product life cycle, infrastucture and labor demand and regional development*
- 2.3.1.5. *Japanese firms*

### 2.4. Value chains

The spatial expansion of value chains and transport chains is also a consequence of the reduction of transport costs. Nowadays, it is becoming apparent that the real risks of globalized transport and value chains have been far underestimated by planners and stakeholders.

#### 2.4.1. Suggested sections

- 2.4.1.1. *Changing value chains in transportation and production lines*
- 2.4.1.2. *Risks in operating of different value chains*
- 2.4.1.3. *Value chains in global economy*

### 2.5. External and internal factors

External and internal factors influencing the operation of transport companies - consumer protection, labor law, environmental protection, competition regulation, market competition, economic growth, etc. - they all contribute to the determination of shipping costs. The rules on freedom of transport and cabotage are particularly important. In the absence of cabotage, transport costs can even double for transport between the same two points. This, like a high transaction cost or customs duty, can even exclude certain regions from the circulation of the world economy.

#### 2.5.1. Suggested sections

- 2.5.1.1. *The role of cabotage in reducing costs of transportation*
- 2.5.1.2. *The role of different freedom in reducing costs of transportation*
- 2.5.1.3. *The role of security regulation in competition between transportation companies*
- 2.5.1.4. *Connections between different external trade policies and infrastructure development*
- 2.5.1.5. *The rola of innovations, e-traffic in transportation*
- 2.5.1.6. *The role of environmental regulation in transportation*

### 2.6. Transported goods

Classification of transported goods - bulk goods, containers, oil, liquefied natural gas, vehicles, foodstuffs, high-value microelectronic components, jewelry, etc. - isolates transport vehicles, the infrastructure required for their service, terminals, intermodal

transport or manufacturing company relations. A significant geographical concentration can be observed in the transport of certain goods, which, among other things, resulted in the creation of global hubs for world trade.

#### 2.6.1. Suggested sections

2.6.1.1. *Oil transportation, logistics, distribution*

2.6.1.2. *Natural gas transportation, regional markets and substitution of critical transportation routes*

2.6.1.3. *Containers*

2.6.1.4. *Vehicles and components*

2.6.1.5. *Logistic centers*

2.6.1.6. *Global hubs*

### 3. The mobility of services.

The flow of services is now only partially connected to the spatial movement of goods. The services are only partially related to the sale and export of products. Examples include marketing or insurance services. However, large groups of services are now located in separate sectors and in locations other than the production of goods. The directions of the flow of services are therefore very different. The construction industry may not even need to be explained.

#### 3.1. Insurance

Insurance and reinsurance companies are globally highly concentrated in a few cities and countries, while the means of transport provided by them can be found almost everywhere in the world. The development of the insurance company's risk-taking strategy made possible the production and operation of increasingly large transport vehicles. Thus, for example, innovations appearing in the insurance market directly affect the size of aircraft and ships that can be manufactured. However, they have an indirect effect on those regions that are able to receive them through their infrastructure developments. On the other hand, they have a negative effect on those regions that, for example, are not able to receive the largest aircraft and therefore miss out on the development of world trade and economy.

#### 3.1.1. Suggested sections

3.1.1.1. *The role of insurances in transportation*

3.1.1.2. *Investment strategies of insurance companies*

3.1.1.3. *Health insurance – national, regional or entrepreneurial risk community*

#### 3.2. Financial services

Financial services are the next large group of services. The activities of traditional financial centers cannot be understood without the financial institutions operating there, financial innovations, the local legal environment and the economic hinterland served. At the same time, the competition of traditional financial centers is significantly modified by off-shore financial centers. Their development history, the components of



their competitiveness, their impact on traditional centers and the world economy as a whole could induce important research and debates.

#### 3.2.1. Suggested sections

- 3.2.1.1. *Traditional financial centers*
- 3.2.1.2. *Off-shore financial centers*
- 3.2.1.3. *Derivatives and financial innovations*
- 3.2.1.4. *Strategy and regulation of multinational financial institution*
- 3.2.1.5. *Competition between financial centers*

### 3.3. Franchise

The operation of companies operating franchise systems and the spatial strategy of their expansion also raises many research questions. Raising capital and sharing risk results in a dispersive spatial expansion strategy. Services operating in the franchise system also operate where large companies operating with centralized investments are not present. This is just as true for a fast food chain, a gas station, as it is for an auditing firm.

