

Meeting of the European Organising Committee

Venue: Bratislava,
18 February 2012

STATEMENT OF MINUTES APPROVAL

I, _____, hereby confirm that the minutes of the ERSA European Organising Committee meeting, circulated on April 19th, 2012 by Maciej Turala (ERSA Secretary) are an accurate reflection of the meeting.

I give my consent for the ERSA President to approve the minutes as official.

(place and date)

(signature)

Meeting of the European Organising Committee

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MINUTES

Charlie Karlsson opened the meeting, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the LOC for hosting the meeting.

Item 1.

Approval of the meeting agenda and appointment of an EOC member responsible for verifying the minutes

The agenda of the meeting was approved without changes (attached as appendix 1). Francisco Carballo-Cruz has agreed to verify the meeting minutes.

Item 2a.

Long range discussions

ERSA 2011 Annual Report

Richard Kelly reported that 2011 was a rather successful year in terms of the financial related aspects. Both the congress in Barcelona and the Summer School in Luxembourg were quite successful. ERSA has received a positive feedback from the congress participants as well as from the students who have participated in the Summer School.

The new team at the office succeeded, together with the Barcelona LOC, in convening a successful congress bringing together nearly a 1,000 delegates.

The latter part of 2011 was devoted to perceiving how ERSA moved forward in terms of furthering cooperation with sections and with other organisations with a view to promote regional science and ERSA itself. Therefore, marketing materials are currently being prepared to disseminate information on ERSA's activities. The website will undergo a sort of a lifting operation to render it even more useful and easy to browse.

The Executive Director has been very active in furthering and deepening collaboration with other organisations, namely with *inter alia* UNIMED, FAMISE, AESOP.

The office has also been busy in updating the conventions for the congress and the summer school. There exists now a more general convention which is more legally consistent with the organisation's mission and purposes.

In terms of promotion and image, ERSA built its profile on the Facebook and LinkedIn social networks. From now onwards, the Summer School and other actions may be promoted online by means of external portals.

In terms of communication within ERSA (amongst its sections and congress delegates) a corporate brochure is now being designed which will serve as a promotion tool for the sections as well as ERSA. This area (collaboration with the sections) is perceived as a very important aspect of the Executive Director's commitment. It has been noted that there was no real presence

of the sections at the Barcelona congress, meaning that delegates were not encouraged to become members of sections, ERSA and RSAI. Another strategy devised for rendering the sections ever more involved and active was to convene mini conferences on specific areas of expertise.

Summarising: the key areas which do require further attention are: (1) marketing, (2) working with the sections and (3) promoting ERSA amongst its stakeholders.

Charlie Karlsson invited participants to discuss at length other agenda items.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose deemed of paramount importance to promote ERSA and ensure a wider external visibility. He suggested that, in addition to Facebook and LinkedIn, ERSA should also have a Twitter account which would allow to be followed by as many members as possible.

Andre Torre agreed that extra advertisement would be mandatory so that ERSA would be ever more visible. This means that more events should be organised throughout the year – the congress is well known, but many people do not relate it to ERSA. He suggested that 4 or 5 smaller events should be organised (workshops, mini-conferences).

Gunther Meier wondered what sort of target audiences would these marketing actions address.

Richard Kelly explained that the primary target should be young researchers and PhD students – capitalising on large interest in the ERSA activities: there was an increase in the number of young researchers participating in Barcelona and a clear interest in the Summer School.

The other major target group should be the private sector – in order to generate additional funding.

Lasura Resmini thanked Richard Kelly and Maristella Angotzi for the great job done so far. She agreed that highlighting the presence of national sections during the congresses would be of an utmost importance to attract membership within the existing sections and even favour the creation of new ones. She suggested that this should be implemented as quickly as possible.

Richard Kelly explained that it was being pondered the creation of a brochure comprising information on the individual sections. It was also ventilated the idea of including a membership invitation to join a section in the congress materials. Subscription should then be considered even during the congress.

Maristella Angotzi added that non-members could be approached even before the congress with an invitation to contact the section or the office.

Vicente Royuela considered that advertising ERSA would be important; however, he suggested a different target group – he stressed that only 9% of delegates, whom attended the Barcelona meeting, were professionals. He wonders whether ERSA wants to remain an academic society or move on toward more professional circles.

He further stated that a stand for sections would not be productive. Instead, he defended there should be available a separate mini-book comprising messages from the sections would be a better option.

Gunther Meier said it should be possible to become a member at the congress in a fairly easy way. Non-members should be contacted before the online registration in the congress to allow for becoming a member.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose asked what would be the purpose of creating a brochure. He emphasised that it should address mainly the sponsors with a view to render ERSA ever more visible. He further commented that targeting young academics would be superfluous as ERSA is very successful amongst them already. On the other hand, branching out to other associations may generate more benefits, including additional members and congress participants. Finally, highlighting the presence of the sections at a congress would be advisable; nonetheless, any information from the section should be bi-lingual.

Charlie Karlsson thanked Richard Kelly and Maristella Angotzi for their commitment to work. He added that ERSA should become a kind of umbrella with a basic strength in the academia related field, which should be used to attract other associations and organisations to realise various projects. In this light, ERSA should attempt to build its position with regard to the sphere of professionals and of the policy makers alike. Succeeding in the previous objectives will enable ERSA to reach also the final key objective – attracting and co-opting substantial sponsors.

Item 2b.

Long range discussions

Update of the by-laws

Richard Kelly explained that the need to up-date the by-laws stems from several conversations with Edwige Cottenie, the Belgian lawyer who was reviewing ERSA's conventions and by-laws.

Maciej Turala added that in addition to the changes suggested by the lawyer, there were some others which should also be included in the proposal. They would be the outcome of the work realised on the ERSA Section Strategy and ERSA Financial Strategy. He unveiled the proposed changes in line with the 'By-laws update proposal' (attached to the minutes as appendix 2).

Charlie Karlsson moderated the discussion on the following issues. After lengthy discussion, there follows the conclusions:

- Article 2 of the by-laws to be changed in accordance with the proposal;
- Article 3 of the by-laws to be changed in accordance with the proposal;
- Article 11 of the by-laws to be changed using a general phrase (i.e. '*changes of the by-laws are to be carried out in accordance with the current law*') which will safeguard the association from another change of this article in case of further changes;
- Article 13 of the by-laws should be changed to reflect the right to nominate candidates for the position of President rests with the EOC **as well as** with the sections which should be consulted or which could formally appoint candidates;
- Article 4 of the by-laws should be changed in such a way that would render it impossible for corporations to have far-reaching decision-making capacity within ERSA – instead of becoming full members with the right to have a representative in the ERSAC, they could be associated with a representative in the EOC;
With regard to the other aspect covered in article 4 – the procedure of recognising new sections – it has been agreed that introducing detailed regulations into the by-laws is not required; in case a new section is formed, ERSA will need to ensure that it is set up according to the principles as established by ERSA by means of negotiations;

- Articles 10 and 16 of the by-laws are to be altered, so that decisions made by the ERSAC (article 10) and the EOC (article 16) are to be registered by the secretary who may be assisted by the Executive Director in performing this task;
- Article 13 of the by-laws is to be changed in line with the proposal, while article 12 of the by-laws is to be extended to the following phrase: *‘The board members, including the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, can be proposed by the EOC or any full member of the association (section) from amongst the association’s associate members and are elected by the council’*;
- It was also agreed that article 16a should be added to the by-laws in the form as outlined in the proposal and extended with a statement which renders formal the duty of an elected official (secretary) to ensure that the Executive Director’s tasks are diligently realised in due time.

Charlie Karlsson closed the discussion of this item. It was agreed that detailed proposals of changes should circulate amongst the sections prior to the next EOC and ERSAC meetings.

Item 2c.

Long range discussions

ERSA Section Strategy 2012+

Maciej Turala presented the proposal for the ERSA Section Strategy 2012+ (attached as appendix 3).

Charlie Karlsson invited everyone to debate at length this item.

Laura Resmini voiced some concern about offering the support of the ERSA office to the sections. She emphasised that this point requires further specific debate and planning. She considers sections should ask for support rather than have it for granted.

Gunther Meier suggested that sections should also be held responsible for promoting RSAI’s activities.

Tomaso Pompili said sections should be obliged to inform ERSAC about their activities rather than report them afterwards.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose expressed his doubts about waiving out the section fees for newly created sections. He is not convinced that offering such incentives will work out well; on the contrary, waiving the fees out could have an adverse impact. The offered support should be limited to reduced fees for associate members joining ERSA events and providing support and guidance in the organisation of the section.

He further pointed out that nowadays ERSA covers most of Europe; in this manner, there is not much space left for it to expand into. He proposed ERSA should consider expanding beyond Europe – into Africa and Central Asia.

Andre Torre stated ERSA should be prepared to offer incentives for Northern African countries. Nowadays, the French conferences receive many more papers from Tunisia, Morocco and Libya. There is a huge change occurring in Northern Africa and ERSA should actively consider this window of opportunity.

Richard Kelly asked if RSAI would take action with a view to expand into Africa.

Gunther Meier explained that RSAI seems to concentrate on China, India and other Asian countries. However, ERSA should coordinate its actions with RSAI in order to avoid conflicts.

Laura Resmini said that the Italian section had already discussed this issue at length. This section was convinced that the Palermo congress in 2013 should be a good opportunity to stimulate relationships with Northern African countries and see whether or not there were foundations for the establishment of new sections.

Vicente Royuela materialised his doubts as it regards the significance of Northern Africa as a potential source of regional scientists. He stated that there was a special session on regional science covering Northern Africa and that it only accommodated a few papers.

Andre Torre reemphasised that there are many researchers in Northern Africa who are willing to enter into a network but do fail to know what sort of procedures they have to comply with.

Charlie Karlsson thanked discussants for their inputs. He decided that the document will be updated to include the conclusions for the purpose of being shared with the sections and presented at the ERSAC meeting in August 2012 for further and thorough analysis.

Item 2d.

Long range discussions

Journal database – progress report

Gunther Meier informed there has been no progress from the Barcelona congress onwards.

Item 2e.

Long range discussions

Scientific Committee revision guidelines – discussion

Maciej Turala informed a draft proposal had not been prepared for the meeting.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose volunteered to draft such a proposal before the EOC and ERSAC meetings to be held in August 2012.

It was agreed that Maciej Turala should distribute the proposals discussed during the EOC and ERSAC meetings in August 2011 in Barcelona to the new EOC members to allow them to have a lengthy knowledge on the earlier proceedings and discussion on this issue.

Vicente Royuela deemed useful to note that some observations materialised during the Barcelona Congress would be of paramount importance for reviewing the guidelines and the ERSA policy toward the scientific aspect of the Congress. He explained the congress in Barcelona included 25 themes besides the special sessions. A major concern in terms of the scientific programme relates to sessions' homogeneity. In this light, he suggested ERSA should request authors to provide additional information on their papers such as subtopics or JEL codes which would be useful for the tailoring of the whole conference programme.

It was also worth mentioning that there was only 5% rejection rate, which may be regarded as an opportunity for young people to present their work. Nonetheless, concern was also expressed

about the research scientific quality, which often varies significantly. As a matter of fact, it currently happens that the Scientific Committee decides to drop some papers from an R-session to an O-session. Yet, there is no consistent evidence confirming that the R-sessions are of better quality. The question is, should the reviewing process be ever more demanding or not?

Andre Torre agreed that the R-sessions are regular ones for the time being and he wondered what would be the added value of attending the R-sessions. Do young scholars really take scientific advantage if they attend such sessions?

