



Invitation and Call for Contributions at the International Regional Development Conference

and 34th Sedlar Meeting

Innovating regional policies and practices

Maribor, 16th and 17th November 2023

Dear Sir or Madam,

You are cordially invited to attend the International Regional Development Conference and the 34th Sedlar Meeting organised by the Regional Development Agency for Podravje – Maribor, Town and Spatial Planning Association of Slovenia, University of Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business, and Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia to be held on the 16th and 17th of November 2023 in Maribor, Slovenia.

The conference theme is innovating regional policies and practices with the creation of a diversity of approaches, solutions, and policies for the mutual benefit of the regions and their inhabitants.

The conference aims to discuss challenges of regional development within the European Union and beyond, focusing on widening the regional disparities in economic development, social cohesion, environment protection and institutional cooperation. The focal point of the conference will be the regional needs, especially the cocreation of future policies and instruments. The Conference is intended for interaction between the regional policymakers and thematic experts from various fields that include academics, researchers, counsellors, representatives from the industry, political and other organisations, educational institutions, students and the interested public to submit Contributions.

At the Conference we aim to address the following topics (non-exhaustive list):

I. Regional Policy Rethinking

- Conceptualisation of the regions,
- Governance of regions/functional urban areas/urban areas: models and approaches, user-centric designs,
- Systemic and other approaches to setting-up regional structures, understanding nations, regions, cities and their inhabitants,
- Scale & scope of regional inequalities (e.g., income, health, education) policies to overcome them (including place-based approach and smart specialisation),

- Case studies highlighting where/how policymakers have attempted to reduce regional inequalities (and the effectiveness of interventions).

II. Monitoring and Evaluation of Regional Development

- Monitoring and evaluation of regional progress/development policies, programmes, projects and other initiatives,
- Sustainability of the regional projects and programmes,
- Impacts of regional development policies and sustainability challenges,
- Viability of the regions,
- The impact of macroeconomic policies on regional policy objectives and practices,
- Availability of data and indicators to monitor the regional progress,
- Policy Experimentation.

III. Spatial Planning, mobility and green growth development

- Spatial planning and regional development,
- Role and Capacity of local and regional actors (local authorities, regional development agencies, universities, and businesses) in regional policy settings,
- Public investment to address regional inequalities, megatrends, and future developments,
- Convergence or separation of regional and industrial policy objectives,
- Monitoring land use in cities and regions by using advanced technologies,
- Climate changes and impacts on place-based approaches,
- Urban and regional mobility,
- Urban and regional housing from a development perspective,
- Role of the regional and urban population in nature protection in urban/regional development,
- The impact of urbanisation and industry on the natural environment.

IV. Social Inclusion

- Social policies at the urban and/or regional level: user-centric approaches,
- Social responsibility and contemporary ethics in local democracy,
- Consideration and strengthening of social responsibility and innovation,
- Unpaid care economy with its differences in urban and rural areas,
- Gender-related entrepreneurship,
- Regional Health,
- Ageing population and workforce,
- Youth and their challenges (including migration) within urban and regional dimensions,
- Nudging regional and urban behaviours of inhabitants and visitors.

V. Technological Advancements in Regional Policy

- Smart cities and regions' development potentials,

- AI and big data in regional and urban planning,
- Circular economy in regions and cities,
- Industry 4.0 and beyond and impacts on cities and regions,
- Mobility, resilience, and competencies of the workforce,
- Foreign direct investments strategies for the regions and cities,
- Regional development framework for the development of human resources potential,
- Rural entrepreneurship in times of transformation,
- Impacts of tourism on sustainable development.

Submission of the Contributions and Selection Procedure

In expectation of your invaluable contributions and lively discussion at the Conference on the challenges and opportunities in regional development, we are looking forward to your papers' submissions. For technical details about submission please refer to the Submission, selection, and registration procedure. We look forward to seeing you in Maribor!

The Programme Committee

Submissions, selection, and registration procedure

Submission and selection

Contributions should address **one of the topics** from the viewpoints of theoretical or practical solutions.

Abstracts submission and acceptance

All Abstracts should be submitted by 24th April 2023. The abstracts should be between 180 and 200 words long and in English or Slovene and include from 3 to 5 keywords. The abstracts should be submitted via: <https://bit.ly/Abstracts4Conference>

The authors will receive the acceptance notice by May 30th, 2023.

Conference abstracts will be published in **conference Proceedings** and handed over to the Conference participants.

Papers submission and acceptance

The Conference Papers should be submitted via e-mail to: conference@rra-podravje.si by September 15th, 2023. There are no limits on the number of submissions or the number of presentations per person or organisation. There is no limit on co-authors' writing and presenting.

