ERSA Monthly news & updates

August Issue - 08/2026

In this issue you will find:

- ERSA2026 Highlights
- Journals news
- Upcoming events
- Other news

We wish you a good reading

#ERSA2026



ERSA2026 Congress in Sofia, Bulgaria

The **65th ERSA Congress**, held from **25–28 August 2026** at **Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"**, brought the international regional science community together in Bulgaria under the theme **"Global Challenges and Regional Responses in a Transition Era."**

With **627 participants**, the Congress reflected the international reach of ERSA, bringing together researchers and professionals from **55 countries**.

The programme featured:

- Nearly **600 papers**
- **161 scientific sessions**
- **8 Young Scientists Sessions**
- **2 keynote lectures**
- **2 major round tables / special academic events**

Four days of scientific exchange brought together established scholars and emerging researchers from across Europe and beyond.

Programme Highlights

Opening Ceremony

The ceremony featured welcoming remarks from **Prof. Roberta Capello, ERSA President**, and **Prof. Eliza Stefanova, Rector of Sofia University**, alongside **Prof. Dimitar Dimitrov, Rector of the University of National and World Economy (UNWE)** and **Prof. Kosyo Stoychev, Chair of the Local Organising Committee and President of the Bulgarian Regional Science Association**.

The opening also welcomed **Atanas Pekanov, Deputy Prime Minister of Bulgaria**, who delivered the first keynote lecture, addressing Bulgaria's position within European and national policies, cohesion policy, competitiveness, economic transformation and the need for more balanced regional development.

Acad. Nikolay Vitanov, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, highlighted the importance of science and education in addressing profound technological, economic, demographic and environmental changes, emphasising that sustainable regional solutions must reflect the specific characteristics and potential of each territory.

The ceremony also featured a special video message from **Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation**, who highlighted the growing importance of cities and regions as drivers of innovation and competitiveness in Europe and the role of regional research in supporting evidence-based regional policies.

The event also included a welcome address on behalf of the **President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Iliana Iotova**, emphasising the importance of bringing science, policy and society together to address the challenges facing regions and communities.

It has been recorded and once they are shareable, we will let you know.

Keynote Lecture – Prof. Peter Nijkamp

Prof. **Peter Nijkamp**, Emeritus Professor at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, recipient of the RSAI Founder's Medal and former ERSA President, delivered the keynote:
"The Urbanometrics of Wellbeing: Modeling City Love, Spatial Comfort Zones and Prosilient Panarchy."

His lecture explored new perspectives on cities, spatial comfort and wellbeing, connecting urban analysis with the challenges facing contemporary societies.

It has been recorded and once they are shareable, we will let you know.

JRC Round Table

The **JRC TEDAM Round Table – "Reviving Industrial Policy: Data for Mapping Competitiveness and Cohesion"** brought together:

Andrea Conte, European Commission JRC, Chair
Gaetano D'Adamo, European Commission – JRC
Prof. Katarzyna Kopczewska, University of Warsaw
Francesco Molica, EURADA / Université libre de Bruxelles
Prof. Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, London School of Economics

The discussion highlighted the role of data and regional evidence in understanding competitiveness, cohesion and the future of industrial policy.

It has been recorded and once they are shareable, we will let you know.

"Big Five" Round Table

One of the highlights of the final day was the special academic session: **"A European Perspective on a Turbulent World"**

The event brought together **Mario Draghi, Paul Krugman, Roberta Capello, Eduardo Haddad and Martin Andersson**, moderated by Karima Kourtit, to discuss Europe's response to economic and geopolitical turbulence, competitiveness, regional development, cohesion and inclusiveness.

It has been recorded and once they are shareable, we will let you know.

ERSA Journal

At #ERSA2026, we continued building momentum around the ERSA journal: **Global Challenges and Regional Science (GCRS)**

The Congress featured **"Meet the New ERSA Journal: Global Challenges and Regional Science"**, presenting the journal's vision and its role in advancing research on global challenges and regional responses.

The journal is growing its international profile, with research contributions from **Europe, the Americas and Asia** and an increasing presence in the scientific community.

For researchers interested in publishing work addressing global challenges from a regional science perspective, **this is an exciting moment to become part of the GCRS community.**

30 Years of Advances in Spatial Science by Springer

Another important publishing milestone was celebrated at #ERSA2026: **30th Anniversary of the Advances in Spatial Science Series.**

Chaired by **Hans Westlund and Jouke van Dijk**, the event celebrated three decades of one of the leading book series in Regional Science.