Gunther Meier explained there were two types of sessions which had to do with acceptance and rejection of abstracts. The objective was to improve the quality of the congress by increasing the reviewing criteria to be applied to the selection of papers to be presented in the R-sessions. A major problem that ERSA was facing had to do with the structure of the Congress and the structure of ERSA itself – they seemed to generate a risk of unequal rejection rate amongst countries. That is why it might be somewhat difficult to be stricter in what regards the rejection of abstracts. Unless there is a homogenous selection of papers, such criteria cannot be applied. Such an approach might have been quite used in the past; however, conference committees do have to resort to ever more consistent selection criteria with a view to render R-sessions more attractive.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose said there was a significant reason for this differentiation. The O-sessions used to provide a larger quality panel, while the R-sessions used to resort to someone who would play the discussant role, which somehow bettered and refined the presentations' quality. Should there be differences between the O-sessions and the R-sessions, it is due to the introduction of special sessions. Under the aforementioned circumstances, one may understand that the S-Sessions do seem to undermine the value and quality of the remaining sessions.

Andre Torre agreed that there seemed to exist a competing pattern between R and S sessions.

Laura Resmini said ERSA should be careful not to create too many differences between sessions. According to her, the act of highlighting differences between types of sessions might have a severe impact upon the conference as a whole and thus considers that if ordinary sessions are of poor importance then they should be eliminated.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose disagreed saying that the Barcelona case cannot be generalised and, thus, it does not convey the idea that ordinary sessions are significantly lower in terms of quality. In addition, these sessions should be regarded as additional opportunities to submit a paper by August, not April. He noted that the O-sessions offer a mixture of known scholars and less known academics willing to present their research.

Charlie Karlsson said the organisation should consider continuing this discussion again in the upcoming conference which is to be convened in August, thanks to the inputs as materialised by Andres Rodriguez-Pose. He asked whether it would be possible or not to provide convenors / organisers with more information envisaging to increase homogeneity of sessions.

Maristella Angotzi explained that some additional fields could be added to the registration form.

Gunther Meier said that the JEL codes are not going to be very helpful. He stated that keywords could perform this role better, however the categorisation of keywords as provided by RSAI is probably out-of-date at the moment as it dates back to the 1980s.

Item 3a.

Congresses

2011 Congress in Barcelona, Spain – summary report

Vicente Royuela reported on the Barcelona congress. The presentation outlining the main notions of the report is attached as appendix 4.

The report highlights congress statistics concentrating on: (1) age structure, (2) country of origin, (3) primary occupation. The report further emphasises bibliometric data on: (4) H-indices of all submitting authors. The remaining congress statistics relate to (5) attendance and (6) session quality in terms of homogeneity of discussed topics.

Some of the recommendations from the report included the following items:

- The theme on territorial marketing was the smallest and should be rejected.
- The day of presentation has no impact on attendance, although time slots right after lunch have slightly better attendance.
- Quality matters – R- sessions have a higher attendance rate, however the reputation of presenters is much more important than the R or S session status. Indeed, highly reputed scientists tend to overshadow the other sessions.

Gunther Meier deemed such information will be useful for the next convenors / organisers as well as for the EOC to monitor developments. It could also prove to be important for marketing purposes.

Charlie Karlsson considered important to render formal a procedure in line with the guidelines as tailored and drafted by Vicente Royuela for the purpose of materialising a report after each Congress.

Item 3b.

Congresses

2012 Congress in Bratislava, Slovakia – progress report

Miroslav Sipikal spoke about the on-going preparations for the Bratislava congress. The presentation outlining the main notions of the report is attached as appendix 5.

Maristella Angotzi added that there are over 830 abstracts and papers submitted already.

Miroslav Sipikal stated that the LOC has not yet decided how to arrange for the closing session and the gala dinner, i.e. when to have the closing session in the programme and which model to follow (Jonkoping or Barcelona).

Charlie Karlsson invited everyone to discuss the aforementioned issue.

Tomaso Pompili asked about the mobility of participants to and from the Congress venue.

Miroslav Sipikal explained that the chosen hotels are located at about 15-20-minute away from the Congress venue (by public transportation).

Charlie Karlsson asked if the delegates will get public transportation passes for the duration of the congress. He suggested that the public transportation company could become a congress

sponsor and that the transport passes could be available at the registration desks of hotels where participants are going to be lodged.

Andre Torre suggested to have student assistants to help with transportation issues.

Charlie Karlsson further suggested that the LOC should prepare a list of restaurants.

Laura Resmini suggested to request assistance to be provided by the tourist office.

Charlie Karlsson said that it may be better to organise shuttle buses to the gala dinner venue from the hotels rather than from the university.

Miroslav Sipikal raised a further issue concerning the fee level for Russian delegates. He asked whether Russia should be treated as a low income country or not.

Charlie Karlsson explained that for strategic reasons the Russians should be encouraged to attend the congress in Bratislava as well as in Palermo. He suggested that a clear signal should be sent to the Russian section. Indeed, EOC agreed to temporarily charge a reduced fee – for a period of two years, which does cover for congresses to be convened in Bratislava and Palermo.

Andre Torre and **Francisco Carballo-Cruz** agreed that such a solution would be advisable for strategic reasons.

Miroslav Sipikal further introduced the idea of an urban policy day which would contemplate one-day attendance fee for practitioners. He addressed this question to EOC.

EOC agreed it would be worthwhile trying and agreed that LOC should go ahead with a view to implement this idea.

The report was approved.

Item 3c.

Congresses

2013 Congress in Palermo, Italy – progress report

Fabio Mazzola reported some progress in what concerns the preparations for convening the Palermo congress. The presentation outlining the main structure of the report is attached as appendix 6.

The major issues covered in the progress report include:

- scheduled dates of the congress:
between August 27th, 2013 and August 30th, 2013;
- venue:
Faculty of Economics, University of Palermo;
- accommodation:
it was reported that most hotels are located in the city centre, whereas the campus is some 15-minute-walk away from the centre; in case of a large congress and the need of using additional hotels, the transportation of participants should be resolved by resorting to a mixture of public transportation and shuttles;
- travel connectivity:

it is very good during summer time, as there are many cheap flights available;

- sponsors:
it is estimated that 140,000 EUR will be collected in terms of sponsorships;
- scientific programme:
the Italian section has already discussed the issue and it was decided that the main theme will be “Regional Integration. Europe, Mediterranean and the World Economy”; special sessions relevant to the main theme have also been tailored and proposed;
- combining events:
the Italian section would like to combine their annual meeting with the congress; the idea is to hold regular sessions in English along with some policy sessions in Italian;
- gala dinner venue:
the venue for the gala dinner should be an open space, on the assumption the number of participants is close to a 1,000;
- funding:
securing sufficient financial support proves to be a difficult matter; there are elections planned for mid-2012; therefore, securing any sort of public sponsorship before the elections may be a rather difficult task; in terms of private sponsorship UniCredit is the key potential sponsor.

The progress report was approved.

Charlie Karlsson reported briefly that the first meeting of the President and the Executive Director with the Local Organising Committee convening the 2014 congress in St. Petersburg is planned for September 2012.

Item 3d.

Congresses

Future Congresses – 2015 Congress in Lisbon, Portugal – proposal

Francisco Carballo-Cruz presented the proposal of the Portuguese section to host the 55th European Congress in Lisbon in 2015 envisaging to combine it with the 21st annual congress of the Portuguese section (ADPR). The presentation outlining the main structure and concept of the proposal is attached as appendix 7.

The major issues which the proposal includes are:

- hosting institution:
Technical University in Lisbon along with the Portuguese Section of ERSA which is strong and active; the congress is to reinforce and reward the work of nearly 200 regional scientists in Portugal;
- host city:
Lisbon is an attractive destination which has an excellent environment for conferences providing outstanding satisfaction rates of conference participants; the city has very good flight connections, many of them provided by low-cost carriers. The Lisbon airport is located at just 10 minutes away from the city centre;
- accommodation:
the city offers a wide variety of accommodation – over 40,000 rooms of various price categories;
- theme:

the main theme of the congress could be: “Spatial organisation, social integration and regional development”.

- dates:
between August 25th, 2015 and August 29th, 2015.

It was agreed that the LOC will assume the very same financial principles as those established for previous events.

Charlie Karlsson welcomed the proposal and assured the decision will be formally made by ERSAC in August 2012. He added that other sections should be notified. He has also informed there still exists the possibility of submitting bids for organising/convening the congress in 2015.

Item 4a.

Summer schools

2012 Summer School in Umea, Sweden – summary report

Richard Kelly reported on the on-going preparations for the upcoming summer school. The first applicants have already sent in their application forms. The event financial related variable is nearly complete as well as the scientific and logistic arrangements are being dully and thoroughly prepared.

He added the Belgium headquarters communicates with Johan Lundberg on a weekly basis

The report was approved.

Item 4b.

Future Summer Schools

Proposal of a Summer School in 2013 in Lund, Sweden

Proposal of a Summer School in 2013 in Pula, Croatia

The submitted proposals to organise the 2013 summer school in Lund and Pula are attached as appendix 8 and appendix 9, respectively.

Charlie Karlsson deemed it worth explaining that the decision concerning the 2013 summer school will have to be made in August by ERSAC. He admitted it would be better to branch out of Sweden. Yet, the Lund proposal seems to rest upon rather sound financial support and he suggested it should be seriously considered.

As far as the Croatian proposal is concerned, he stated LOC would be capable of financing the event only up to 20% of the costs. Considering that in the past the summer schools resorted to the collaboration of EIB, and this year there is no such support, the LOC’s capability to cover for most of the costs is of key importance.

He further reported on a recent round of negotiations with the EIB (along with Richard Kelly). The negotiations showed that the EIB is now reorganising its contacts with academic institutions. It has been agreed during those talks that Richard Kelly will start negotiations with the head of a newly set up institute in the EIB (responsible for the contacts with academic institutions) endeavouring to secure an agreement for cooperation before the congress in Bratislava.

Richard Kelly added that EIB changed its sponsorship strategy but it was pleasing to see that ERSA was considered as a future partner for networking and cooperation.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose announced that 2012 is the first year without funding for a summer school; therefore, it seems rational to rely upon solutions which offer secure funding.

Richard Kelly agreed that the Croatian proposal cannot resort to ERSA's financial funding.

Tomaso Pompili mentioned that it might be feasible to approach the EBRD in London with a view to seek for funding to Croatia to organise the event.

Charlie Karlsson suggests that sections should be notified that the possibility of submitting proposals for a summer school in 2013 is still open and that the decisions concerning the summer school will be made in August 2012.

Item 5a.

Finances

2011 budget closing

The Treasurer's report is attached as appendix 10.

Laura Resmini reported that 2011 was a second consecutive year with surplus. The results reflect the success of the Barcelona congress and a conservative strategy regarding expenses. She emphasised that day-to-day office expenses and some other expenditure items were significantly rationalised and thus reduced.

At the end of December 2011 two of ERSA's bank accounts (in Belgium and in Italy) held deposits in the amount of 184,000 EUR. Most of the reserve is deposited in Belgium, while the Italian account had over 30,000 EUR.

Under the aforementioned circumstances, it was suggested that part of the resources should be moved from the Belgian bank account to the Italian one which serves as a reserve account. Bearing this in mind a meeting is planned with a representative of the Italian bank to improve the conditions of the account.

Charlie Karlsson invited everyone for lengthy discussion on this issue.

Richard Kelly emphasised that the invoicing for the congress was very accurate and very few refunds resulted in a smooth closing of the congress related finance.

Charlie Karlsson stressed that there has been significant improvement in financial management throughout the year of 2011.

Laura Resmini further reported on the financial audit as realised by Frank Bruinsma which was a positive one. The audit report only raised the issue unfolding unfavourable conditions in the Italian Bank and which shall be solved soon.

Charlie Karlsson proposed that the reports concerning 2011 can be recommended for ERSAC's approval.