- Contributions should be between **4.000 and 8.000 words** long, in Times New Roman, letter size 12 and should be sent by e-mail to: conference@rra-podravje.si See **Instructions for the authors:** <https://urbani-izziv.uirsi.si/en-us/Instructions-for-authors>
- All Contributions will be double-blind reviewed for acceptance. All contributions must be in English or Slovene.



- All accepted Contributions will be published in a special edition of the Urban challenges and will be publicly available in printed and electronic form. All authors will receive one copy free of charge. The instructions for the article preparation: <https://urbani-izziv.uirs.si/en-us/Instructions-for-authors>
- In case of a large number of contributions, the organisers reserve the right to select the presenters at the Conference.

Important Submission Deadlines:

- **24 April 2023** – abstracts in English or Slovene.
- **30 May 2023** – information about acceptance.
- **15 September 2023** – final papers in English or Slovene.
- **15 October 2023** – final acceptance and selection of presenters.
- **3 November 2023** – submission of presentations (in Slovene or English language).
- **16th and 17th November 2023** – Conference in Maribor, Slovenia.

Conference committees:

Program Committee

- Hugo Filipe de Brito Barros, University of Algarve, CRIA, CEO (PT)
- Prof. dr. Melika Husić-Mehmedović. The University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Economics and Business (BiH)
- Prof. dr. Franc Janžekovič, University of Maribor, Faculty of natural sciences and mathematics (SI)
- Dr Samo Peter Medved, Municipality Maribor (SI), vice-mayor
- Prof. dr. Borut Milfelner, University Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business (SI)
- Prof. Emeritus dr. Matjaž Mulej, University Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business, and IRDO - Institute for Development of Social Responsibility (SI)
- Prof. dr. Karmen Pažek, University of Maribor, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences (SI)
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- Dr. Amna Potočnik, Head of the Regional Development Research Group at Regional Development Agency for Podravje-Maribor, Maribor (SI), vice-president of the Programme Committee
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- Prof. dr. Simona Šarotar Žižek, University of Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business (SI), vice-president of the Programme Committee,



- Prof. dr. Igor Vrečko, University of Maribor, Faculty of Economics and Business (SI)
- Ass. Prof. dr. Alma Zavodnik Lamovšek, University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Civil and Geodetic Engineering (SI), President of the Programme Committee
- Prof. dr. Ralitsa Zhekova, RAPIV, CEO and Varna Free University (BG).

Contact: conference@rra-podravje.si

Organisational Committee

- MSc. Danijela Kocuvan, Regional Development Agency for Podravje – Maribor, Head of the Organisational Committee
- Mateja Krampač, Regional Development Agency for Podravje - Maribor
- MSc. Božidar Pučnik, Regional Development Agency for Podravje - Maribor
- Brina Novak, Regional Development Agency for Podravje - Maribor

Contacts: <https://rra-podravje.si/agencija/zaposleni>

Registration procedure

The Conference Fee applies as in the table below:

Registration fee for each participant	Regular registration	Early Birds (by September 30th, 2023)
Authors	200 EUR	150 EUR
Students	Free	Free
Other participants, listeners (no authors/students)	250 EUR	180 EUR

The registration will be closed by 10th November 2023. Please register at:

<https://bit.ly/RegionalConferenceRegistration>



Payment deadline:

The registration fee must be paid to the Regional Development Agency for Podravje-Maribor TRR by November 10th, 2023.

Payment data:

Contact: Conference@rra-podravje.si



Receiver: Regionalna razvojna agencija za Podravje - Maribor

Address: Pobreška cesta 20, SI-2000 Maribor, Slovenija

Reference "Conference" and your name and family name

Bank: BSLJSI2X

Bank account: IBAN: SI56 0127 0603 0214 856

Payment procedures: Attendees will receive an original invoice upon the submission of registration. The payment confirmation will be sent to the participant by email.

Additional Info

- Registration includes presence at the conference, proceedings, lunch, and refreshments during breaks.
- Hotel rooms are NOT included in the fee, and neither is travelling. This should be arranged by the conference participants themselves.
- Conference languages are Slovene and English.

Accommodation:

HOTELS - more information:

Hotel City Maribor**** <https://www.hotelcitymb.si/>

Terme Maribor <https://www.terme-maribor.si/en>

B&B Hotel Maribor: [B&B Hotel Maribor | B&B Hotels \(hotel-bb.com\)](https://www.bnb-hotels.com)

Hotel Maribor <https://www.hotelmaribor.si/>

Hotel Lent <https://www.hotel-lent.si/en/>

Further information:

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