

## Policy day, Thursday 31st August 2017

### ERSA2017 Policy Day

A novelty in the history of the ERSA congresses is the programming of a one day policy event, organized as a special programme within the main congress programme, with the specific aim of enhancing the interaction between scientists and policymakers. To make this possible, the Local Organizing Committee also invites public representatives and policymakers, professionals in public or private organisations and consultants working in the field of regional policy to participate on a one day Policy Day ticket.

The policy sessions are prepared by the LOC, in close cooperation with the European Commission, the OECD, the EIB and the stakeholder partners: the Municipality of Groningen, the Province of Groningen, the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, the Northern Netherlands Provinces Alliance, the NAM, the Waddenacademie, GasTerra and the Rabobank. The ERSA Policy Day is therefore policy-oriented and focused on direct interaction between academic congress participants and local, regional and (inter)national politicians, policymakers, professionals and consultants.

The ERSA2017 Policy Day consist of a high level Plenary Session, four workshops and a semi-plenary closing session organised by the OECD in which high-level academics and policy makers are participating.

**Thu1-PD-01                      Policy Day                      AB Aula / Great Hall (0105)**  
**Plenary Session 'Social Progress for Resilient Regions'**

In a world of rapid economic and technological change, resilient regions with sustainable socio-economic structures and institutions are more important for social progress and development than ever. This central theme is leading for the policy sessions during the **ERSA2017 Policy Day on August 31<sup>st</sup>** but it is also the central theme of the plenary session. The prominent keynote speakers who have high level strategic impact on regional policy for the next decade are Marc Lemaître, Joaquim Oliveira Martins and Pim van Ballekom. They will discuss themes like: The future of cohesion policy in relation with the urban agenda and Government challenges related to inclusiveness in regions. Barbara Baarsma will chair the plenary session.

Moderator: **Barbara Baarsma**, University of Amsterdam, Director Knowledge Development Rabobank

Keynote speakers and panel members:

**Marc Lemaître**, Director-General of the department for Regional and Urban Policy, DG REGIO, European Commission, *Title: Regional Science and Cohesion Policy*

**Joaquim Oliveira Martins**, Special Advisor, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, OECD, *Title: The Contribution of Regions & Cities to Inclusive Growth*

**Pim van Ballekom**, Vice-president of the European Investment Bank, *Title: The Finance for Integrated Territorial Development and the Urban Agenda*

**Thu2-PD-02                      Policy Day                      AB Senate Room (0101)**  
**'Growing inequalities and their regional implications'**

In (Dutch) public debate there is a rising concern on the presumed and experienced growing inequalities in society. Not only the availability and accessibility of jobs, income levels and wealth differ significantly between regions. But also the levels of well-being, cultural and moral values and human capital seem to differ spatially.

Are there places or regions where economic, social and cultural inequalities increase more than elsewhere? What are the consequences and how can/should policymakers respond to these differences? In this session scientific research will give insight in geographical patterns of sociological and economic inequalities. Policy makers of local, regional, national and EU-level will discuss how they perceive these patterns.

Moderator: **Eveline van Leeuwen**, Free University Amsterdam

Contributors: **Paolo Veneri**, OECD, **Rachel Franklin**, Brown University, **Anet Weterings**, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, **Nienke Homan**, Province of Groningen, **Henriëtte Bersee**, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment.

**Thu2-PD-03**

**Policy Day**

**AB Aula / Great Hall (0105)**

**'What works for competitiveness?'**

Regional competitiveness is an important target in spatial policy. It is often conceived in a very general way – what is good for growth must be part of your competitiveness. Yet we can go one level deeper and locate the actual competitors of a region, in terms of sectors, trade flows, and assets. Who competes with whom? Who wins and who loses in regional competition? And, of course: what can we do with this knowledge in new policies? Goal of the workshop is to get policy makers, researchers and advisors familiar with the concept and empirics of regional competitiveness and the use in their policies. In the session a line of reasoning is presented how to determine which business environment factors are important for a region and how to fill this with empirical analysis and unique data of regions.