The suggestion was approved.

Item 5a.

Finances

2012 budget and sponsors for ERSA

Laura Resmini reported that the budget estimates for 2012 were relatively conservative regarding the congress size. The latest reports on the number of submissions require an update of the budget to accommodate for a much larger number of participants than previously envisaged. Other than that, there were no foreseeable problems with the 2012 budget worth reporting or discussing.

Richard Kelly informed that the convention regarding the congress in Bratislava will be signed in the coming weeks and once this happens the Treasurer shall receive up-to-date information.

Charlie Karlsson added that the partner signing the convention will be the University of Bratislava which secures ERSA's interests in case of any legal problems.

Miroslav Sipikal explained that according to the Slovak law, it is not possible for the LOC to sign a contract; otherwise, it has to be signed by a university holding legal status to undertake such commitments.

Charlie Karlsson started the whole discussion.

Vicente Royuela asked what would be the purpose of keeping relatively large reserves.

Charlie Karlsson explained that since the association has employees, it requires greater liquidity as income does not spread out evenly throughout the year. He further explained that there is a cost related to any form of cooperation with institutions and that there may be congresses which might not be as successful financially in the future. The reserve is also perceived as a form of a buffer which gives ERSA the possibility to undergo new actions. He suggested that Laura Resmini should propose a solution for using the reserve.

The report was approved.

Item 5c.

Finances

Provisional budget for 2013

Laura Resmini commented that a draft of a budget for the upcoming year of 2013 will be ready for an in-depth analysis in the next EOC meeting in August 2012.

Item 5d.

Finances

Strategy for financing ERSA

The draft of ERSA Financial Strategy 2012+ is attached as appendix 11.

Charlie Karlsson explained that there are several approaches that may be endeavoured in order to secure additional revenues for ERSA: (1) to further increase the congress; (2) to attract more organisations eager to attend the congress; (3) to branch out to more associations which could support ERSA in its day-to-day activities.

He emphasised that ERSA must be better at working with the DG Regio – getting contacts there and identifying alternative funds for supporting ever more activities.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose suggested to clarify that the sponsorship fees are annual and to allow diamond sponsors to have representatives at the EOC rather than at the ERSAC.

Item 6a.

Other ordinary business

Journals, Papers in Regional Science

No report has been presented.

Item 6b.

Other ordinary business

EIB-ERSA Prize and Epainos Prize

Charlie Karlsson reported that the EIB continues its commitment to fund the prize.

Gunther Meier explained that the prize committee will come up with candidates and a decision will be taken by the end of March 2012.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose reported that the procedure last year was not as transparent as expected. According to him, the President and Secretary of the committee should be replaced by two other colleagues: Hans Westlund (as President) and Eveline van Leeuwen (as Secretary).

Charlie Karlsson opened the discussion.

Tomaso Pompilli on the assumption the aforementioned replacement would be rendered formal, which would be the strategy to ensure coherence and continuity within the committee.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose explained other members of the committee are not to be replaced. In this light, the continuity of the organisation policy and management is no longer an issue. Indeed, he informed also intends to continue on as a member of the committee.

The proposal was approved.

Item 6c.

Other ordinary business

Elections of EOC members

Maciej Turala reported that the term of Phil McCann as the European Editor of Papers in Regional Science expires in December 2012.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose suggested that Jouke van Dijk, who now acts as editor-in-chief of PiRS, should be appointed to replace Phil McCann.

Item 7.

Any Other Business

Updating the archive of congress papers

Gunther Meier reported the REPEC database has now been updated with papers from 2011 and 2010 congresses. There still remains a gap of 3 years (2009, 2008 and 2007). However, he thinks it does not seem worth the effort to fill this gap. Instead, he suggested the organisation should concentrate efforts on a regular updating of the database from now onwards.

The report was approved.

Item 7.

Any Other Business

Vicente Royuela suggested that the system of prizes awarded by ERSA should be changed. He explained that in terms of the EPAINOS prize, its current format does not accommodate the practice which exists in some countries whereby the supervisor is always a co-author of any paper submitted by a Ph.D. candidate.

Charlie Karlsson suggested Andres Rodriguez-Pose should discuss at length the issue with the EPAINOS committee and elaborate further on this matter for the purpose of tailoring more transparent criteria.

Item 7.

Any Other Business

Vicente Royuela raised the issue of publishing congress papers with an ISBN or an ISSN number. He reported some participants had materialised such a request. In this manner, there should be designed some procedure with a view to fuel ever more opportunities to publish under an ISBN or an ISSN number.

Charlie Karlsson voiced the idea of creating an ERSA working paper series, which would include these papers.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose added that ERSA should then ensure some way of keeping the standard of published papers.

Tomaso Pompilli commented that preparing such a publication brings about many risks, therefore, the proposal should not be considered.

Gunther Meier added that ERSA needs to communicate that papers are included in the REPEC database, which, however, is not equivalent to a publication. Nevertheless, there are numerous journals where papers can be submitted. He added that ERSA policy with regard to congress papers should be clearly communicated on the website and in the confirmation e-mails.

Item 7.
Any Other Business

Vicente Royuela added that there was also the issue of preparing invitation letters which are required by some participants in order to get visas to attend the congress. The question is: who should issue them (LOC or ERSA)?

It was agreed that ERSA office and local organisers should agree between themselves about who should issue such letters. The letters should clearly state the status of the participant's registration.

Item 7.
Venue and provisional date for EOC-meeting in Bratislava in August, 2012

It was agreed that the next EOC meeting will take place on August 21st, 2012. The meeting will start at 12 o'clock with lunch and the actual meeting is scheduled to start at 1 p.m. The exact place of the meeting remains to be confirmed.

Charlie Karlsson thanked every participant who attended the meeting.

The meeting was closed.

Meeting of the European Organizing Committee

Bratislava, February 18th, 2012

APPENDIX 1 (AGENDA)

Words of Welcome by the President

1. **Approval of the meeting agenda and appointment of an EOC member responsible for verification of meeting minutes**
2. **Long range discussions**
 - **ERSA 2011 Annual Report** (Richard Kelly)
 - **Update of the by-laws** (Richard Kelly, Maciej Turala)
 - **Strategy for supporting the creation of new sections** (Maciej Turala)
 - **Journal database – progress report** (Gunther Maier)
 - **Scientific Committee revision guidelines – discussion**
3. **Congresses**
 - **2011 Congress in Barcelona, Spain – summary report** (Vicente Royuela)
 - **2012 Congress in Bratislava, Slovakia – progress report** (Miroslav Sipikal, Stefan Rehak)
 - **2013 Congress in Palermo, Italy – progress report** (Fabio Mazzola)
 - **Future Congresses:**
 - **2015 Congress in Lisbon, Portugal – proposal** (Francisco Carballo-Cruz)
4. **Summer schools**
 - **2012 Summer School in Umea, Sweden – summary report** (Johan Lundberg)
 - **Future Summer Schools**
 - **proposal of a Summer School in 2013 in Lund, Sweden**
 - **proposal of a Summer School in 2013 in Pula, Croatia**
5. **Finances**
 - **2011 budget closing** (Laura Resmini, Richard Kelly)
 - **2012 budget and sponsors for ERSA** (Laura Resmini, Richard Kelly)
 - **Provisional budget for 2013** (Laura Resmini)
 - **Strategy for financing ERSA** (Charlie Karlsson, Richard Kelly)
6. **Other ordinary business**
 - **Journals, Papers in Regional Science** (Phil McCann)
 - **EIB-ERSA Prize and Epainos Prize**
 - **Elections of EOC members:**
 - **Phil McCann** – European Editor, PiRS, term ends in December 2012
7. **Any Other Business**
 - **Updating the archive of congress papers** (Gunther Maier)
8. **Venue and provisional date for EOC-meeting in Bratislava in August, 2012**

Please inform the secretary if you wish to raise an item under any other business.

Meeting of the European Organizing Committee

Bratislava, February 18th, 2012

APPENDIX 2 (BY-LAWS UPDATE PROPOSAL)

The need to update some of the by-laws has been highlighted by the Belgian lawyer – Edwige Cottenie – who has been approached by the ERSA Office with regards to conventions and by-laws amongst other issues.

The following items were mentioned by the lawyer:

Article 2.

This article includes out of date information on the location of the association, indicating the Geography Department of the Faculty of Sciences, UCL. This information should be updated.

Article 3.

The lawyer was also concerned about the relationship between ERSA and RSAI. She stated that the word “*organe*” is somewhat confusing. A change to “*organizations*” or other equivalent may be worth considering.

Article 11.

Except for modification of the purpose of ERSA, the approval of a modification of the by-laws does no longer require a royal decree; modifications related to the rights and obligations of the members and concerning the general meeting (i.e. on decision making) require a notary deed however.

It is suggested that the article be changed to reflect this fact.

Article 13.

The article states that the President of the association is elected by the council. It is not clear however who is entitled to nominate candidates for the President.

The practice so far has been that the EOC has set up search committees who came up with proposals of candidates who were approved by the EOC and presented for the ERSAC’s consideration and decision. It is to be considered whether to include this in the by-laws.

Other potential changes resulting from ERSA strategic objectives

Article 4.

One of the provisions of this article states that ERSA is made up of national or linguistic sections and three other full members elected by the ERSA Council. This item gives ERSA the possibility of honouring other organizations or even natural persons who are perceived as key to the association.

Item to be discussed in light of the Financial strategy of ERSA.

Another issue regulated in Article 4. relates to the recognition of new full members. The current regulation is rather general. In light of the proposed section strategy it could be considered to extend these regulations by the following details:

The application for section recognition shall include at least:

- *the potential section's name;*
- *information on the potential section's geographical scope;*
- *information on the potential section's legal status in the country of origin;*
- *summary of principles for governing the section, i.e. governing bodies, office terms, election procedures, etc.;*
- *statement of compliance with the constitution of ERSA and its by-laws;*

The decision on recognising a new section requires a 2/3 majority in the ERSA Council. Upon a positive decision of the ERSA Council, the newly recognised section is asked to sign an agreement for cooperation with ERSA (as outlined in strategic area 1.).

Articles 10 and 16

Article 10 stipulates that the registry of ERSAC's decisions is to be held by the secretary. Considering that we now have a full time office and an Executive Director located in Belgium it stands to reason that there should be a change in this article to "*executive director*".

The same point may raised with regards to article 16 – the registry of the EOC's decisions should now be held by the *executive director*.

Following on this point, the by-laws do not recognize the fact that a professional office exists and do not outline its duties in a fashion similar to the EOC, ERSAC and board members. It thus seems necessary to add an extra article to the by-laws (article 16a) which would specify the tasks of the executive director, for example:

The executive Director is responsible for the daily operations of the ERSA office, in particular for: (1) maintaining registries, (2) maintaining accounting documentation, (3) maintaining other legal documentation of the association.

Articles 12 and 13

Article 13 regulates that the vice-president, secretary and treasurer can be proposed by any member of the association and are elected by the council. A similar regulation is included in article 12 where it is stated that the board / EOC members are elected by the council from among the association's members.

It is suggested that the appropriate passage is struck from article 13, while article 12 is extended to the following:

The board members, including the vice-president, secretary and treasurer, are elected by the council from among the association's members.

Meeting of the European Organizing Committee

Bratislava, February 18th, 2012

APPENDIX 3 (ERSA SECTION STRATEGY 2012+)

Over the past year, several factors that have that have obstructed ERSA's cooperation with its sections have been identified. This together with the experience accumulated by the ERSA office, which has been working with the sections as of 2008, allowed two strategic areas which require intervention to be highlighted:

- ERSA's relationship with the existing sections;
- ERSA's role in supporting the formation and set up of new sections.

