CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

"EU Regional Development Dialogues: From Policy to Research"

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

ORGANISER

HRVATSKA SEKCIJA EUROPSKOG UDRUŽENJA REGIONALNIH ISTRAŽIVANJA

CO-ORGANISERS

Faculty of Economics, Business and Tourism
University of Split

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

European Commission

EURO impact

TEDAM
Territorial Data Analysis and Modelling

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

GENERAL PARTNER



CONFERENCE PARTNERS







THE CONFERENCE IS HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

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

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

The annual meeting will be a two-day event:

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

2. **Day II** (September 29, 2026) – **Research-oriented**, designed as a Regional Science Research Incubator Workshop, where early-career and senior scholars can engage in methodological discussions and receive feedback on their work. The workshop is organized in partnership with **RSAI's Nurturing New Talent Program.**

Programme

Day 1

Monday, 28 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)

Conference room: ***Mediteran*** (1st floor)

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

Programme

Day 1

Monday, 28 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)

Conference room: ***Mediteran*** (1st floor)

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

Programme

Day 1

Monday, 28 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)

Conference room: ***Mediteran*** (1st floor)

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

Programme

Day 1

Monday, 28 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)

Conference room: ***Mediteran*** (1st floor)

Time	Event	
15:00 - 17:00	**JRC Special Session**	Industrial transitions and open strategic autonomy: implications for regional development **Sandro Montresor**, Professor of Applied Economics, University of Trento **Katerina Ciampi Stancova**, policy analyst, OECD, **Vedran Kružić**, Director, Regional Development Agency Primorje **Roberto Antonietti**, Professor of Economic Policy, University Padua **Camilla Lenzi**, Professor of Regional and Urban Economics, Polytechnic Milan Moderator: **Andrea Conte**, Head of the Territorial Economic Data, Analysis and Modelling, JRC
17:00 - 18:00		**Electoral Assembly of ERSA Croatia** (Open to ERSA Croatia members only)
19:30 - 23:30		**Get-together Party @ SIP 27 Wine & Tapas Bar** *Finger food, Croatian wines & informal networking; Dress code: Casual*

Programme

Day 2

RSAI Nurturing New Talent Program

I part - Methodological Lectures

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)

Conference room: ***Mediteran*** (1st floor)

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

Programme

Day 2

RSAI Nurturing New Talent Program

II part - Roundtable with editors

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)

Conference room: ***Mediteran*** (1st floor)

Time	Event	
11:30 - 12:30	**Roundtable**	Publishing Regional Research That Matters: Editors on Trends, Biases, and Opportunities **Katarzyna Kopczewska** University of Warsaw, Editor of Networks and Spatial Economics **Andrés Rodríguez-Pose** LSE, Editor of Economic Geography **Sébastien Bourdin** IESEG School of Management, Associate Editor of The Annals of Regional Science, Associate Editor Moderator: **Özge Öner** University of Cambridge
12:30 - 14:15	**A Research Incubator Workshop (RIW)** ***Part 1***	The RIW gives **early-career scholars and ERSA members** tailored pre-publication feedback at any project stage from distinguished senior researchers. See ***page 11*** for details on ***Part 1***.

Programme

Day 2

RSAI Nurturing New Talent Program

III part - A Research Incubator Workshop

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Location: Technology Park Split (TPS)

Conference room: ***Mediteran*** (1st floor)

Time	Event	
14:15 - 15:00		Lunch
15:00 - 16:30	**A Research Incubator Workshop (RIW)** ***Part 2***	The RIW gives **early-career scholars and ERSA members** tailored pre-publication feedback at any project stage from distinguished senior researchers. See ***page 12*** for details on ***Part 2***.
16:30 - 16:35		Closing

Research Incubator Workshop (RIW)

SCHEDULE

Part I (29 September 2026, 12:30 - 14:15 h)

01 | ARE NEW EU INVESTMENT POLICIES "DETERRITORIALIZED"? THE CASE OF THE STRATEGIC TECHNOLOGIES FOR EUROPE PLATFORM
Author: Gabriel Barrès
Discussant: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose

02 | MATCHING POLICY TO PLACE: LEFT-BEHINDNESS AND TERRITORIAL RESPONSIVENESS IN EUROPE'S TWIN TRANSITION
Authors: Maria Tsouri, Simon Norheim Colclough
Discussant: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose

03 | LEFT-BEHINDNESS AND THE UNEVEN CAPACITY TO DECARBONISE AND DIGITALISE ACROSS EUROPE
Authors: Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, Alexandra Sandu
Discussant: Sébastien Bourdin

04 | FROM TERRITORIAL VULNERABILITY TO POLICY RESPONSIVENESS: MAPPING THE GEOGRAPHY OF LABOUR-MARKET READINESS IN EUROPE'S TWIN TRANSITION
Authors: Simon Norheim Colclough, Maria Tsouri, Lars Coenen
Discussant: Sébastien Bourdin

05 | ASSESSING FLOOD IMPACTS ON INTERREGIONAL ECONOMIES THROUGH SPATIAL ECONOMIC MODELS: A VULNERABILITY-ADJUSTED SHOCK CONSTRUCTION FRAMEWORK FOR JAVA'S NORTHERN COASTAL REGIONS
Author: Angrenggani Pramitasari
Discussant: Katarzyna Kopczewska

Research Incubator Workshop (RIW)

SCHEDULE

Part 2 (29 September 2026, 15:00 - 16:30 h)

01 | DO EU INVESTMENT GRANTS CREATE HIGH-QUALITY JOBS, AND WHERE? REGIONAL EVIDENCE FROM CROATIA
Author: Hrvoje Hrnkaš
Discussant: Özge Öner

02 | BRIDGING THE GAP: STRUCTURAL DISCONNECTION BETWEEN REGIONAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS AND DIGITAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEMS IN HUNGARIAN NUTS-2 REGIONS
Author: Bensari Sabrim
Discussant: Stjepan Srhoj

03 | FROM COLLABORATION TO DEVELOPMENT: HOW UNIVERSITIES TRANSFORM INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION INTO REGIONAL INNOVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES
Author: Amirah Ulfah
Discussant: Özge Öner

04 | DOES TOURISM PAY OFF FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS? REGIONAL EVIDENCE ON TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL REVENUES IN CROATIA
Author: Eva Mijatović
Discussant: Stjepan Srhoj

CONTACT

Croatian Section of the European Regional Science Association

Cvite Fiskovića 5
21 000 Split

Contact
E-mail: ersa@efst.hr