Moderator: **Otto Raspe**, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency

Contributors: **Martijn Smit**, University of Utrecht, **Mark Thissen**, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, **Frank van Oort**, Erasmus University

**Thu3-PD-04**

**Policy Day**

**AB Senate Room (0101)**

**'How to use a crisis as an accelerator for regional change and regional policy'**

Regions in economic and demographic decline are confronted with the need of finding a new 'equilibrium' between the region's productive ability, the number of inhabitants and the physical environment. In a market economy there is no such thing as a 'master plan' for creating such an equilibrium, let alone for finding a new path to growth. However, regional and local stakeholders must –and can– find ways to assure the region's liveability, in general and as a home for the inhabitants and as a business environment and a marketplace for the entrepreneurs. In this workshop examples are presented of how also private stakeholders like a bank are participating in this process. In this workshop Rabobank shows that they are not only as an enterprise dealing with these challenges, but –rooted in some of the Dutch regions that are most affected by economic stagnation and demographic decline– also accepts a corporate social responsibility towards these regions. Therefore Rabobank not only ventures for the benefit of its individual clients in declining regions, but also on behalf of regional society as a whole. Finally the theme is discussed: what can we learn from the experiences in other parts of Europe, where the question of resilient regions exists already longer.

Moderator: **Frans Musters**, Rabobank

Contributors: **Barbara Baarsma**, University of Amsterdam, Rabobank, **Alessandra Faggian**, Gran Sasso Science Institute, **Riek Siertsema**, Perspectief Groningen 2025

**Thu3-PD-05**                      **Policy Day**                      **AB Aula / Great Hall (0105)**  
**'Local Policy and Happiness'**

One of the most important goals for (local) policy makers is supposed to be the (long-run) satisfaction or happiness of the community they are responsible for. Increasingly, information about subjective happiness becomes available at low spatial levels. From this we can learn how spatial variation affects the perceived happiness of residents. A next important step is to use these subjective happiness measures in local policy goals and measures. In this session, a quick scan is offered of the opportunities of using subjective happiness measures in local policymaking through a top assortment of ten-minute presentations by scientists and policymakers.

Moderators: **Martijn Burger**, Erasmus University, **Eveline van Leeuwen**, Free University Amsterdam  
Contributors: **Dimitris Ballas**, University of Groningen, **Roderik Ponds**, Atlas voor Gemeenten, **Erik Jansonius**, Municipality of Schagen.

**Thu4-PD-06**                      **Policy Day**                      **AB Aula / Great Hall (0105)**  
**OECD semi-plenary session 'Growth and well-being through better policies and governance'**

Across the OECD a "geography of discontent" is emerging. It expresses itself in countries and people turning inwards, prompting the emergence of new forms of populism and protectionism. These ideas find very different levels of support across regions showing divides between rural and urban populations, between different types of cities or even neighbourhoods and more broadly between those that are "winners" and those that feel they are "losers" of decades of increased openness, diversity and globalisation. The urgent question, posed to academics and policy makers alike, is how policies and governance can contribute to creating a better environment for economic growth and increases in well-being that benefits all regions and cities not just the lucky few.

This session aims to provide answers to the questions by bringing academic expertise and policy experience together in a high-level panel discussion chaired by Rüdiger Ahrend (Head of Urban Programme, OECD). The panel will consist of around five high-level academics and policy makers.

Moderator: **Rüdiger Ahrend**, Head of Urban Policy, Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD  
Panel members: **Mark Partridge**, Full Professor C. William Swank Chair of Rural-Urban Policy, Ohio State University, **Roberta Capello**, Full professor of Regional Economics at Politecnico of Milan, **Jozias van Aartsen**, Interim King's Commissioner Province of Drenthe and Chairman of the Northern Netherlands Provinces Alliance, **Tony Lloyd**, MP for Rochdale and former Mayor of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, **Mark Frequin**, Director-General of the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment