

**«New ideas and new generations of regional policy in Eastern Europe »
International Conference 7-8 April 2016, Pécs, Hungary**



Conference Overview¹

The international conference organized by the Institute for Regional Studies -Centre for Economic and Regional Studies-Hungarian Academy of Sciences, titled «New ideas and new generations of regional policy in Eastern Europe» was organized in Pécs (Hotel Palatinus), Hungary, in the south-west of the country close to its border with Croatia, was held on April 7-8 2016. The turn-out was impressive with over 150 participants from 15 countries (Hungary, Poland, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Albania, Romania, Turkey, etc) who attended the conference, where the successful work was conducted in 8 thematic sessions (socio-economic inequalities, regional policy, cohesion, sustainability, migration, border regions, territorial capital, rural innovations, smart city). A major objective of the event, alongside the presentation of the most advanced research results on territorial research and the debate on current issues was to contribute to strengthening the international relationships of researchers and to encourage new cooperation.

In the new Cohesion Policy period the EU member states have more options to signify their specificities, to search for more adequate solutions to their particular challenges. The conference attempted to refresh the discussions on domestic regional issues, and to create partnerships and facilitate cooperation among upcoming regional science younger scholars and elders from Western Europe, Central Europe, as well as from East Europe and the Balkans. Besides these objectives, the conference fostered more fruitful relations and cooperation with experts from all regions to share experiences with intent to improve the way regional studies and development policies are conducted.

¹ Conference overview by Dr Eleni N. Stamatiou