#### 3.3.1. Suggested sections

- 3.3.1.1. *Fast food networks*
- 3.3.1.2. *Advanced Business Services*
- 3.3.1.3. *Retail trade*

### 3.4. Software and audio-visual services

The spatiality of software and the film industry is also an interesting research topic. To what extent are the sales of the film industry operating in centralized clusters tied to a continent or culture? What productions become globally successful? How will cutting costs and outsourcing production to lower cost countries affect the film industry?

#### 3.4.1. Suggested sections

- 3.4.1.1. *Software development and distribution in a global space*
- 3.4.1.2. *Movie, and audio.visual clusters*

### 3.5. Software and ICT industries

The software industry demands the attention of regional researchers through its developments and the locations of the developments. On the other hand, it depends on the use of software and search programs, who will be the winners of the Internet economy, whose ads will appear first.

### 3.5.1. Suggested sections

- 3.5.1.1. *E-business*
- 3.5.1.2. *B2B trade*
- 3.5.1.3. *On-line marketing*
- 3.5.1.4. *Internet based production management*
- 3.5.1.5. *E-government*

### 3.6. Legal services

The spatiality of legal services has so far been one of the least researched topics. Why should a law firm operating in the world's leading business center look for local partners in many other parts of the world? Do they want to export legal knowledge or provide complex services for their clients anywhere in the world? Do they want to use statutory arbitration for the benefit of their clients? Or do the sophisticated business and legal techniques learned in the centers of the world economy help local businesses anywhere in the world to become successful in all circumstances?

#### 3.6.1. Suggested sections

- 3.6.1.1. *Common policies of the European Union*
- 3.6.1.2. *Varieties of capitalism*
- 3.6.1.3. *Legal questions of free trade agreements*
- 3.6.1.4. *Off-shore regulation*
- 3.6.1.5. *Legal arbitration*

### 3.7. Business and management consulting

The spatial flow and export of business and management consulting may raise the question of whether everything can be turned into money for the seller or does the sale of modern business techniques increase the success and competitiveness of the companies that purchase them? The export of consulting services raises the methodological question, is the price of specific services the determining factor that needs to be measured? Or efficiency growth and company development achieved through the application of company management techniques purchased during consulting?

#### 3.7.1. Suggested sections

- 3.7.1.1. *The sophisticated strategies for companies, urbans, governments*
- 3.7.1.2. *Optimization strategies for customer*
- 3.7.1.3. *The consultants in different financial centers*
- 3.7.1.4. *The role of consultants in operate and success of companies*

## 4. The mobility of capital.

### 4.1. The spatial flow of capital

The spatial flow of capital has long been researched and thoroughly mapped in regional

economics, financial geography, just like in finance or economics. The spatial flow of capital, but especially FDI, transforms everything that macroeconomics teaches about savings, investments, and IS-LM functions. It is no longer the balance of savings and investment that creates the general equilibrium.

#### 4.1.1. Suggested sections

- 4.1.1.1. *Factors of FDI flows*
- 4.1.1.2. *Exporters of FDI*
- 4.1.1.3. *Importers of FDI*
- 4.1.1.4. *FDI in China*
- 4.1.1.5. *FDI in the USA*
- 4.1.1.6. *FDI in Europe*
- 4.1.1.7. *FDI in emerging economies*
- 4.1.1.8. *Factors of FDI import – competition between regions*
- 4.1.1.9. *Directions of FDI flows*

#### 4.2. The global imbalances

The imbalance has become global both in terms of its scale and in terms of permanent current account positions. Global capital markets make the capital necessary for investments seem obtainable.

##### 4.2.1. Suggested sections

- 4.2.1.1. *Imbalances between the global North and the global South*
- 4.2.1.2. *Imbalances within European Union*
- 4.2.1.3. *Imbalances within USA*
- 4.2.1.4. *Imbalances within East Asian countries*

#### 4.3. Capital accumulation

But instead of accumulating own capital, the factors determining the competitiveness of countries and regions based on foreign working capital are changing. The place of one's own efforts is replaced by elements of the competition for capital coming from outside. Instead of the development of one's own human capital and enterprises, tax incentives and targeted infrastructure developments for a quick return on the investments of enterprises coming from outside will be at the center of the development policy. In the global competition for limited working capital, well-educated workforce, developed infrastructure, public administration operating with low transaction costs are compensated by increasing direct financial support and tax incentives that ensure returns.