Strategic area 1.

Relationship between ERSA and existing sections

The relationship between the sections and ERSA is relatively flexible and not formalised. This is perceived positively and the ERSA Section Strategy has no intention of changing this state of affairs. Instead, it is envisaged that this strategic area of activity should concentrate first of all on clarifying existing relationships between ERSA and its Sections.

It is proposed that written agreements or contracts for cooperation between ERSA and all of its sections are signed. Such a document shall outline clearly that:

it is the section's duty to:

- maintain its legal status in the country of origin;
- ensure that the section is managed democratically;
- organise annual or other regular events;
- pay the annual fee;
- report on the section's activities in the preceding year and on the section's plans for the upcoming year during each ERSAC meeting held during the congress;
- maintain an up-to-date website (individually or using the ERSA's website);
- provide information on their membership status to RSAI as well as ERSA;
- promote ERSA's activities locally;

the section is entitled to:

- send a representative to the ERSA Council meetings (the section's president shall be considered as the section representative unless stated otherwise by the section);
- receive administrative support from the ERSA Office for organising events or other section activities;
- use the ERSA logo on all documentation, including conference materials;
- receive ERSA's support in promoting the section's activities;
- apply for organisation of congresses, summer schools and other events (i.e. workshops) organised under the auspices of ERSA;

Strategic area 2.

Supporting the formation and set up of new sections

ERSA is an association of associations. It seems that ERSA may not go as far as organising new sections in countries / regions which have no such organisation. On the contrary, the process of setting up new sections needs to remain a bottom-up one. In other words, a group of regional scientists first needs to legally set up an association in accordance with local law and then to apply to ERSA to become a recognised section.

The application for section recognition shall include at least:

- the potential section's name;
- information on the potential section's geographical scope;
- information on the potential section's legal status in the country of origin;
- summary of principles for governing the section, i.e. governing bodies, office terms, election procedures, etc.;
- statement of compliance with the constitution of ERSA and its by-laws;

(this paragraph to be considered as an addition to the by-laws)

The decision on recognising a new section requires a 2/3 majority in the ERSA Council. Upon a positive decision of the ERSA Council, the newly recognised section is asked to sign an agreement for cooperation with ERSA (as outlined in strategic area 1.).

(this paragraph to be considered as an addition to the by-laws)

Once a new section has been recognised ERSA should support its development and growth by means of:

- exempting such a section from the duty of paying the 250 EUR fee for a period of up to three years;
- giving priority to new sections as hosts to ERSA workshops and summer schools;
- offering extra reduced fees to ERSA events for section members for a period of up to three years;

Some practical examples of ERSA activities which may support the sections include promotion through the website and newsletter as well as annual meetings of section representatives with ERSA office staff during the congress.

Website/Newsletter

ERSA team is aware that it is an association of sections. It makes sense to prepare promotional material and activities, which ERSA could offer.

The promotion of the ERSA logo on the sections websites, and on the local conferences. This reinforces the partnership with the Section and ERSA

More visibility on the ERSA website, links to the sections website or usage of the ERSA web access. Advertisement of events, activities, workshops on the website and in the newsletter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Placing names on the conferences at regional level to say that they are in collaboration with ERSA. Displaying the events in different websites etc Using the ERSA logo along with the Section and University logos

Creating a partnership with publishers to ensure that ERSA and Sections are well displayed and talked about, so, news updates on members numbers and what they are trying to achieve each year with workshops, summer schools and conferences at regional level.

Proposal: - Publishers to be encouraged to attend large section congresses.

Annual meeting at the Congress

A meeting with Section Representatives with the ERSA office to work on the foundation and improving the image of ERSA and Sections. To discuss, what are their needs, how to protect and give visibility to the Sections and ERSA.

Asking them what events do they attend, what events would they like to see, at International, European, Regional and Local level of the section.

Creating rollups displaying the logo of the Sections and contact details, as well as, providing marketing material of the activities the section is doing etc in their own languages. To be then displayed inside the new brochures of ERSA.

Meeting of the European Organizing Committee

Bratislava, February 18th, 2012

APPENDIX 4 (SUMMARY REPORT – BARCELONA CONGRESS)

- The present report has been built using information from the program, the registration, some bibliometric information (Publish or Perish soft) and a survey.
- It allows to characterise several patterns of the conference

	Tuesday 2012	Wednesday 2012	Thursday 2012	Friday 2012	Saturday 2012
8:30 - 9:00	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	
9:00 - 9:30		Plenary Session: Diego Puga	Plenary Session: D. Augello and M. E. Gomez	Plenary Session: P. J. Les - 10:20	Plenary Session: P. J. Les - 10:20
9:30 - 10:00		Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
10:00 - 11:00		Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions
11:00 - 11:45	Registration				
11:45 - 12:45		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:45 - 14:00		Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions
14:00 - 15:45		Parallel sessions	Plenary Lecture by Johannes Wimmer, Johannes Wimmer, Johannes Wimmer	YOUNG SESSIONS	YOUNG SESSIONS
15:45 - 16:15	Registration	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
16:15 - 18:00	17:00 - 18:00 Opening Ceremony: Richard Florida	Parallel sessions	Parallel sessions	Parallel Session: EOP Prize award: NSAI announcements	Parallel Session: EOP Prize award: NSAI announcements
	18:00 - 21:00 Welcome Reception (Pala de Pedralbes)	19:15 - 20:30 New Urban World - Drink	19:30 - 20:00 ERSA Football Cup	20:00 - 20:00 Gala Dinner MNAC Museum	



Publish or Perish

- 952 registered delegates and over 1,000 participants
- Lots of young people
- Higher proportions of women than previous ERSAs (30% in Liverpool 2008)

Age	Men	Women	Total
24-30	86 22%	63 28%	149 24%
31-40	133 34%	82 37%	215 35%
41-50	79 20%	56 25%	135 22%
51-60	57 15%	19 9%	76 12%
over 60	31 8%	3 1%	34 6%
Not available	188	91	279
Total	574 65%	314 35%	888

Country	Men	Women	Total
ANGOLA	1 0.2%	50%	1 0.3%
SOUTH AFRICA	3 0.5%	100%	1 0.0%
Total Africa	4 0.7%	80%	1 0.3%
BRAZIL	10 1.7%	63%	6 1.9%
CANADA	5 0.9%	83%	1 0.3%
CHILE	1 0.2%	100%	0 0.0%
COLOMBIA	1 0.2%	100%	0 0.0%
MEXICO	0 0.0%	0%	1 0.3%
UNITED STATES	24 4.2%	89%	3 1.0%
URUGUAY	1 0.2%	50%	1 0.3%
Total America	42 7.3%	78%	12 3.8%
CHINA	0 0.0%	0%	1 0.3%
JAPAN	34 5.9%	83%	7 2.2%
KOREA REPUBLIC OF	1 0.2%	100%	0 0.0%
SINGAPORE	2 0.3%	100%	0 0.0%
SOUTH KOREA	1 0.2%	100%	0 0.0%
TAIWAN	1 0.2%	100%	0 0.0%
Total Asia	39 6.8%	83%	8 2.5%
AUSTRIA	20 3.5%	87%	3 1.0%
BELGIUM	9 1.6%	82%	2 0.6%
CROATIA	1 0.2%	33%	2 0.6%
CZECH REPUBLIC	5 0.9%	71%	2 0.6%
DENMARK	2 0.3%	50%	2 0.6%
ENGLAND	1 0.2%	50%	1 0.3%
FINLAND	11 1.9%	85%	2 0.6%
FRANCE	28 4.9%	62%	17 5.4%
GEORGIA	1 0.2%	100%	0 0.0%
GERMANY	53 9.2%	74%	19 6.1%
GREECE	12 2.1%	43%	16 5.1%
HUNGARY	3 0.5%	50%	3 1.0%
ISRAEL	8 1.4%	73%	3 1.0%
ITALY	47 8.2%	53%	41 13.1%
LATVIA	0 0.0%	0%	1 0.3%
NORWAY	7 1.2%	70%	3 1.0%
POLAND	18 3.1%	56%	14 4.5%
PORTUGAL	22 3.8%	47%	25 8.0%
ROMANIA	4 0.7%	24%	13 4.1%
RUSSIA	5 0.9%	71%	2 0.6%
SLOVAKIA	4 0.7%	80%	1 0.3%
SPAIN	93 16.2%	66%	48 15.3%
SWEDEN	19 3.3%	63%	11 3.5%
SWITZERLAND	15 2.6%	88%	2 0.6%
THE NETHERLANDS	43 7.5%	67%	21 6.7%
TURKEY	18 3.1%	41%	26 8.3%
UKRAINE	0 0.0%	0%	1 0.3%
UNITED KINGDOM	32 5.6%	73%	12 3.8%
Total Europe	481 83.8%	62%	293 93.3%
AUSTRALIA	6 1.0%	100%	0 0.0%
NEW ZEALAND	2 0.3%	100%	0 0.0%
Total Oceania	8 1.4%	100%	0 0.0%

- Most delegates were European (90%), but significant amount of Americans (54 registered) and Asiatic (47).
- Spanish represented 15%, far below 2000's ERSA (30% out of 400)

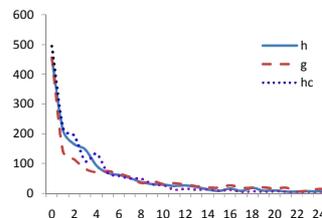
- Professionals are just 9% of total registration
- Full professors represent 25% of all academics

Position	Men	Women	Total general
Academic: PhD Student	86 20%	62 25%	148 22%
Academic: Junior Researcher	14 3%	18 7%	32 5%
Academic: Assistant Professor	68 16%	43 17%	111 16%
Academic: Post-Doc Researcher	26 6%	25 10%	51 7%
Academic: Associate Professor	78 18%	40 16%	118 17%
Academic: Senior Researcher	22 5%	18 7%	40 6%
Academic: Full Professor	132 30%	36 14%	168 25%
Academic: Other	8 2%	8 3%	16 2%
Total Academic	434 91%	250 92%	684 91%
Professional:Assistant Researc	2 5%	2 10%	4 6%
Professional:Researcher	33 77%	16 76%	49 77%
Professional: Manager / Direct	3 7%	2 10%	5 8%
Professional:Other	5 12%	1 5%	6 9%
Total Professional	43 9%	21 8%	64 9%

Some bibliometrics

- Most papers are coauthored
- Most authors have low bibl. indices (Q1=0, Me=2, Av=4.5)

Authors per paper	Papers	Total authors
1	312 34%	312 16%
2	303 33%	606 31%
3	211 23%	633 33%
4	66 7%	264 14%
5	16 2%	80 4%
6	6 1%	36 2%
	914 100%	1931 100%

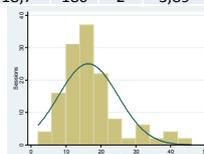
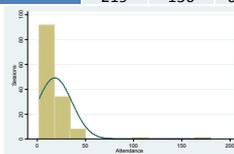


- Average h index higher at S and R sessions

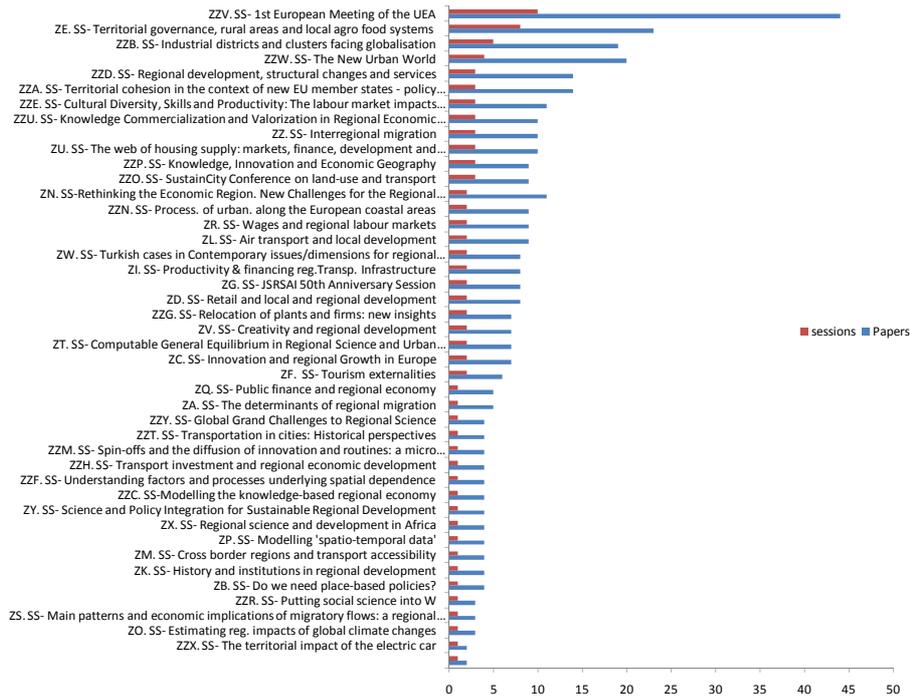
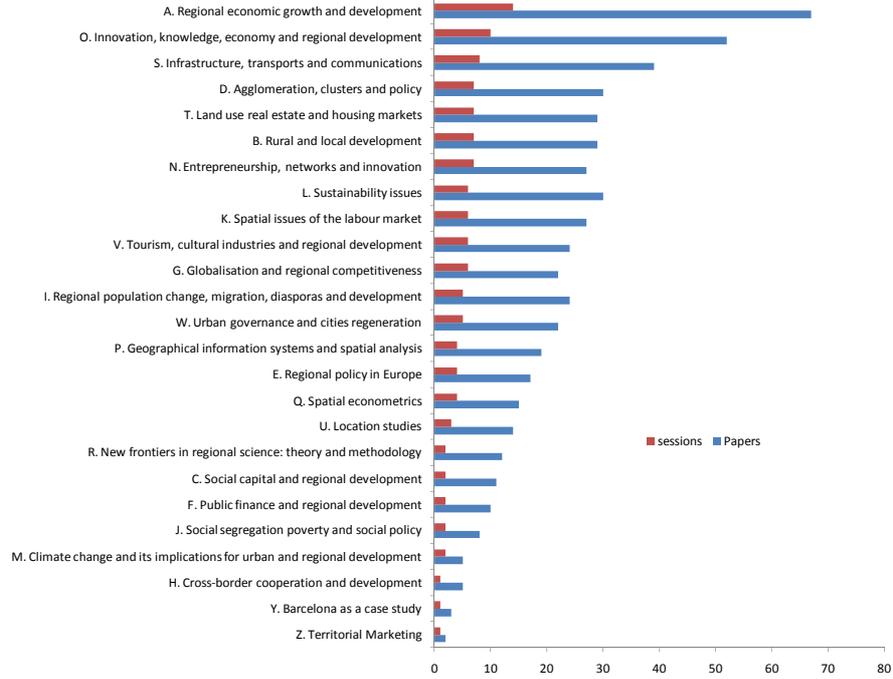
	Authors presenting	Total Authors
Ordinary Sessions	4.47	3.17
Refereed Sessions	6.49	4.21
Special Sessions	7.18	7.49
Young Scientists Sessions	1.25	1.08

- Higher attendance and reported quality at S and R sessions (for S is endogeneous of course)
- Sessions homogeneity is a significant concern for Chairmen: 12% reported low or very low

	Attendance			Chairmen's Opinion						
	Total	Survey	% Survey	Average	Max	Min	Average quality	Quality homogeneity	Average topic homogeneity	Quality of the facilities and assistance
Ordinary Sessions	81	50	62%	14,0	40	2	3,56	3,21	3,31	3,83
Refereed Sessions	35	20	57%	10,8	16	6	3,93	3,64	3,57	3,86
Special Sessions	96	60	63%	24,5	180	5	4,22	3,99	4,05	4,05
Young Scientists Sessions	7	6	75%	15,5	30	3	3,71	3,43	2,57	3,43
Total	219	136	62%	18,7	180	2	3,89	3,61	3,63	3,92



Min	2
Q1	10
Q2	15
Q3	20
Max	180
Average	18.20
Std. Dev.	17.85
Skewness	6.31
Kurtosis	53.87



We have analysed which factors influence sessions attendance. Main results

- The day has no influence
- Time slot: just after lunch
- Quality matter, but reputation (higher average h index of the session) is more important than the official signal (R session)
- Special Sessions are not particularly preferred one we control for the h index
- Many big names in the same room take all attendance

Meeting of the European Organizing Committee

Bratislava, February 18th, 2012

APPENDIX 5 (PROGRESS REPORT – BRATISLAVA CONGRESS)



University of Economics in Bratislava

PROGRAMM AND DATES

CONGRESS NAME : REGIONS IN MOTION – BREAKING THE
PATH

FINAL DATES: 21th (Tuesday) To 25th (Saturday) 2012

With : 18 normal sessions
35 special sessions

and around 750 people and 650 abstracts and papers until
now.

UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS IN BRATISLAVA, Dolnozemska cesta 1, 852 35 Bratislava, Slovak Republic

Keynote Speakers

Ann Markusen – professor, is the director of the Institute's Project on Regional and Industrial Economics at Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Before joining the Humphrey School, Markusen was State of New Jersey Professor of Urban Planning and Policy Development at Rutgers University.

James P. LeSage – Professor at Texas State University – San Marcos, Department of Finance and Economics,

Peter Nijkaamp, Vrije University of Amsterdam

Johannes Bröcker (German school of regional science)
Full professor, Chair in International and Regional Economics, University of Kiel, Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, since 2000.

Regional & Urban Development in an Aging Europe
led by the [European Investment Bank \(EIB\)](#)

Evolutionary Economic Geography, new wine in new bottles?
led by **Ron Boschma**, Full Professor in Regional Economics at the Department of Economic Geography at the Faculty of Geosciences, University of Utrecht, Netherlands.

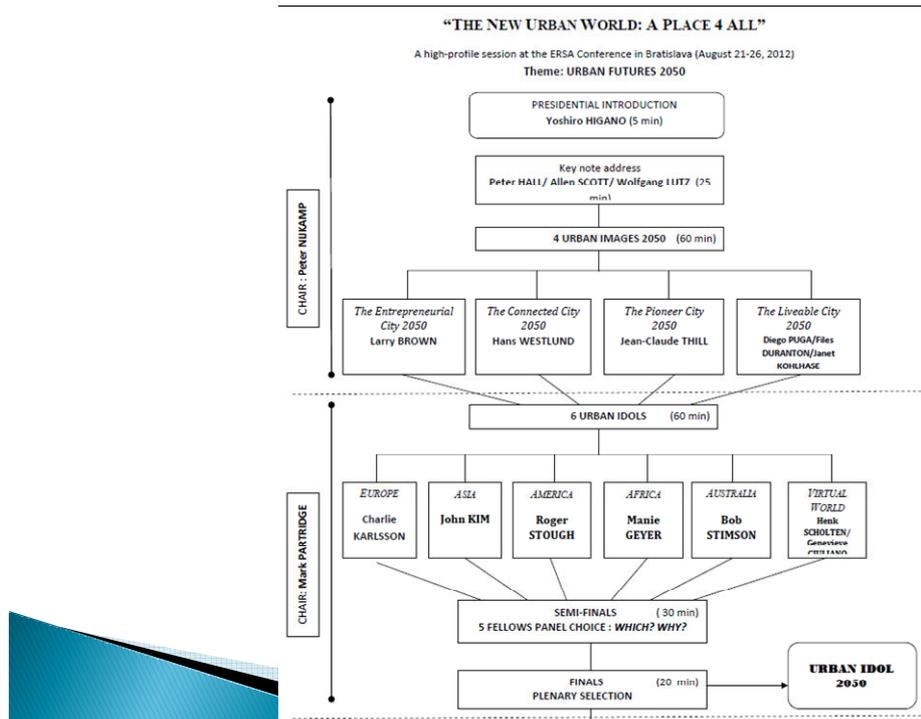
Time	Tuesday 21/8/2012	Wednesday 22/8/2012 URBAN POLICY DAY	Thursday 23/8/2012	Friday 24/8/2012	Saturday 25/8/2012
8.00		Registration			
9.00 - 10.30		P. Nijkaamp URBAN FUTURES 2050 (continue until 15 PM)	Keynote lecture – James L. Sage	ERSA C-meeting (invitation only)	EIB round table
10.30 - 11.00		Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	
11.00 - 12.30		parallel sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel sessions	
12.30 - 13.30	EOC meeting (invitation only)	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
13.30 - 15.00		Parallel Sessions	Technical excursions	Plenary Session – Ron Boschma – Economic Evolutionary Geography	Parallel Sessions
15.00 - 15.30		Coffee break		Coffee break	Coffee break
15.30		Parallel Sessions		Parallel Sessions	
16.00	Registration				
17.00		Plenary session – Round table Mayors of the cities, EC Commission	Parallel Sessions	Plenary session - Peter Bruckner – German school of regional science EIB prize winner	
18.00	Opening Ceremony, Ann Markusen				
18.30			Free evening (reserve restaurant ???)	Formal dinner (Devin Castle)	
19.00		Informal Dinner – Old market hall in city centre hosted by Mayor of Bratislava	some common leasure activities		
20.00 - 21.30	Welcome Reception				

Something new – urban policy day

Separate fee for one day practinioners – 80/90 EUR

Lot of special presentations like:

- urban futures 2050
 - 6 urban idols from different continents
 - urban images (entrepreneural, conecting
 - round table of mayors of cities
- speakers as Peter Nijkaamp, Peter hall, Allen Scott, larry Brown, Diego Puga, Roger Stough
- papers and special session related to urban issues



Accommodation in hotels 16 Hotels (3–5 stars) – 950 places

Falkensteiner ****	162 x room		64 EUR/person/night	
Crowne Plaza ****	200 x single room		100 EUR/person/night	
Holiday Inn ****	130 x single room		80 EUR/person/night	
Danube ****	200 x room		single room: 75 EUR/person/night	double room: 85 EUR/person/night
Marrol's ****	15 x single room	30 x double room	single room: 100 EUR/person/night	double room: 120 EUR/person/night
Barónka ****	125 x room		single room: 40 EUR/person/night	double room: 75 EUR/person/night
Bonbón ****	80 x room		single room: 50 EUR/person/night	double room: 70 EUR/person/night
Matyšák ***	35 x room		single room: 70 EUR/person/night	double room: 82 EUR/person/night

Student accommodation

Ekonom	60 x cell system of accommodation (= 2 double rooms, toilet included)		9 EUR/ person/night
Horsky park	20 x cell system of accommodation (= 2 double rooms, toilet included)	6 x single room, toilet included	9 EUR/ person/night
Together	80 – 160 people		9 EUR per night



Preliminary budget — (750 participants)

Congress Venue	23 500 EUR
Print materials	19 500 EUR
Mailing and Distribution	9 700 EUR
Organizing Committee and Invited Speakers Expenses	30 000 EUR
Promotion	5 300 EUR
Transportation	10 500 EUR
Congress Materials	8 900 EUR
Social Events and Catering	90 000 EUR
Congress Secretariat Expenses/Web Sites	11 500 EUR
Staff	21 500 EUR
Exhibition	1 800 EUR
Abstracts	7 000 EUR
Miscellaneous	500 EUR
Contingency (unexpected expenses)	7 941 EUR (3%)
ERSA fee	100 000 EUR
Total expenditures	347 641 EUR
Total income	347 641 EUR
Secured Sponsorship	100 000 EUR



Congress venue – University of Economics in Bratislava



Information on possible **social events** and post congress excursions

Suggested post congress excursions:

- Bojnice castle
- Vienna – the capital of Austria
- Small Carpathian Wine Route – visiting taverns and wine cellars
- Discovering Bratislava – Devin castle, Bratislava castle, old town, sightseeing cruise on the Danube
- Cruise on the Bata canal in Skalica

Technical excursions:

- Waterwork Čunovo
- Bratislava Urban development
- VW Bratislava

Formal dinner

- ▶ Will depends of number of participants

Alternatives:

- Old market hall
- Devin castle
- Prezidential gardens



Meeting of the European Organizing Committee

Bratislava, February 18th, 2012

APPENDIX 6 (PROGRESS REPORT – PALERMO CONGRESS)

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Time	TUESDAY 27/08/2013	WEDNESDAY 28/08/2013	THURSDAY 29/08/2013	FRIDAY 30/08/2013	SATURDAY 31/08/2013		
09.00-10.30	Registration	Plenary Session	Registration	Keynote Lecture	Parallel Sessions		
10.30-11.00		Coffee break		Coffee break		Parallel Sessions	
11.00-12.00		Plenary Session Prizes		Parallel Sessions		RSAI Meeting (invitation only)	Coffee break
12.30-14.00		Lunch		Lunch		Lunch	Parallel Sessions
14.00-15.30	EOC Meeting (Invitation only)	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Post Congress Excursions		
15.30-16.00		Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break			
16.00-17.30		Parallel Sessions	Parallel Sessions	Young Scientist Section			
17.30-19.00	Parallel Sessions	ERSAC Meeting (invitation only)	Plenary Session	Closing Ceremony Keynote Lecture Young Scientist Prize Winner			
19.00-20.00	Opening Ceremony Keynote lecture	Excursion (Palermo Tour)	Excursion (Mondello)	BREAK			
20.00-21.30	Welcome Reception (University)	BREAK	Informal Reception (Mondello)	Formal Dinner (sponsored by local institutions)			
21.30-23.00							

AP-ZC ERSO PALERMO 2013



ACCOMODATION

UNIVERSITY AGREEMENT WITH DIFFERENT HOTELS CLOSE TO THE CAMPUS AREA

CENTRALE PALACE HOTEL (104 ROOMS) – 125 TO 180 €
 GRANDE ALBERGO SOLE (113 ROOMS) – 110 TO 135 €
 ASTORIA PALACE HOTEL (326 ROOMS) (served by metro) – 80 TO 150 €
 QUALITY HOTEL PRESIDENT (129 ROOMS) – 125 TO 139 €
 HOTEL PORTA FELICE (33ROOMS) – 85 TO 130 €

CRISTAL PALACE HOTEL (87 ROOMS) – 90 TO 130 €
 HOTEL JOLY (30 ROOMS) – 68 TO 98 €
 HOTEL ATHENEUM (90 ROOMS) – 40 TO 70 €

SPECIAL ACCOMODATION FOR GUEST SPEAKERS AT THE GRAND HOTEL HOTEL PIAZZA BORSA AND AT HOTEL DE FRANCE (OWNED BY THE UNIVERSITY)






AP-ZC ERSO PALERMO 2013



VENUES

PLENARY SESSIONS
 AULA MAGNA SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
 CAPACITY 460 SEATS
 AULA MAGNA SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
 CAPACITY 700 SEATS

PARALLEL SESSIONS
 BUILDING 19 "POLIDIDATTICO"
 15 ROOMS – FROM 30 TO 200 SEATS EACH
 BUILDING 13 "SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS"
 5 LECTURE ROOMS–55 TO 288 SEATS EACH
 5 SEMINAR ROOMS – 35 SEATS EACH
 2 COMPUTER ROOMS – 30-50 SEATS EACH

**ALL ROOMS EQUIPPED WITH DATA PROJECTOR
 AND INTERNET CONNECTION**





P - ZC  **ersa**
PALERMO 2013



TRAVEL CONNECTIVITY

PALERMO AIRPORT (FALCONE-BORSELLINO/PUNTA RAISI) IS LOCATED AT 30 KM DISTANCE FROM THE CITY AND IS CONNECTED BY TAXY AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (METRO AND BUS) ALSO TO THE UNIVERSITY AREA

PLENTY OF NATIONAL (ESPECIALLY FROM ROME AND MILAN) AND INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS FROM AND TO MANY DESTINATION IN THE WORLD

NEARBY (100 KM) TRAPANI-BIRGI AIRPORT IS SERVED BY MANY LOW COST CARRIERS

THE CITY OF PALERMO IS ALSO ACCESSIBLE BY BOAT FROM NAPLES, GENOA, LIVORNO AND CIVITAVECCHIA (NEAR ROME)

TRAVELLING BY TRAIN AND CAR IS RECOMMENDED ONLY FOR SHORT DISTANCES OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER MODES OF TRANSPORTATIONS

CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE CITY (BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY AREA, THE HOTELS AND THE HISTORICAL DISTRICT) WILL BE ENSURED BY SHUTTLES BESIDES PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION






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PALERMO 2013



FOOD AND DRINK



THE UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO HAS FOUR CANTEENS, THE LARGEST OF WHICH IS LOCATED NEARBY THE CONFERENCE ROOMS (FROM 3 TO 5 EUROS PER MEAL)



THE CAMPUS ALSO HOSTS 4 BARS FOR LIGHT MEALS. OTHER TWO MAIN BARS ARE LOCATED JUST OUTSIDE THE CAMPUS



IN THE HISTORICAL CENTRE OF PALERMO, AT WALKING DISTANCE FROM THE HOTELS AREA, ARE LOCATED MORE THAN 200 RESTAURANT FEATURING TRADITIONAL SICILIAN AS WELL AS ITALIAN, CONTINENTAL AND A VARIETY OF INTERNATIONAL CUISINES



11-ZC ersa
PALERMO 2013



BUDGET REVENUES



CONFERENCE FEES
(650 PEOPLE/400 €)

260,000 €

INSTITUTIONAL SPONSORSHIP (REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (CITY AND PROVINCE), MINISTRY OF UNIVERSITY, UNIVERSITY OF PALERMO, REGIONAL PARLIAMENT)

85,000 €

PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP (BANKS, ASSOCIATIONS OF ENTREPRENEURS, CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS)

55,000 €

TOTAL

400,000 €

11-ZC ersa
PALERMO 2013



BUDGET EXPENDITURE:

ERSA CAPITATION FEE	60,500 €
REFUND TO ERSa	60,000 €
CATERING (FOR 700 PEOPLE)	75,000 €
CONGRESS DINNER	55,000 €
CONGRESS MATERIALS	60,000 €
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	35,000 €
VENUES	15,000 €
OTHER EVENTS	30,000 €
TOTAL	390,500 €



PROGRESS (1)

DEFINITIONS OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

-General Theme: Europe, Mediterranean and the World Economy

-Special sessions relevant for the general theme:

- Labour market, migration and demographic issues
- Local industrial development in clusters and tourism development
- Integrated planning and large urban projects
- Sustainability and preservation of natural environment
- Multi-level governance (national, regional and local)
- International investment and scientific cooperation
- Development of supranational infrastructures

-Additional special session themes

Spatial impact of the economic crisis, the future of regional cohesion policy, local public finance and regional development, knowledge economy in the less developed regions, regional development issues for island economies, Economic unions and optimal currency areas around the world ,etc.)



PROGRESS (2)

BUILDING UP THE LOC (main group including vice-presidents and young researchers, other members from Sicilian Universities (Catania, Messina), members from research institutions , AISRE group (already defined)
 DEFINITION OF RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN AISRE AND LOC AND BETWEEN AISRE-LOC AND ERSA with the first taking care of keynote speakers and policy sessions and the second taking care of Refereed and Ordinary sessions through the scientific committee
 ORGANIZED SESSIONS already in preparation by the Bank of Italy, the Spatial Econometrics , the Urban Economics Association and by Policy Institutions
 AISRE CONGRESS jointly in Palermo with regular session in English and Policy sessions (in Italian)
 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: Masahisa Fujita, Policy Session on regional effect of macro-policy with representatives from World Bank, IMF, OECD; ECB



PROGRESS (3)

MEDITERRANEAN NETWORKS

UNIMED : association of more than 80 University operating in 21 Mediterranean countries working, among others, on different topics such as: tangible and intangible cultural goods, economics, energy, environment, management of water resources, transportation, health media, new technology, history, tourism
 FEMISE: Euro-mediterranean network that gathers more than 94 members of economic research institutes (More than 300 researchers from 37 countries). Supported by the European Commission and coordinated by the Institute of Mediterranean (France) and by the Economic Research Forum (Egypt). Deals mainly with policy research issues on the relationships between Europe and the Mediterranean

SESSION IN BRATISLAVA on the development of regional research in Southern Mediterranean Countries.
 LIST OF CONTACTS OF 15 Universities and Institutions operating in Southern Mediterranean



PROGRESS (4)

LOCATION: University of Palermo, Faculty of Economics and nearby complex . Discussed with the President and the Executive Director the main issues concerning the organization of the parallel sessions and during the congress

HOTELS AND VENUES BOOKING

- Already reserved the Hotel for EOC/ERSAC and for special guests (Grand Hotel Piazza Borsa
- No problem for reserving main halls, theaters and rooms for parallel sessions (they are inside the School building or in the University campus and are available during the Congress period)
- Registration room, back up office, exhibition area and lunch/coffee break areas will be in the building where most of parallel sessions are and in any case close to the other buildings)
- It must be checked the availability for student rooms
- It must be booked the reception hall and for the formal and informal dinner
- LOC or ERSA meetings will be allowed in the School of Economics building during the day
- Contacts with Organizations taking care of hotel availability and reservation


 P - Z C
 PALERMO 2013



PROGRESS (5)

FINANCE

- Public: contacts with institutions (City and Province Government, Regional Government, in particular Planning and Economics Department besides the Governor Office)
- Private: Support by main Banks (Unicredit), by local Banks, by the Bank of Italy (to be assessed), by the Chamber of Commerce, by Firm Associations.
- Need to test the financial plan with those of the other Congresses

COMMUNICATIONS

- Not too much done, waiting for ERSA suggestion


 P - Z C
 PALERMO 2013



Meeting of the European Organizing Committee Bratislava, February 18th, 2012

APPENDIX 7 (PROPOSAL TO ORGANISE 2015 CONGRESS IN LISBON, PORTUGAL)



Proposal for the 55th Congress of the European Regional Science Association and 21st Congress of the APDR

Lisbon, 25th to 29th of August 2015

This document summarizes the main ideas for the organization of the European Regional Science Association Congress in Lisbon from the 25th until the 29th of August 2015. The proposed theme is “Spatial Organization, Social Integration and Regional Development”. The document includes the identification of the promoters and the first ideas on the organization of the Congress.