Since its launch, *Advances in Spatial Science* has published **113 volumes**, providing a platform for research on spatial phenomena, regional and urban development, innovation, sustainability and policy analysis.

The anniversary brought together authors, editors, readers and conference participants to celebrate the contribution of the series to the development of the discipline and to look ahead to the future of spatial research and publishing.

Special Moments

Beyond the scientific programme, #ERSA2026 was also about bringing the community together.

🌿 **Welcome Reception at Sofia University Inner Park**

Participants came together at the beginning of the Congress for an informal evening of conversations and networking.

🌸 **Get-Together Party at the Sofia University Botanic Garden**

An evening combining networking, local food, Bulgarian hospitality and the unique setting of the University Botanic Garden.

🥂 **Gala Dinner**

The Congress concluded with a memorable Gala Dinner, featuring **music, traditional Bulgarian performances, local culture and Bulgarian hospitality.** A wonderful opportunity to celebrate the community and the connections created throughout the week.

Awards Ceremony – ERSA 2026

The Closing Ceremony celebrated outstanding contributions across the Regional Science community.

🏆 ERSA Prize 2026:

Prof. André Torre, former ERSA President and Distinguished Researcher at INRAE, Paris-Saclay & AgroParisTech.

André Torre delivered the closing keynote:
“Proximity analysis and proximity relations: where are we today?”

It has been recorded and once they are shareable, we will let you know.

🏆 ERSA Epainos Prize 2026:

Sun-Young Park, Seoul National University, for her research *“The Effects of Drought on the Marriage Market: Forces of Delay and Forces of Acceleration.”*

🌟 RSAI Fellow Awards:

Prof. Simona Iammarino, Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), and **Prof. Julie Le Gallo**, CESAER Agrosup Dijon.

🏆 Hirotada Kohno Award:

Andrea Caragliu, Politecnico di Milano, for outstanding service to the RSAI.

🌍 RSAI Peter Nijkamp Research Encouragement Award:

İbrahim Tuğrul Çınar, Anadolu University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences.

🎓 RSAI Dissertation Award:

Zhiwu Wei, University of Cambridge, recognising excellence and innovation in doctoral research in Regional Science.

🏆 Martin Beckmann Prize for the Best Paper in PiRS:

Sofia Wixe, Charlotta Mellander & José Lobo for their paper **“Adolescence socioeconomic segregation and high-skilled jobs in adulthood”**, published in *Papers in Regional Science*, Volume 104, Issue 4, August 2025.
🔗 Read the paper

Gratitude

We sincerely thank the **Local Organising Committee**, chaired by **Prof. Kosyo Stoychev**, and **Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"** for hosting the 65th ERSA Congress and for the tremendous work behind this edition.

From welcoming more than 600 participants from around the world, to support 161 scientific sessions, keynote lectures, round tables, Young Scientists Sessions, social events and cultural activities, the LOC created an outstanding environment for scientific exchange and international networking.

We are especially grateful to all **session chairs, speakers, authors, young scientists, volunteers, partners, sponsors and participants** who contributed to making #ERSA2026 such a memorable edition.

The ERSA Flag Passes to Milan 🇧🇬➡️🇮🇹

The ERSA flag has now passed from **Sofia to Milan**.

The **66th ERSA Congress will take place in Milan in 2027**, under the leadership of the Local Organising Committee chair **Camilla Lenzi**.



Thank you, Sofia, for an unforgettable 65th ERSA Congress.

See you in Milan for #ERSA2027! 🇮🇹

Journals News



Global Challenges and Regional Science (GCRS)

Volume 7

Check out the latest paper:
"Carbon pricing and tourism in Croatia: A regional and sectoral general equilibrium analysis"

Authors: Eduarda M. Figueiredo, Eduardo A. Haddad, Blanka Šimundić

more information about the latest issue



Regional Science Policy & Practice (RSPP)

Volume 18, Issue 11

Check out the latest paper:
The dark side of remote working in relation to urban-rural migration

Author: Martijn J. Smit

more information about this issue



Papers in Regional Science (PiRS)

Volume 105, Issue 5

Latest Article:
The spatial spread of infection rates at the dawn of a pandemic: A socioeconomic approach

Author: Simon Rudkin, Don J. Webber, Pawel Dłotko

more information about this issue



New Article in REGION Vol. 13 No. 2 (2026)