##### 4.3.1. Suggested sections

- 4.3.1.1. *Capital accumulation with internal resources*
- 4.3.1.2. *Capital accumulation with external resources*
- 4.3.1.3. *Capital accumulation with natural resources*
- 4.3.1.4. *Capital accumulation with education*

#### 4.4. Foreign Direct Investment

The economic and social effects linked to the spatial flow of capital thus become extremely difficult to measure. In the debate about FDI and global capital flows, it is possible to reach diametrically opposed positions.

##### 4.4.1. Suggested sections

- 4.4.1.1. *FDI, as principle of modernization strategy and policy*
- 4.4.1.2. *Geography of FDI*
- 4.4.1.3. *Political economy of FDI*
- 4.4.1.4. *Spatial hubs of FDI flows*
- 4.4.1.5. *Spatial barrier of FDI flows*
- 4.4.1.6. *Spatial distribution of FDI flows*

#### 5. The mobility of information.

##### 5.1. Information as production factor

One of the foundations of perfect market competition is the complete information of the players. The asymmetric distribution of information places some of the market participants in a more advantageous position and another in a more disadvantageous position. Financial costs, geographic, economic, and cultural barriers to obtaining information contribute to the asymmetric distribution of information.

##### 5.1.1. Suggested sections

- 5.1.1.1. *Theoretical foundation of spatial fragmentation of markets*
- 5.1.1.2. *The price as a set of multifactorial information. What can a regionalist learn from a financial analyst?*
- 5.1.1.3. *Territorial statistics. What indicators best express economic development, competitiveness and prosperity?*
- 5.1.1.4. *The role of inequality indicators in the interpretation of well-being*

##### 5.2. Asymmetric information

The distribution of asymmetric information therefore depends to a great extent on the spatiality of each market, the size of each settlement and the position of the settlement in the hierarchy. The production of information is money, its transmission is technology and its control is power. However, the explosive development of computer technology and the Internet, the ever-decreasing costs of information flow, would eliminate the causes of asymmetric information supply. But still, we cannot talk about the existing inequalities in the distribution of information being reduced. The reasons for this are primarily cultural (linguistic), educational (inability to review and process large amounts of data) and psychological (everyone likes to exist in their well-known "bubble"). A serious question is how much mutual trust can replace it where the information supply is not perfect.

### 5.2.1. Suggested sections

- 5.2.1.1. *Production of information*
- 5.2.1.2. *Transmission of information – ICT technologies*
- 5.2.1.3. *Control and transparency of information.*
- 5.2.1.4. *Spatial barriers of perfect information abundance*
- 5.2.1.5. *Asymmetric information and the bubble phenomenas*

### 5.3. Internet and information technology

Currently, the Internet is the most important, but not the only, location for the flow of information. The spatiality and duration of the flow of information is also an interesting research topic. But perhaps more important than this is how the Internet and computer technology have accelerated the transmission and processing of data, transformed trade, human relations and, in some cases, replaced the mobility of people and goods.

#### 5.3.1. Suggested sections

- 5.3.1.1. *The world without geographical distances*
- 5.3.1.2. *The distance as transaction cost*
- 5.3.1.3. *The internet and hyperactive World*

## 6. The mobility of innovation.

Innovation is one of the most important driving forces of the modern economy. Innovations are necessary for lasting economic growth and maintaining the competitiveness of companies.

### 6.1. Innovation centers

Although the economic importance of innovations has been known for more than a century, the vast majority of registered patents in the world are created in just a few countries and in less than 20 regions around the world. The regions reporting the most innovations are today the most important knowledge centers and industrial workshops of the world economy. Their competitiveness and high GDP per capita comes in no small part from their innovative companies and economy. The question is, if this is the secret of success, why don't other regions follow suit?

#### 6.1.1. Suggested sections

- 6.1.1.1. *Innovation centers, hubs in global economy*
- 6.1.1.2. *Innovation policy in China*
- 6.1.1.3. *Innovation policy in the EU*
- 6.1.1.4. *Innovation policy in the USA*

### 6.2. Innovation flows

But there is also a question, how do innovations spread from innovation centers? The primary way for innovations to spread is by purchasing the patent, the license, and the right to use it. Later, when the patent protection expires, the innovation will be open access and usable. Then you will need to answer two additional questions. How does the innovative

company maintain its competitive advantage? How do followers and competitors utilize the innovation that has become open access? The questions of our sessions will be:  
What determines the innovation milieu in the leading region of the world economy?  
How and at what speed do different innovations spread throughout the world economy, in individual countries and in different consumer groups?

#### 6.2.1. Suggested sections

- 6.2.1.1. *Protection of information – cybersecurity*
- 6.2.1.2. *Protection of information – patent regulation*
- 6.2.1.3. *Protection of information – commerce*
- 6.2.1.4. *Protection of intellectual property*

## 7. The mobility of knowledge.

The ways of acquiring and transferring knowledge are important research topics in themselves. However, the spatiality of the acquisition and flow of knowledge is one of the under-researched topics. In the European Middle Ages, guild lads and industrial apprentices visited many cities and regions during their school years before they could take a master's exam in the city of their choice, become members of the guild and settle down. Their migration was a means of gathering and acquiring the latest knowledge. The resettlement of guild masters from Western Europe in Central and Eastern Europe was also a technique for acquiring knowledge. But a few centuries later, we also come across examples where spatiality is also an important element in the acquisition of knowledge. When compulsory schooling was introduced, the regulations in even more countries stated that it was compulsory for those who have an educational institution within 3-5 km of their place of residence to go to school. The development of teacher training, the construction of new classrooms, and the improvement of transportation options later rendered these restrictions unnecessary. The need for equal opportunities and social justice also made it necessary to require compulsory education for everyone, regardless of place of residence.

### 7.1. The distribution of the efforts required to acquire know

The distribution of the efforts required to acquire knowledge - travel time, financial expenses - between the individual and the state is part of an invisible social contract.

#### 7.1.1. Suggested sections

- 7.1.1.1. *Education economics and geography*
- 7.1.1.2. *What do the international rankings, the PISA test, say about education?*

### 7.2. The mobility for knowledge

The journey for knowledge and the opportunity to learn and individual efforts begin as early as when, in the absence of a local school, children already commute during elementary education. Who doesn't know yellow school buses or parents taking their children to school? In secondary education and vocational training, the proportion of

those who commute daily between their place of residence and the school or live in a boarding school in order to obtain a high school diploma or a profession is even higher. It is a decision situation whether a state brings quality education closer to the students or places the additional costs and time spent on acquiring competitive knowledge on disadvantaged families. During the higher studies, the conflict between the distant place of residence and the place of the university is fully intensified. In the absence of compensation, high travel and accommodation costs can completely exclude talented children from backward regions or poorer families. It is in the basic interest of every society to support the development of talented children. In addition to the lofty ideals of equal opportunities and social justice, embracing and educating talented children also has economic benefits.

#### 7.2.1. Suggested sections

7.2.1.1. *Vocational training as a means of competitiveness*

7.2.1.2. *Free movement of labor – free movement of his family*

#### 7.3. International student and teacher mobility

Even today, the international mobility of students participating in higher education and their teachers is almost only the privilege of the elite. International mobility has now carved out its own global market, where language preference matters most. It created its own hierarchy, where the determining element of the rankings is the highest possible share of students and teachers from elite. But here, educational institutions in the most preferred languages have the most advantage and are in the first half of the rankings. International mobility has now produced the relevant international regulation and incentive system.

#### 7.3.1. Suggested sections

7.3.1.1. *International student mobility*

7.3.1.2. *Free movement of teachers – free movement of his/her family*

7.3.1.3. *Competition between universities for foreign students*

7.3.1.4. *From Bologna to Bologna - European Higher Education Area*

### 8. The mobility of talents

The mobility of talents – athletes, scientist, artists, Nobel Prize winner, decision makers. What is talent? Is it if someone is much better than average in learning the sciences, the arts, sports, creativity, and social sensitivity? Or it's simply when someone gets much higher in the social hierarchy than their parents or grandparents. Talented people can be considered those who reached high public, church, and military positions, if they were not born into this status through their parents. A composer or playwright whose works are still performed 200-300 years after his death is considered talented. A scientist whose work is still referred to and built upon today is talented. A talented athlete is one who plays in first-class, possibly internationally known and successful sports clubs. The biographies and shared examples of many composers, visual artists, scientists or elite athletes show that talent does not only



consist of greater than average talent in a particular field, but also requires diligence and perseverance. But openness to the new, taking risks and, as a result, being able to choose a new place of residence are at least as necessary. The latter is valued when the utilization of his knowledge and talent requires it. The example of our university's namesake, John von Neumann, also strengthens this example.

#### 8.1.1. Suggested sections

8.1.1.1. *Scientist*

8.1.1.2. *Composer, musicians*

8.1.1.3. *Football players and coaches in TOP 5 European Championship*

8.1.1.4. *Inventors, entrepreneurs, businessmen*

## 9. The mobility of externalities

The mobility of externalities – environmental pollutions, CO<sub>2</sub>.

### 9.1. The spatial nature of the externalities

The spatial nature of the externalities may already be derived from their name. Spatiality is also clearly evident from the most frequently mentioned examples. These are phenomena such as transboundary pollution, air pollution, or pollution in the upper reaches of a river and damage in its lower reaches. For a long time, it was sufficient to model neighborhood effects in the assessment of cross-border air pollution. In the case of river pollution, the strength of the connections on the axis matters. Both are well-known and applied methodologies for territorial statistics. But the evaluation techniques used in environmental economics also rely on spatiality in many cases. For example, how much effort, money, travel time and expense are we willing to sacrifice for clean air or silence? How much are we willing to sacrifice for this if we buy the house in a suburbanization zone or if we go on a weekend trip?

#### 9.1.1. Suggested sections

9.1.1.1. *Ozon depletion*

9.1.1.2. *Acid rain*

9.1.1.3. *Climate change – changing factors, changing risks*

9.1.1.4. *Climate change – changing agriculture*

9.1.1.5. *Climate change – critical infrastructure*

9.1.1.6. *Climate change – renewable energy*

9.1.1.7. *Climate change – urban re-development*

### 9.2. Positive or negative externalities

Positive or negative externalities often influence a region's development, competitiveness, tourism, and the well-being of its residents.

### 9.2.1. Suggested sections

- 9.2.1.1. *Externalities in tourism*
- 9.2.1.2. *Externalities in regional development*
- 9.2.1.3. *Externalities in urban life and development*

## 10. The mobility of risks and uncertainty – vis maior, hurricanes, political events.

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### 10.1. Measuring risks

Today, risk can be measured in terms of the value of money as a negative or at least value-decreasing asset. The spatiality and mobility of risks, as an important research topic, cannot be avoided today. The sharing of risks takes place primarily between companies, insurance companies or financial institutions, or even between states, but the measures are often also taken place, but the effects definitely take place in space as well. If a passenger plane takes off, the airline has spread the insurance risk among up to 30 insurers through reinsurance. Among the root causes of the 2008 global economic crisis was the uncontrollability and spatial distribution of risks through derivative securities. Thus, the effects of the risks that became a reality during the crisis appeared not only where a debtor went bankrupt, but everywhere.

#### 10.1.1. Suggested sections

- 10.1.1.1. *From SWOT analysis to measuring risks*
- 10.1.1.2. *Spatial distribution of risks*

### 10.2. Location of risks

The location of risks can be a settlement, a company, a region, a critical infrastructure or the site of a natural disaster. The factors that make up the risks in the case of each type still require further research and debate.

#### 10.2.1. Suggested sections

- 10.2.1.1. *Natural disasters*
- 10.2.1.2. *Critical infrastructure*
- 10.2.1.3. *Epidemics*
- 10.2.1.4. *Economy, financial sector*

### 10.3. Flow of risks

The means, methods, necessary and sufficient conditions for the flow and spread of risks can be versatile. The risk can be transmitted by a risky derivative security, an ill-prepared employee, or the lack of substitute products, services, or delivery routes.

#### 10.3.1. Suggested sections

- 10.3.1.1. *Financial innovations, derivatives*
- 10.3.1.2. *Transportation*
- 10.3.1.3. *Quarantines*

## 11. The mobility of crisis

### 11.1. The flow or spread of crisis

The flow and spatial extent of crises, especially at the international level, was by no means a self-explanatory phenomenon. The optimistic decision-makers thought that they could stop the crisis at the borders of the areas and companies they managed. In reality, this has mostly failed. We know from experience that the spread of crises has its primary carriers and triggers. These are energy carriers, but especially the price and missing quantity of crude oil and natural gas, the interest rate of the dollar, the supply of international capital markets or health epidemics. They transmit crisis situations to all countries.

#### 11.1.1. Suggested sections

11.1.1.1. *Changes of crude oil price*

11.1.1.2. *Shortages of energy and other natural resources*

11.1.1.3. *Currency crisis*

11.1.1.4. *Debt crisis*

11.1.1.5. *Climate change*

### 11.2. Specialized, regional crisis

Regional i.e. not worldwide, crises can be caused by problems arising from overpopulation and the resulting migration, imbalances in the euro zone, natural resources other than energy carriers, problems in the food economy, problems arising from the high level of indebtedness and faulty economic policies of individual countries. However, it is still possible to research what mechanisms transfer crisis situations from one country to another.

#### 11.2.1. Suggested sections

### 11.3. Location of birth of crisis

#### 11.3.1. Suggested sections

Kecskemét, 2023. 05. 25.

Forman Balázs  
Associate Professor

Kárpáti József  
Associate professor, Dean of the Faculty

## Schematic Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Opening ceremony, greetings and keynote 8h45- 10h00			
	Parallel session 5 8h30-9h45	Parallel session 10 8h30-9h45	Parallel session 15 8h30-9h45
	Interval 9h45-10h00	Interval 9h45-10h00	Interval 9h45-10h00
Parallel session 1 10h00-11h15	Parallel session 6 10h00-11h15	Parallel session 11 10h00-11h15	Parallel session 16 10h00-11h15
Interval 11h15-11h30	Interval 11h15-11h30	Interval 11h15-11h30	Interval 11h15-11h30
Parallel session 2 11h30-12h45	Parallel session 7 11h30-12h45	Parallel session 12 11h30-12h45	Parallel session 17 11h30-12h45
Lunch Break 12h45-13h45	Lunch Break 12h30- 13h30	Lunch Break 12h30-13h30	Lunch Break 12h30-13h30
Plenary Session II 13h45-15h00	Plenary Session III 13h30-14h45	Plenary Session IV 13h30-14h45	Plenary Session V 13h30-14h45
Interval 15h00-15h15	Interval 14h45-15h00	Interval 14h45-15h00	Interval 14h45-15h00
Parallel session 3 15h15-16h30	Parallel session 8 15h15-16h30	Parallel session 13 15h15-16h30	Parallel session 18 15h15-16h30
Interval 16h15-16h30	Interval 16h15-16h30	Interval 16h15-16h30	Interval 16h15-16h30
Parallel session 4 16h30-17h45	Parallel session 9 16h30-17h45	Parallel session 14 16h30-17h45	Closing ceremony 16h30-17h30

## Photo annex

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## Proposal to Allocate RSPP extra revenues to finance RSAI waivers.

### Background

The RSPP publisher shifts from Wiley to Elsevier on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. The deal between RSAI and Elsevier involves that all papers should be in open access with Advanced Payments Contributions (APCs) on accepted papers, where RSPP will have 50 waivers per year to allocate with the number of papers increasing from 130 in 2024 to 210 in 2028.

### Proposal

The strategy of RSPP has been based on special issues assumed by associated and guest editors. The aim of this proposal is to have open access without APCs for 12 planned issues per year by the editorial team based on the extra revenues provided by RSPP plus 14 special issues with APCs from guest editors. Each special issue has on average 8 papers.

