

Call for Papers

Network Conference of Spa-ce.net

The Role of Public Sector in Local Economic and Territorial Development in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe

13th – 15th September 2017, Sofia, Bulgaria

(Field trips on 16th – 17th September 2017)

Spa-ce.net is a common-interest network of Central, Eastern and South Eastern European institutes and organisations active in the field of spatial research and planning. The network serves to share common visions, and to develop trust and an interest in cooperation, as well as to motivate and mobilise major actors, and to encourage research. It also provides a forum for a meeting of minds and an exchange of information, experience and research results. The network is always open to new members. The mission is to support sustainable development on the European continent by providing spatial research results to scientists, policy-makers and the interested public. It can contribute significantly to improving the quality of life, to enhance the protection and management of Europe's cultural and natural heritage, and to creating new jobs and spurring economic growth.

The network Conference 2017 is focusing on the local economic development, and its impact on spatial development thus addressing the traditional and smart approaches, mechanisms, and tools and planning instruments for territorial development and management.

The main objectives of the conference are: to foster the academic debate on impacts of public policy and market economic development on local and regional development and planning in Central and Eastern Europe; to identify similarities and differences between the drivers of local economies and their spatial development patterns; to share case studies about leadership and participation in territorial economic development under different planning cultures and responsibility patterns, and to explore possibilities for seizing opportunities by utilizing global and macro-regional strategic policy directives.

The Conference addressees are researchers, academics, professionals, administrators, policy and decision-makers. The conference is co-organized by the Urban Planning Department at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (Sofia), Spectra Centre of Excellence at the Slovak University of Technology (Bratislava), Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER, Dresden) and the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The preliminary conference programme includes official opening with invited key-note speakers, three tracks with parallel paper presentations, and three round tables.

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Network of Spatial Research and Planning
in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe



The annual Spa-ce.net conference aims to discuss the following key issues:

- a). Decentralization, self-governing territorial units as the drivers of local economies, e.g.,
 - Actors, networks and cooperation - involvement, inclusion, empowerment, representation, networks in the development of local economies; community-led local development
 - Functional and administrative regions framing economic (development) processes – commuting, mobility, services
 - Local and regional cooperation towards higher competitiveness.
- b). Leadership and participation in territorial economic development: the role of public authorities under different planning cultures and responsibility patterns, e.g.,
 - Leadership and its impact in Central European Planning Culture
 - Public interest, political power and democracy – spatial planning implications; public participation in spatial planning and governance in relation to economic development.
 - Expert capacity for territorial management and economic development; public-private partnerships
- c). Public interest and economic development in planning: impacts on local and regional development
 - Cross-sectorial measures in support of urban resilience and climate change adaptation as public interests and the factors of local economic development.
 - Regional identity as driving force for the utilisation of territorial capital; heritage as a resource for local economic development – instruments for preservation, socialization and promotion of heritage.
 - The role of EU funds in the context of scarce municipal resources: impact, absorption, synergies, effectiveness and efficiency of resource use; the Impact of large infrastructure projects on spatial and local economic development; planning instruments applied at local level for attracting FDI and enhancement of local businesses, competing land-use patterns.

Abstract submissions

Alongside representatives of the member institutions of the Spa-ce.net network, policy-makers and other interested researchers and practitioners, PhD candidates undertaking research on one of the above topics are invited to submit papers. Authors should send an abstract with a maximum of 250 words with title, thematic scope and keywords, indicating which of the three mentioned topics their paper most closely addresses. The authors attending the conference will also be asked to prepare a manuscript to be submitted for publication.

The application documents must be sent by **June, 30th 2017**. Please send your application form by E-Mail to Assoc. Prof. Dr. Arch. Milena Tasheva-Petrova (tasheva_far_uacg@abv.bg). The selection and notification of participants is expected by 10th July 2017.

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The optional field trips are scheduled as follows:

City walk, September 14th

Sofia as the governmental, financial and cultural centre of Bulgaria, is located on the intersection of three main transport corridors. Though there is historical evidence that the city dates back to 29 BC and some recent excavations prove the existence of a settlement dating from the bronze, iron and Hellenic ages, it is only in the last 100-140 years that the contemporary city has been developed. Except the geopolitical location, other factors and entities that make Sofia unique in SE Europe are: the altitude (550 m.), the peculiar mountain frame, the main city open public spaces providing beautiful landscape views, the proliferation of mineral water springs, the diverse cultural layers, the preserved cultural identity in an environment of rapid globalization, and the religious and ethnic tolerance.

Sofia is the economic heart of Bulgaria and home to most major Bulgarian and international companies operating in the country. Sofia experienced rapid economic growth up until 2008 During the EU pre-accession years (up until 2007), and a successive downturn after the EU accession and the Global Economic crises around 2009. From 2007 to 2011, the city attracted a cumulative total of \$11.6 billion in foreign direct investment. In January 2015 Sofia received the highest rank amongst cities in Southeast Europe and 30th out of 300 global cities) in terms of combined growth in employment and real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in 2013–2014. Increasingly, Sofia has been recognized as an outsourcing destination for multinational companies and in 2015 Forbes listed Sofia as one of the top 10 places in the world to launch a start-up business, whereas the Globalization and World Cities Research Institute ranked Sofia as Beta- world city in 2015.

The city walk will focus on the development of public space network within the city centre and the preservation and revalorization of cultural heritage in relation to economic growth, infrastructure development and the forthcoming Bulgarian presidency of the EU from January to June 2018.

Field trip to Plovdiv, September 16th

With more than 8 000 years of history, Plovdiv is the second largest city in Bulgaria with traditions in cultural heritage management. There are many remains from antiquity of the medieval walls and towers; Ottoman baths and mosques; a well-preserved old quarter from the National Revival period with beautiful houses, churches and narrow paved streets. There are numerous museums, art galleries and cultural institutions. Nowadays Plovdiv hosts various cultural events, exhibitions and commercial fairs. After Plovdiv was elected as European Capital of Culture in 2019, an ambitious cultural program has started its realisation.

Organized one-day field trip will allow closer study of the preparation process of Plovdiv for hosting the 2019 European Capital of Culture initiative. During the trip meetings will be organized with representatives of various institutions that play an important part in this process. Thanks to a diverse group of speakers and the experience on site, the participants will have the opportunity to confront their own theoretical knowledge with the practicalities of regional and local development led by cultural heritage management, event management and city marketing. The study trip will offer opportunity for seeing key areas within the city as the historic preservation site the Old Town of Plovdiv known with its Bulgarian Renaissance architectural style and the renovated in 2014 and further developed as a creative industries quarter Kapana („The Trap“). The trip itself will be an occasion to perceive and analyse the changing character of the Bulgarian landscapes and countryside.

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Field trip in and around Sofia, September 17th

Participants that may allow themselves a longer stay in the capital of Bulgaria, may enjoy the organized by a non-profit organization free English language sightseeing walking tour, climb the Vitosha mountain and enjoy the view to city and its surrounding landscapes, or attend some of the numerous events organized on the occasion of the Day of Sofia (September 17th).

Organised by

Department of Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy

SPECTRA Centre of Excellence at the Slovak University of Technology

Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development

OECD - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

For more information feel free to contact the Spa-ce.net Conference coordinators:

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