Latest Article: Spatiotemporal Assessment of Expressway-Induced Land Cover and Landscape Transformation in Sri Lanka

Authors: Piyoda Wijesekara, Amila Jayasinghe

Explore the issue



News from Scienze Regionali

Indice del numero speciale/2026, supplemento: "Cities and Regions in the Digital Era: The Challenge of the Circular Economy Transition"

Article: The Geography of Circular Economy Scientific Knowledge in Italy

Authors: Massimiliano Coda Zabetta, Francesco Quatraro, Alessandra Scandura

Explore the issue



Review of Regional Research (RRR)

Latest Article: Working While Studying and Graduate Migration: New Evidence Accounting for Multinomial Endogenous Treatment
by Elena Del Rey & Jorge González Chapela

Access to all publications here

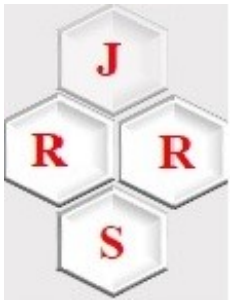


Investigaciones Regionales - Journal of Regional Research

Investigaciones Regionales - Journal of Regional Research has published the 65rd Issue, the second volume corresponding to 2026.

Below you will find the summaries of the papers published in this volume, which can be accessed at https://investigacionesregionales.org/en/revista/spatial-econometrics-and-regional-science-in-memoriam-of-jesus-mur-and-ana-angulo/

We invite authors to submit papers at https://investigacionesregionales.org/en/envio-de-articulos/submission-of-papers-and-others-contributions/



Romanian Journal of Regional Science – 20th Anniversary!

At the end of June the Romanian Journal of Regional Science has launched Vol. 20, Issue 1, Summer 2026, celebrating 20 years of continuous, uninterrupted activity!

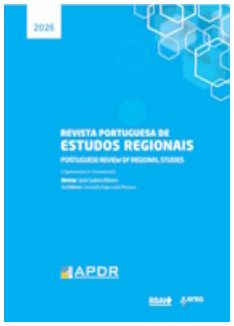
The latest issue can be accessed here: (https://www.rjrs.ase.ro/index.php/current-issue/)



Journal of Regional & Urban Economics (JRUE/RERU)

Check out the journal's latest issue
The latest Special Issue of JRUE/RERU brings together original contributions on creativity and innovation as drivers of territorial transitions and resilience.

more

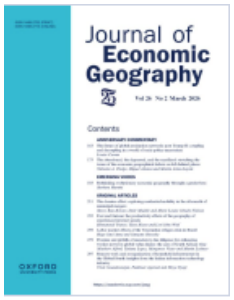


Portuguese Review of Regional Studies (RPER): Nº 75 (2026) is already available!

No. 75 (2026): Portuguese Review of Regional Studies

Editor-in-Chief: José Cadima Ribeiro
Co-Editors: Conceição Rego and João Marques
Special Issue: Innovative Approaches in Education, Technology and Tourism for Sustainable Development
Guest Editors: Rui Alexandre Castanho, João Vidal Carvalho and António Abreu
Published: 17-08-2026

More information at: https://www.review-rper.com/index.php/rper/issue/view/75



Journal of Economic Geography

We are pleased to invite submissions to a Special Issue for the *Journal of Economic Geography* on: “Advancing Economic Geography with AI: Opportunities, Challenges and Innovations.”
Official CFP
link: https://academic.oup.com/joeg/pages/advancing-economic-geo-ai

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming how we study spatial-economic processes—from text analysis and network-based methods to spatial modeling and GeoAI. While these developments have gained traction in related fields, their integration into economic geography remains uneven. This Special Issue aims to bring together theoretically grounded, methodologically rigorous, and critically reflective research at the intersection of AI and economic geography.
We welcome contributions that explore, for example:

- How can AI reveal new spatial-economic patterns?
- How can unstructured or high-dimensional data (patents, firm reports, mobility traces) inform spatial economic analysis?
- How can AI help rethink concepts like relatedness, agglomeration, spatial inequality, regional development, and global production networks?
- What are the theoretical and ethical implications of using AI in economic geography?
- How can AI insights translate into actionable, place-based policy recommendations?

Paper Development Workshop: Selected contributors will be invited to a **one-day online Paper Development Workshop in October 2026**. This workshop offers a unique opportunity to receive detailed, one-on-one feedback from the guest editors and invited discussants to refine manuscripts prior to formal submission.