- The 12 planned special issues promoted by the editorial team are:
  1. 1 for Neil Reid and Isabelle Nilsson (North America)
  2. 1 for Carlos Azzoni and Patricio Aroca (Latin-America)
  3. 1 for Louafi Bouzouina (North of Africa)
  4. 1 for Samuel Odei (Africa)
  5. 1 for Gabriela Carmen Pascariu (Eastern Europe).
  6. 1 for Ana Vinuela (Southern Europe).
  7. 1 for Sumana Banerjee and Abdul Shaban (Asia and Central Asia)
  8. 1 for Paul Snow and Jian Wang (Eastern Asia and South-Eastern Asia)
  9. 1 for Peter Nijkamp and Karima Kourtit.
  10. 1 for Karina Sass and Budy Resosudarmo on environmental regional economics
  11. 1 for Katarzyna Kopczewska and Emmanouil Tranos on Advanced Methods for Policy and Practice
  12. 1 for Maria Abreu and Eveline Van Leeuwen on emerging issues in regional science.
- Issues sponsored by RSAI extra revenues from RSPP.

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
RSPP Extra Revenues		17 456 €	35 411 €	55 018 €	76 397 €	99 676 €
RSPP Open Access Fees		1 596 €	1 676 €	1 760 €	1 848 €	1 940 €
RSPP RSAI Waivers		11	21	31	41	51

- Combining with the Plans of Elsevier for RSPP the result is the following in number of papers.

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Waivers from Elsevier		50	50	50	50	50
Papers accepted 2023		24				
Waivers from RSAI		11	21	31	41	51
Full paid		22	39	44	49	54
Discounted		23	40	45	50	55
TOTAL		130	150	170	190	210

- Expressed in terms of Special Issues

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Fed by Waivers from Elsevier		6	6	6	6	6
Fed by Papers accepted 2023		3				
Fed by Waivers from RSAI		1	2	3	5	6
Financed by Guest Editors within 12 Issues		2	4	3	1	0
Planned for 12 issues		12	12	12	12	12
Proposed for Guest Editors		4	6	9	11	14
Total		16	18	21	23	26