Proposal for the 55th Congress of the European Regional Science Association and 21st
Congress of APDR

**“SPATIAL ORGANIZATION, SOCIAL INTEGRATION
AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT”**

1- PROMOTERS

a. ERSA

ERSA is the supranational grouping of national regional science associations across Europe. Members of the Regional Science Association are academics, policy professionals and researchers interested in spatial economics and planning, regional and local development and related issues. There are presently 17 active associations. In total ERSA has more than 3500 members in its constituent associations. More information on: www.ersa.org

b. RSAI

The Regional Science Association International is a congregation of the 27 regional science associations and supra-nationals (ERSA – European Regional Science Association, RSA – Regional Science of Americas and PRSCO – Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization). Founded in 1954, it includes presently 27 active associations and more than 4000 members. More information on: www.regionalscience.org

c. APDR

The “Portuguese Association for Regional Development” (APDR) is a scientific institution founded in 1984 whose main objective is the promotion of research in the field of Regional Science. APDR is also the Portuguese Section of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA) and Regional Science Association International (RSAI). It includes 160 active members, runs a scientific journal (*Revista Portuguesa de Estudos Regionais*) and organizes one international conference and 3 workshops per year in strong cooperation with other regional science associations (Spanish, Brazilian, etc.). More information on: www.apdr.pt

d. UTL, ISEG, CIRIUS

The Technical University of Lisbon (UTL) is a public university with administrative and financial autonomy that was established in 1930 from the merging of four existing high education schools in Lisbon. One of them was the Higher Institute of Economic and Financial Sciences, now the School of Economics and Management (ISEG) (www.iseg.utl.pt), which origins date back from *Aula de Comércio* established in 1759. Currently the ISEG includes CIRIUS, which is the Research Centre of Regional and Urban Research where most of the regional scientists of the Institute are affiliated.

2- ORGANIZATION

- a. Like in 2004, the ERSA congress will be celebrated simultaneously with the annual Congress of the Portuguese Association for Regional Development (APDR). The organization of the 54th Congress of ERSA and the 21st Meeting of the APDR will be in charge of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC).

- b. The proposed theme for the Congress is the following:

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION, SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- c. The Local Organizing Committee (LOC), composed by:

- i. António Simões Lopes, founder of APDR
- ii. José Pedro Pontes
- iii. The executive secretariat of APDR
- iv. Others from other universities in Lisbon depending on availability.

- d. Scientific organization

The LOC will be in charge of all the aspects related with the congress, even the scientific ones and in contact with the Boards of ERSA and the EOC.

- e. Dates

Tuesday, 25th of August until Saturday, 29th of August 2015.

- f. Location

The congress will take place at the School of Economics and Management at the Technical University of Lisbon, close to Lisbon City Centre. These premises have capacity to provide enough rooms and infrastructures for the congress. More information on: www.iseg.utl.pt.

- g. Financial Arrangements

The LOC will organize the 55th Congress of ERSA assuming the same financial rules as those agreed for former organizations of ERSA congresses.

Meeting of the European Organizing Committee

Bratislava, February 18th, 2012

APPENDIX 8

(PROPOSAL TO ORGANISE 2013 SUMMER SCHOOL IN LUND, SWEDEN)

The Centre for Innovation, Research and Competence in the Learning Economy (CIRCLE) at Lund University with support from the Blekinge Institute of Technology and the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Spatial Economics (CEnSE) at Jönköping University hereby request to host the ERSA Summer School in 2013.

The theme of the proposed Summer School in 2013 is “*Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Rural Regions – determinants and impact on developments*”. The lectures and paper presentations will focus on both theory and quantitative methodologies. The aim is to give the participants advanced knowledge of theory and methodologies, emphasizing knowledge gaps and avenues for research areas that will push the research frontier forward. What follows is a brief presentation of our proposal.

Background

Rural regions throughout Europe face major challenges in the future to come. These challenges include, inter alia, how to retain individuals with competences and skills that employers demand, how to manage and ageing population and reduction of local tax bases as more economic activities concentrate to agglomerated areas. The combination of an ageing population with often high demands on publicly provided services such as health care and care for the elderly with a trend of concentration of economic activities to urban regions makes the challenges for rural regions particularly difficult.

Entrepreneurship and innovation are often put forward as important means through which rural regions may improve their position and alter their often negative long-term development path. Despite this, the entrepreneurship and innovation research literature has a general focus on larger and more diversified regions, where discussions of rural regions often are a by-product and not in the focus of the research. There is a knowledge gap with regard to both the determinants and impacts of entrepreneurship and innovation in rural regions. Recent research suggest for example that not only does the determinants of entrepreneurship vary substantially across space, but also the impacts of new firm formation where local economic structure and density appear to condition the effect of entrepreneurship and innovation on local development. We know very little, however, about the sources if this kind of spatial heterogeneity.

A general perspective in the summer school is that rural regions are embedded in a system of regions whose development trajectories are to a large extent interdependent. Interdependence arises from interaction between regions and localities in the form of gross flows of people, jobs (firms), technology and knowledge. This means that research on rural regions should acknowledge urban-rural relationships and the interplay between rural and urban development. This also implies that rural research agendas should tie in with the general research on regional and urban development

Key questions that the summer school will address include:

- How does local economic structure, in particular density and spatial remoteness, condition not only the frequency, but also the nature of local entrepreneurship and innovation activity?
- How does entrepreneurship in urban and rural regions co-evolve and interact in shaping the geography of development?
- How can we understand spatial heterogeneity in the impacts of entrepreneurship and innovation on local development?
- How do processes of path creation and path dependence interact to shape heterogeneity in geographies of economic development and transformation?

Key elements and structure

The ERSA Summer School in 2013 will focus on “Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Rural Regions – determinants and impact on developments”. This is of course a broad field, but the focus will be on theory and empirical research methodology, and how these can be matched to progress our understanding and knowledge of entrepreneurship and innovation in rural regions.

The main purpose of the summer school is to provide the students with advanced knowledge in these fields, thus improving the participant’s abilities to work as high quality researchers within the field. The summer school will also provide an opportunity for the students to present their own work and interact with senior professors. The summer school is also intended to stimulate young researcher to continue doing research in the field. The plan is that the Summer School will be followed by a special session for its participants at the ERSA congress in 2014.

The key elements and structure of the Summer School can be summarized as follows:

1. Keynote lectures on the state of the art of spatial heterogeneity with regard to frequency and nature of entrepreneurship and innovation as well as their impact on local development
2. Keynote lecture on local entrepreneurship and innovation policy for development in rural regions
3. Keynote lecture on evaluation local economic policy
4. Lectures on advanced theory and empirical techniques within spatial economic analysis of entrepreneurship and innovation
5. PhD presentations of their own work and feedback from senior professors.
6. A special session for participants at the Summer School at the ERSA congress in 2014. This will give the participants an additional opportunity to get feedback on their work by other researchers within the field and also an opportunity to get in contact with researcher within a wider range of regional science.

Target group

The Summer School target PhD students in the final stage of their studies or Post Docs within the field. The students should have the basic knowledge in econometrics and economic modeling. If the number of applicants is more than 30 (which will be the maximum number of students) the selection will be based on their CV. We will also seek a gender balance among participants.

Program

Local organizing committee

Professor. Martin Andersson

Professor Charlie Karlsson

Dr. Lars Pettersson

Associate Professor Johan Klaesson

Professor Björn Asheim

Professor Börje Johansson

Associate professor Jerker Moodyson

Associate professor Thomas Niedemosyl

Associate professor Olof Ejermo

Budget

The intention is to get financial support from the European Investment Bank, Lund University, the Swedish Agricultural Board, Formas, Jönköping International Business School, Blekinge Institute of Technology etc.....

Location

Blekinge Institute of Technology, Karlskrona, Sweden

Meeting of the European Organizing Committee

Bratislava, February 18th, 2012

APPENDIX 9

(PROPOSAL TO ORGANISE 2013 SUMMER SCHOOL IN PULA, CROATIA)

ERSA Summer School 2013 (June 16-23, 2013)

Juraj Dobrila University of Pula

Department of Economics and Tourism

«Dr. Mijo Mirković» <http://www.efpu.hr/index.php?id=498>

Pula, Croatia

In cooperation with Croatian Section of ERSA

Topic «Regional development, productivity and competitiveness»

- new EU multiannual financial framework 2014-2020;
- contribution of regional policy to national competitiveness;
- measurement of competitiveness on national and regional levels;
- regional productivity and regional competitiveness;
- Importance of regional development in post-crisis times.

The issue of competitiveness is the burning question of the survival and maintaining of the existing position of the EU and its Member States on the world market. At the same time, EU is investing huge efforts in promoting its economy and save the stability of the euro. In these circumstances, the objective of this summer school is to connect regional development and competitiveness. Considering the strategy "Europe 2020" and the new multi-annual financial framework 2014-2020, it will be analyzed the regional productivity, its contribution to regional competitiveness and transmission mechanisms to the national competitiveness. It will be given examples of regions that have managed to find a path to increase competitiveness.

Guest lecturers and local team:

- a) Guest-lecturers: Roberto Camagni, Peter Batey, Jouke van Dijk, Charlie Karlsson, Roberta Capello, Guenther Maier, Peter Heil,?...,?... (according to availability)
- b) Local team: Marinko Škare, Ines Kersan-Škabić and Kristina Afrić- Rakitovac from Department of Economics and Tourism «Dr. Mijo Mirković», Juraj Dobrila University of Pula, Croatia, plus members of Croatian Section of ERSA

Calculation (in euro):

Accommodation (20-25 participants)	7400,00
Lunch meals + dinners	4400,00
Travel costs (4-6 trainers)	4200,00
Fieldtrip	1200,00
Stipend (trainers)	1800,00
Preparation of materials (bag, stick, pen)	1000,00
Other (overheads, unforeseen costs)	2500,00
Total expenditure:	22500,00 €

Local organizer with assistance of ERSA Croatian section is ready to cover up to 20% of total costs from local sponsors. Other costs (80%) should be covered from sources which will be settled by ERSA.

Meeting of the European Organizing Committee

Bratislava, February 18th, 2012

APPENDIX 10 (TREASURER'S REPORT)

THE ERSA FINANCIAL STATUS AND PERSPECTIVES 2011 balance sheet and provisional budget 2012

Laura Resmini
ERSA Treasurer

1. 2011 Balance sheet (provisional closing)

The 2011 financial year closed with a surplus of about 49,444.14 euro net of taxes and other financial expenses, and depreciations (5,589.32). This surplus is the result of an increase in 2011 Congress fees (+ 19% with respect to 2010 Congress), and other incomes (17%), which however represent a very volatile miscellaneous category. This year it includes 58,400€ that the Barcelona LOC should still give to ERSa, as agreed in the Convention, to cover fixed costs.

Expenses also increased, especially those related to the congress, which doubled with respect to the previous year.¹ This increase, however, has been compensated by strong decreases in many sensitive categories, such as the expenses related to the organization of the summer school (-84%), day-to-day office expenses (-60% with respect to previous year) – which reflects the reduction of publication expenses (- 88%), IT expenses (-57%) and office material expenditures (-36%) – and fees (-21%) which include congress software fee and legal services expenses.

Main increases have been recorded in the travel & meeting and in other expenses categories, which step up by 46 and 146%, respectively.

At 31/12/2011 bank deposits amounted at 184,146.56€, 84% of which concentrates in the Belgian account. The Italian deposit is still sleeping. It costs about 100€ per year, without earning any interest.

See the Appendix for details.

2. 2012 Balance sheet (provisional)

The 2012 Bratislava Congress is expected to be more similar to 2009 Congress than to past one, as far as the number of participants is concerned. Therefore, the 2012 provisional budget has to incorporate this peculiarity. This suggests a more conservative strategy in estimating ERSa revenues, at least as far as the Congress fees are concerned.

¹ Note that this amount includes ERSa fixed costs, which amounts at about 58,400 €. Therefore, Congress organization expenses fall down to 211 603,84€, with an increase of about 58% with respect to previous year.

Given the uncertainties that still characterize this year Congress balance, costs have to be constantly monitored, especially those that showed the largest unexpected increases (Travel and meeting organization). Moreover it is necessary not to reverse the decreasing trend of some categories of expenses, such as summer school organization, and day-to-day office expenses. A careful management of costs should help us in closing the financial year with a surplus or at least on balance.

Needless to say, better estimates will be possible after the approval of the Congress Convention and preliminary figures on abstract submission will be available.

3. Comments and concluding remarks

ERSA financial situation is less critical than in the past, since ERSA reserves allow to cover up to two years' salary.

However, the financial consolidation strategy cannot be abandoned yet, This implies that we need to invest more in finding alternative sources of funding to cover ERSA fixed and running costs. This would allow ERSA to charge the LOC with lower capitation fees and to reduce Conference fees for each participant. In so doing, it will be easier to collect candidatures for future conference organization and to further enlarge Congress participations. At this purpose, ERSA has to reflect on costs and benefits of large vs. smaller Congresses.

There is a considerable amount of money in the ERSA daily account. I suggest to transfer at least 50,000€ to the Italian account. Next week I will meet the bank officer in order to negotiate better conditions and to be advised about highly liquid financial investments that allow ERSA to fully or at least partially compensate current account costs (possibly, taxes included).

APPENDIX

	2010	2011	2012 ^(*)
Income	345,777.62	444,346.33	253,000.00
Congress	308,793.85	352,719.47	226,000.00
registration fee	305,257.00	361,743.00	220,000.00
sponsor	4,800.00	6,163.32	6,000.00
Past Conferences	- 1,263.15	- 15,186.85	
ERSA membership	5,815.00	5,190.00	5,000.00
Summer school	27,507.14	20,100.00	20,000.00
registration fee	12,507.14	5,100.00	5,000.00
sponsor	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00
Other income	3,661.63	66,336.86	2,000.00
Expenses	270,313.43	382,973.66	210,500.00
Congress Organizer	134,263.68	270,419.84	100,000.00
Summer school	21,522.60	3,500.00	3,500.00
Day by day office	17,931.55	7,092.74	5,000.00
IT expenditures	4,638.80	1,981.81	
furniture & equipment	117.41	156.66	
Gift members	508.61	366.90	
publication	10,732.89	1,307.11	
office materials	807.39	512.97	
others	1,126.45	2,767.29	
Employees	60,039.77	64,075.52	65,000.00
Fees	20,748.57	16,298.06	16,000.00
Accounting fee	974.05	4,749.26	
other fees	19,774.52	11,548.80	
travel & meeting	10,401.87	15,195.37	13,000.00
staff	7,346.25	9,396.07	
EOC/ERSAC	3,055.62	5,799.30	
Insurance and premises	5,405.39	6,174.51	6,000.00
rent office	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Ogone royalties	1,201.76	1,379.85	
civil liability	275.27	287.77	
fire insurance	35.92	36.76	
securex fees	1,392.44	1,970.13	
Other expenses	-	217.62	2,000.00
Result	75,464.19	61,372.67	42,500.00
depreciation	5,589.32	6,168.32	
financial income	-	436.19	
financial expenses	6,837.41	6,154.07	6,000.00
Final result	63,037.46	48,614.09	36,500.00
Bank accounts	121,448.30	184,146.56	
Italian account	30,339.60	30,241.00	
Fortis-74	60,716.43	-	
Fortis-82	30,311.66	153,762.45	
Petty cash	80.61	143.11	

(*) Estimates

Meeting of the European Organizing Committee

Bratislava, February 18th, 2012

APPENDIX 11 (FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2012+)

The aim is bring in extra revenue from various sources, to ensure that ERSA has a surplus of supply for other activities. As well as having a clearer knowledge of the assets of ERSA

There are three issues of importance in case ERSA decides to engage in such activities:

- * A need to communicate and set a price when approaching any partners;
- * A need to clearly state services which are included and which are not included;
- * An agreement is needed with sections and LOCs about these issues and revenue sharing.
- * Further investigation is needed about the policies of other associations.

Here are several options of possible activities / partnerships, that ERSA can develop in 2012:

Media partnerships:

It is clear that in the past ERSA was not communicating with or through the media.

It has the possibility to bring ERSA money, but what it does bring us is visibility to a wider audience.

ERSA should be creating strategic media partnerships, because of what we can offer from the Congress relating to (keynote speakers who are very interesting for the media).

Organisations that are wanting to advertise on the ERSA website, can do so in return in becoming partners and support ERSA by example distributing the ERSA logo, posters of future events, brochures etc.

Special banners can be displayed, if in accordance with ERSA image and events at a cost for a 1-month period.

Potential opportunities are with the UTPI, the Parliament Magazine (Dobs); Other publishers; Innovation magazines; GIS magazines.

Emphasis is getting a strategic media partner, such as Euro News, we need to investigate which partners do other associations use to promote them.

Corporate / Institutional ERSA members:

ERSA is an organisation of sections but a second category of membership should be considered. There are some institutions, companies who may want to become a member of ERSA.

It needs to be decided how to define them, what prerogatives do they have (i.e. do they send representatives to the EOC, or are they represented at the ERSAC). It also needs to be specified whether this can be put into the constitution of ERSA.

We have the option to invite 3 institutions via the By Laws to be represented. But we could have the Corporate (s) involved in the mini conferences, where they can host the theme they want and those papers, academics, policy makers, think tank people to attend. The idea if we had institutional members they could form a co-operation (ie. ERSA's friends) : where they would elect a representative for ERSAC.

Sponsorship:

It has been investigated that several organisation such as ERSA have sponsors who are subdivided into categories (bronze, silver, gold, platinum). We need to think about stages of services for sponsors of various categories, as well as about making some categories exclusive or limited (i.e. 1 Platinum sponsor, several Gold Sponsors).

By having this sponsorship would reduce the capitation fee for the LOC and the Congress. As for the sections they would benefit from having better services from ERSA and more ERSA activities each year.

This can be done at a local level with the Sections and at a European Level it should be ERSA who is approaching these organisations., with the support of those who have contacts within these associations.

SPONSOR PACKS

BRONZE SPONSOR – as many as possible

amount: 1,000 EUR

benefits:

- * visibility on the website (extra page), during events and in chosen printed materials (congress packs)

SILVER SPONSOR

amount: 3,000 EUR

benefits:

- * visibility on the website (extra page), during events and in chosen printed materials (congress packs)

- * stand at our events (in particular the congress) – we give space

- * entrance for 1 representative to the congress

GOLD SPONSOR

amount: 5,000 EUR or equivalent value service

benefits:

- * visibility on the website (extra page), during events and in chosen printed materials (congress packs)

- * information concerning the sponsor on the website

- * stand at our events (in particular the congress)

- * entrance for up to 3 representatives to the congress

- * possibility of suggesting possible themes for mini-conferences or special sessions at the congress

DIAMOND SPONSOR (ERSA's FRIENDS)

amount: 25,000 EUR or equivalent value service

benefits:

- * institutional membership of ERSA – with voting right in the ERSA Council

- * extremely good visibility on the website (footnote next to ERSA logo and RSAI logo)

- * information concerning the sponsor on the website + possibility of disseminating information and relevant news to all ERSA members via the newsletter

- * stand at our events (in particular the congress)

- * entrance for up to 3 representatives to the congress

- * possibility of suggesting possible themes for mini-conferences or special sessions at the congress

SHARING ARRANGEMENTS

Should a section of ERSA organise a sponsor of any kind (apart from Diamond) the proceeds from sponsorship shall be split at the 50:50 ratio between the section and ERSA.

The payment goes directly to ERSA, the section then raises a debit note for fundraising service provided and gets its share of

A contract needs to be drafted which specifies:

- * duration
- * amount of sponsorship
- * benefits for the sponsor

Other Possible Strategies:

Creation of Mini Conferences (following the main Congress)

Using the Authors and papers selected we could create Mini Conference working with the private sector organisations, think tanks, policy makers, banks etc.

This would be a more detailed program running over 2 days were people would discuss the ideas in the agenda. This would be an additional income for ERSA working within the private sector.

The conclusion of this financial strategy for ERSA is that we have the potential to make a major impact, across Europe, We welcome the support of the section to provide us with contact names for pursue, in outlining the following;

Advantages of using the services of ERSA:

- * An established association with over 50 years experience in bringing together some of the world's best knowledge on regional science issues.
- * A referral of the success of the Annual Congresses with over 1000 delegates attending and presenting papers on various themes, from over 49 countries represented
- * Over 900 papers/abstracts presented and updated loaded into the REPEC database
- * Increasing number of young professors and PhD students
- * 35% of women represented at our congresses
- * Access to a dedicated network of contact persons with academic knowledge and experience, willing to share work and enrich knowledge

A local team of management/marketing specialists takes care of regional science ideas/proposals. So you will never be far from the European Commission and other bodies working in this field.

Our services at a glance:

- * Support people in having contacts in all regional science related matters concerning private and public sector
- * Advice and consulting on the founding of sections, summer schools, conferences and, if necessary, the setting up of a subsidiary committee to help on these matters
- * Advice on setting up Sections within a country
- * Database contact to academics, think tanks, banks and policy makers
- * Immediate availability of important contacts, forms and documents

DRAFT LETTER TO BE USED BY ERSa AND SECTIONs

To Whom It May Concern:

ERSA (AISBL), the European Regional Science Association brings together the largest international scientific association devoted to the analysis of regions of all kinds, spanning from sparsely populated peripheral regions to large metropolitan regions. It incorporates 18 national and linguistic associations across Europe. Its 3,500 members are academics, policy professionals and planners interested in spatial economics and planning, regional and local development and growth, and related issues.

ERSA events are essential for the understanding of current economic, social and political issues in a spatial and regional context from the local to the global level. With more than 1000 delegates participating in the Congresses held in Jönköping (2010) and Barcelona (2011), no other meeting of people interested in spatial and regional matters can rival the annual ERSa congress in terms of size, variety and depth of coverage.

ERSA's goal is to be the leading European knowledge community in the fields of regional science and regional policy bringing together researchers, practitioners, planners and policy makers from all over Europe and the rest of the world.

Our goal is achieved through a number of activities, including:

- **Annual European Congress** on global, national, regional and local issues in regional science and regional policy with leading international scientists in the field and leading European policy makers as keynote speakers but also with e.g. special Young Regional Scientist Sessions.
- Yearly meetings of the **European Organizing Committee** of ERSa (EOC) and the **Sections of ERSa**, discussing a variety of topics in regional science and policy.
- **Cooperation** with professional bodies, associations and other key stakeholders.
- The yearly **EIB-ERSa** European Prize in Regional Science to a leading European Scientist in regional science and the yearly **Epainos Award** for young scientists in regional science.
- Electronic publication of all papers presented at the ERSa congresses in the **RePeC** Database.
- Yearly **Summer Schools** for young researchers in regional science in cooperation with EIB.
- Yearly **Mini Conferences** preceding the annual conference.
- An up-to-date webpage and regular electronic newsletters.

To further strengthen the impact of regional science research in Europe in regional policy making and planning it is our ambition to widen our cooperation to include more European "sister" organisations. This is the reason why we want to cooperate with your association within areas of joint interest.

The first easy connection can be to exchange information and invite each other to our respective events and open activities. As a group of associations covering most of Europe and representing a wide and deep knowledge and competence in regional science and regional policy, we have capacity to help analyze all types of issues related to regional development and growth from the local level to the EU level.

We know where to find the relevant specialists in regional science and we can organize the teams necessary to analyze in principle every problem related to regional development and growth in Europe.

Against this background, we are interested in a broad discussion of possible areas of cooperation. If you are interested you are welcome to contact me (via E-mail charlie.karlsson@jibs.hj.se or via mobile phone +46707820677) or the ERSA Executive Director, Mr Richard Kelly (via E-mail richard.kelly@ersa.org or phone +32 (0) 10 47 43 62), for a first discussion of the potential of developing a fruitful cooperation in the future.

For more information on ERSA, please go to <http://www.ersa.org/home/>

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