Key Deadlines

- Extended abstracts (1,000 words): June 30, 2026
- Workshop invitations: July 31, 2026
- Draft papers: September 20, 2026
- Full paper submission: January 31, 2027

Submission of abstracts:
Please email: yiou.zhang@tcu.edu, mabb@business.aau.dk and fvdw@hku.hk

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Journal of the Knowledge Economy

We are pleased to share an opportunity to publish your research in a Special Issue of the **Journal of the Knowledge Economy** (Springer Nature), title ***Research and Solidarity: Global, Regional and Local Perspectives***.

This issue focuses on research guided by knowledge co-creation, inclusivity, and social responsibility — and on how solidarity reshapes knowledge economies across multiple scales.

Both **theoretical/conceptual papers** and **empirical case studies** are welcome.

More information you will find here: https://link.springer.com/collections/deaaaaccch

If you are interested in submitting the paper please contact: morawska@amu.edu.pl

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Upcoming events

GfR Gesellschaft für Regionalforschung
German speaking section of the European Regional Science Association

German Speaking Section

16th GfR Summer Conference in Regional Science at WIFO in Vienna

This year's GfR Summer Conference in Regional Science will take place on **17-18 September 2026** at the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) together with the 17th Geoffrey J.D. Hewings Regional Economics Workshop. We are happy to have Hans Koster (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) as keynote speaker.
Extended abstracts from all areas of regional science can be submitted until **15 May 2026**.
Find the call for papers with further information & submit here: https://gfr.ersa.org/2026/02/10/16-gfr-sommerkonferenz-am-wifo-16th-gfr-summer-conference/

Submission Deadline approaching: see https://ersa.org/events/german-speaking-section-16th-gfr-summer-conference/

Spanish Section

Invitation to ERSA Members – Join the 50th International Conference on Regional Science

Dear ERSA Members,
The Spanish Association of Regional Science (AECR), together with the Catalan Association of Regional Science (ACCR), are delighted to invite you to participate in the 50th International Conference on Regional Science, to be held in Barcelona from **21–23 October 2026** at the **Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC)**.

This special edition marks 50 years of scientific exchange, collaboration, and community-building in Regional Science. Celebrating this milestone in Barcelona—the city where AECR was founded—offers a unique opportunity to connect our shared history with the challenges and opportunities shaping the future of regions and territories.

Under the theme *"AI-Driven Territories for a Sustainable Future: 50 Years Building Knowledge for Regional Development"*, the conference will explore how artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and sustainability are reshaping regional development, cities, and rural areas across the world.

We warmly encourage all ERSA members to join us for this landmark anniversary edition, contribute to the scientific debate, strengthen international networks, and celebrate together five decades of progress in Regional Science.

We look forward to welcoming you to Barcelona in 2026.

Organizing Committee
50th International Conference on Regional Science



Spanish Section

VII SEMINAR FOR NEW ACADEMIC RESEARCHERS - 24th – 25th September 2026 - Faculty of Economics, Business and Tourism of the **University of Alcalá**

The Faculty of Economics, Business and Tourism of the University of Alcalá, in Madrid, is pleased to host the **VII Seminar for New Academic Researchers (SNAR) 2026.**

Following the aims and scope of the previous successful editions, the SNAR seeks to gather a group of researchers, academics, and students (PhD candidates or graduates) to share previous, current, and potential future works among all participants rather than presenting a specific research paper, with the main purpose of guiding new researchers in developing their long-term careers.

Thus, we especially invite you to present a **line of research** (past, present, or future), or **a project** in which you are involved (or that you are interested in) rather than just a specific article. This year, the seminar will be completed with some training courses for early career researchers.

We encourage contributions on topics related (but not limited) to the diverse fields involved in regional science and input-output analysis: economics, econometrics, urban planning, geography, tourism, inequality, health

and welfare, impact evaluation, structural analysis, environmental economics, labour market, etc.

The format of the Seminar will be **hybrid**: all sessions (i.e., practical courses, panel sessions and lectures) will be available in a virtual platform. Therefore, registration and attendance to the SNAR may be onsite or online, indistinctly.

All the valuable comments and suggestions shared during the meeting will also contribute to building a network of researchers interested in regional economic development and Economic geography.

Please, confirm your willingness to participate in this Seminar by sending your abstract to **snar@uah.es**, including your name(s), affiliation(s), type of assistance (online or onsite), main topic and 3-5 keywords.