# Special Issues 2023 and 2024

Table 1: Plan for Special Issues

Special Issue	Editor chair	A	R	T	CfP	N
Design, Implementation and Evaluation of Territorial Inequalities Policies	Ana Vinuela	1 0	0	1 0	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2760-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-urban-future-in-the-global-south.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2760-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-urban-future-in-the-global-south.html</a>	2022-5
Regional Development in Latin-America	Carlos Azzoni	1 1	0	1 1	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2625-rspp-call-for-paper-special-issue-on-regional-development-in-latin-america.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2625-rspp-call-for-paper-special-issue-on-regional-development-in-latin-america.html</a>	2023-6
Pandemics, Location and Mobility	Louafi Bouzouina	1 5	0	1 5	<a href="https://regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2883-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-pandemics,-location-and-mobility.html">https://regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2883-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-pandemics,-location-and-mobility.html</a>	2022-7e
Regional Development in China	Jian Wang	1 5	0	1 5	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2430-rspp-call-for-paper-special-issue-on-regional-development-in-china.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2430-rspp-call-for-paper-special-issue-on-regional-development-in-china.html</a>	2022-8e
Ukraine: Geopolitical Realities and Regional Development Perspectives	Gabriela Carmen Pascariu	1 1	0	1 1	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2968-call-for-special-issue-and-rspp-workshop-ukraine-geopolitical-realities-and-regional-development-perspectives.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2968-call-for-special-issue-and-rspp-workshop-ukraine-geopolitical-realities-and-regional-development-perspectives.html</a>	2023-1
Pandemics, Location and Mobility	Louafi Bouzouina	1 3	0	1 3	<a href="https://regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2883-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-pandemics,-location-and-mobility.html">https://regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2883-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-pandemics,-location-and-mobility.html</a>	2023-2
General	Tomaz	1 1	0	1 1		2023-3
Population imbalances in Europe	Juan Cuadrado Roura	9	2	1 1	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2955-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-population-imbalances-in-europe.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2955-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-population-imbalances-in-europe.html</a>	2023-4
Urban Future in the Global South	Abdul Shaban	9	6	1 5	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2702-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-design,-implementation-and-evaluation-of-territorial-inequalities-policies.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2702-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-design,-implementation-and-evaluation-of-territorial-inequalities-policies.html</a>	2023-5
Sustainable Regional Development in Africa	Samuel Odei Amponsah	1 0	0	1 0	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/3060-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-sustainable-regional-development-in-ghana.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/3060-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-sustainable-regional-development-in-ghana.html</a>	2023-6
Regional Development in Iran and Afghanistan	Abdul Shaban	2	4	6	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2872-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-sustainable-development-of-afghanistan.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2872-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-sustainable-development-of-afghanistan.html</a>	2023-7
Chinese migration, diaspora, and mobility	Maria Abreu	3	4	7	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/upcoming-events/item/2967-workshop-on-%E2%80%9Cchinese-migration,-diaspora-and-mobility%E2%80%9D,-pembroke-college,-cambridge,-20-april-2022.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/upcoming-events/item/2967-workshop-on-%E2%80%9Cchinese-migration,-diaspora-and-mobility%E2%80%9D,-pembroke-college,-cambridge,-20-april-2022.html</a>	2023-8
Pathbreaking trajectories: Socio-economic and Institutional de-peripheralization of marginal areas	Neil Reid	2	1 2	1 4	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2962-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-pathbreaking-trajectories-socio-economic-and-institutional-de-peripheralization-of-marginal-areas.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2962-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-pathbreaking-trajectories-socio-economic-and-institutional-de-peripheralization-of-marginal-areas.html</a>	2023-9
EU REAL Issues	Bartek Rokicki*	1	4	5		2024-1
Civic Universities, Ecosystems and Regional Development in Low-Industrial-Density Regions	João Leitão e João Ferreira*	1	5	6	<a href="http://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2860-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-civic-universities,-ecosystems-and-regional-development-in-low-industrial-density-regions.html">http://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2860-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-civic-universities,-ecosystems-and-regional-development-in-low-industrial-density-regions.html</a>	2024-2
Applications of Advanced Innovative Methods in Regional Science	Katarzyna Kopczevska and Emmanouil Tranos*	0	0	0		2024-3
Climate Economic	Karina Sass and Budy Resosudarmo	2	1	3	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/3132-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-climate-economics.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/3132-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-climate-economics.html</a>	2024-4
Sustainable Regional Development in the North of Africa	Louafi Bouzouina	3	0	3	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/3060-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-sustainable-regional-development-in-ghana.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/3060-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-sustainable-regional-development-in-ghana.html</a>	2024-5
Covid-19 and Cities: Is it merely a short-term crisis	Sumona Banerjee	0	0	0	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/3067-rspp-call-for-papers-special-">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/3067-rspp-call-for-papers-special-</a>	2024-6



or has it changed our cities forever?					<a href="#">issue-on-covid-19-and-cities-is-it-merely-a-short-term-crisis-or-has-it-changed-our-cities-forever.html</a>	
Emerging Technologies and Regional Development	Budy Resosudarmo	1	1	2	<a href="https://regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2882-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-emerging-technologies-and-regional-development.html">https://regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/2882-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-emerging-technologies-and-regional-development.html</a>	2024-7
The Impact of European Integration in Western Balkan Countries	Jolita Kacani	0	0	0	<a href="https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/3051-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-the-impact-of-european-integration-in-western-balkan-countries.html">https://www.regionalscience.org/index.php/news/journals/item/3051-rspp-call-for-papers-special-issue-on-the-impact-of-european-integration-in-western-balkan-countries.html</a>	2024-8
Social economy and entrepreneurship in urban and local development - Theory, policy and practices of community engagement	Neil Reid**	0	0	0	<a href="#">Regional Science - RSPP Call for Papers   Special Issue on Social economy and entrepreneurship in urban and local development - Theory, policy and practices of community engagement</a>	2024-9
The Geography of Happiness	Peter Nijkamp, Karima Kourtiti et al**	0	0	0		2024-10
Digitalization transition and regional dynamics	Roberta Capello**	0	0	0		2024-11
Latin America Sustainable Development	Carlos Azzoni and Patricio Aroca	0	0	0		2024-12
Geo-computation and spatial planning for regional development	Paul Snow	0	0	0		2025-1
Cities and Environmental Hazards in Southeast Asia	Budy Resosudarmo	0	0	0		2025-2
Scientific scrutiny of European Policies	Gabriela Carmen Pascariu	0	0	0		2025-3

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