

**REPORT ON THE 7TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF
THE ROMANIAN REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
North University of Baia Mare
June 12-13, 2009**

On June 12-13, 2009 the 7th International Symposium of the Romanian Regional Science Association – “Territorial Cohesion: Growth – Convergence – Competitiveness” - took place at Baia Mare, in the North-West Region of Romania. It was hosted by the North University of Baia Mare - Faculty of Science, Department of Economics. More than 140 papers were included in the programme, with over 200 authors representing not only many important university centres, research institutes, central and local administration institutions from various regions of Romania but also prestigious universities from Austria, France, Italy, Finland, Poland, Hungary, Turkey, Mexico.

At the **Opening Ceremony**, **speeches** were delivered by the two representatives of the co-organisers – Prof.Dr. Vasile Viman, Vice-Rector of the North University of Baia Mare and Prof.Dr. Daniela L. Constantin, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, President of the Romanian Regional Science Association, as well as by the representatives of the local authorities – Sen. Lecturer Dr. Cristian Anghel, Mayor of Baia Mare and Mr. Dorin Buda, Vice-Prefect of Maramures County. On this occasion, the interest of local authorities and their support to association’s activities has been emphasized.

As **Special Guest**, Professor Gyula Horvath, President of the Hungarian Regional Science Association launched a warm invitation to the 2010 Conference of the Regional Studies Association, which will be hosted by the City of Pecs, the 2010 European Capital of Culture.

Highly supportive **messages** for the Opening Ceremony were sent by Prof.Dr. Roberta Capello - Polytechnic University of Milan, President of Regional Science Association International and Prof.Dr. Peter Nijkamp – Free University of Amsterdam, Member and Past Vice-President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences, Past President of European Regional Science Association and Past President of Regional Science Association International (their messages are available on the association’s webpage).

Messages of support and collaboration proposals also came from dedicated members of the Romanian RSA, with key positions in European and Romanian institutions: Mrs. Aura Raducu – European Commission, DG Regio, Prof.Dr. Vergil Voineagu – Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, President of the National Institute of Statistics, Prof. Dr. Gabriela Dragan - Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest, Director General of the European Institute of Romania and Dr. Gabriela Frentz, Director of ROP-Regio Management Authority, Ministry of Regional Development and Housing.

In the **Plenary Session** two excellent papers were presented by Prof.Dr. Ewa Bojar – Lublin University of Technology, Poland and Prof.Dr. Dan Candea, Technical University of Cluj Napoca, Romania, as keynote speakers. Prof.Dr. Manfred Fischer, also included in the programme as keynote speaker, had to cancel his participation in the last minute because of an unexpected medical situation. Nevertheless, Professor Fischer’s paper will be included in the Symposium Proceedings, which are to be issued soon.

Then, two series of seven **parallel sessions** each stimulated very challenging debates on issues of a great interest regarding: Theory and models of regional economic growth; Economic structures

and regional specialisation; Cohesion policy adaptability. Future challenges; The competitiveness criterion for regional policy elaboration; Regional statistics, forecasting and econometrics; Sustainable regional development and knowledge economy; Entrepreneurship and regional industrial organization; Regional governance analysis; Local support for regional project management; Spatial dimension of public and business management; Regional labour markets; Urban competitiveness; European territorial cooperation – neighborhood-based determinants; Network infrastructure and regional planning; Land use patterns; Urban and rural development financing; Tourism and regional competitiveness (the programme is displayed at www.rrsa.ro).

In the end, the members of the Romanian Regional Science Association participated in the **Annual General Meeting**.

Besides the activity and financial report and plan of activities, this meeting had to elect the new board and the current leading staff of the Romanian RSA. As President has been re-elected Prof.Dr. Daniela L. Constantin, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest. The Prime-Vicepresident and two Vicepresidents are Prof.Dr. Romeo V. Ionescu, “Dunarea de Jos” University of Galati, Prof.Dr. Dorel Ailenei and Prof.Dr. Cornelia Parlog, both from Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest. Prof.Dr. Erika Tusa Marin, Academy of Economic Studies of Bucharest has been re-elected as Secretary General. The new treasurer is Dr. Simona Biriescu, West University of Timisoara. The new board has a well-balanced territorial distribution, with representatives not only from Bucharest but also from Timisoara, Galati, Alba Iulia, Baia Mare, Cluj-Napoca as well as from EC-DG Regio. The whole board is displayed on the RRSA web page.

The General Meeting has also voted the venues of the next two symposia: the Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca (2011) and “Dunarea de Jos” University of Galati (2013). A round table is also scheduled for 2010 in Constanta.

The possible actions in support to the Romanian Journal of Regional Science have been discussed as well, considering that it has already become the top journal in Regional Science in Romania and a very competitive one at international level.

Besides the very nice and joyful symposium dinner, the **social events** included a wonderful excursion to the historical area of Maramures. The participants visited the Merry Cemetery of Sapanta, the Surdesti church - the tallest wooden church in the world (both of them included in UNESCO patrimony), as well as Barsana Monastery.

To conclude, the latest symposium of the Romanian RSA has contributed to a very useful exchange of scientific ideas and, above all, to the consolidation of the so-called “the Romanian RSA spirit”: the spirit of networking and friendship between the dedicated association members and participants in the RRSA events.

Pictures from all symposium events are posted on www.rrsa.ro

The efforts of all members of the organising and scientific committee are gratefully acknowledged. **Special thanks go to the local organisers** – the members of the Department of Economics, North University of Baia Mare, with Prof.Dr. Corina Radulescu as Head of Department and Dr. Florina Hahn as key person in the organising group.