The Seminar will be held on **September 24th-25th, 2026**, in Alcalá de Henares, Madrid (Spain), at the Faculty of Economics, Business and Tourism of the University of Alcalá. Come to check it out and spread the word! Looking forward to meeting you all in Madrid.

Deadlines:
Submission of abstracts: June 20th, 2026.
Notification of acceptance: July 5th, 2026

More information about the event will be sent soon.

More information in attach:
https://sites.google.com/view/snar2026/home

Abstract Modele:
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HRVATSKA SEKCIJA EUROPSKOG UDRUŽENJA REGIONALNIH ISTRAŽIVANJA

Croatian Section

Conference titled ***"EU Regional Development Dialogues: From Policy to Research"*** will take place on **28–29 September 2026 in Split, Croatia (Technology Park Split)** and is organised in cooperation with the Faculty of Economics, Business and Tourism, University of Split, the Institute for Development and International Relations (IRMO), and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, together with several institutional partners.

I would like to particularly highlight the second day of the conference, which will be dedicated to a **Regional Science Research Incubator Workshop** aimed at **early-career researchers and PhD students**. This

workshop is designed as a mentoring and discussion platform where young researchers can present their research ideas or work in progress and receive detailed feedback from senior scholars and leading researchers in regional science. We believe this is a very valuable opportunity for young ERSA members to discuss their research at an early stage, improve their papers, and connect with senior researchers in the field.

More detailed information about the programme and the Research Incubator Workshop can be found here.

Hungarian Section

Hungarian Regional Science Association 24th Annual Meeting

"The role of universities in regional and urban development"

Debrecen, 21-22 October 2026
University of Debrecen

https://www.mrtt.hu/en/annual_meeting_2026.html

Polish Section

ERSA - Polish section invites to the:
42nd International Scientific Conference "Contemporary Processes of Transformation in Industry and Services" which will take place at the **University of the National Education Commission, Krakow** on **December 6–8, 2026.**

Keynote Speakers: **Roberta Capello, Robert Hassink, Paweł Churski, Danuta Piróg.**

The event is organized in partnership with the ERSA - Polish Section.

Website and more information:
https://przemysl.uken.krakow.pl/en/home/

Registration: open until September 30, 2026.

Israeli Section

Israeli section's annual conference is scheduled to take place on **February 22, 2027, at Sapir Academic College, Israel.**

Call for Papers:

The deadline for paper submissions is **November 15, 2027**

More information soon

See all upcoming events

Other News



2026 Giorgio Rota Award for Young Researchers – Call for Papers

This year's Award is dedicated to the theme: *Economic Impact of Disasters: Risk Assessment, Vulnerability and Policy Responses*

Further information, including the Call for Papers, the Application Form, and the Editorial Guidelines for manuscript preparation, is available on the Centro Einaudi website: https://www.centroeinaudi.it/notizie-in-evidenza/7450-economic-impact-of-disasters-risk-assessment,-vulnerability-and-policy-responses-call-for-papers.html

Submission deadline: 30 September 2026.

Two papers will be selected for awards of €3,000 each (gross). **Awardees will present their work at the Giorgio Rota Award Ceremony, which will take place in Turin, between the end of November and the first ten days of December 2026.** The event will feature an invited lecturer followed by presentations of the winning papers and a discussion.



The Department of Planning and Regional Development of the University of Thessaly and the Department of Economics of the University of Athens offer jointly an **English-speaking and distance-learning M.Sc. Program in "European Regional Development Management" (ERDM)**, certified by the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (Decision QA_2668/17.02.2026).

ERDM provides in-depth academic expertise in the interdisciplinary field of regional policy and strategic management. The obtained knowledge and competencies are related to the planning and management of development policies at the regional and national level, with an emphasis on understanding

the economic, institutional, and administrative factors that influence the effectiveness of policy instruments.

ERDM is supported by an International Advisory Board of leading academics from world-class Universities or Institutions, such as the London School of Economics, the University of Manchester, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Strathclyde, the Politecnico di Milano and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

For more information, please see: https://erdm.uth.gr/

Publications



Share Your 2026 Book Publication with the RSAI-ERSA Community

Are you a member of the RSAI-ERSA Community and have recently published a book (preferably written in English)? Don't miss this opportunity to share your work with our network send the details to office@ersa.org.

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