



Special session proposal

Regional Policy at Crossroads: concepts, planning, implementation, evaluation (ERSA Summer School in Bratislava)

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Although the European Union and its Member States are investing a lot of money to reduce regional disparities, there is a growing debate on important issues related to its justification, focus, implementation and the results. Problematic policy focus, complicated implementation, and its inconclusive impact can result not only in ineffective policies but also in lower stability of the political and economic systems. Analysis and evaluation of regional policy is therefore an indispensable component that can bring important insights into which institutional, structural or socio-economic factors stimulate growth processes and inclusion in the regions.

Following up the presentations and discussions during the 31st ERSA Summer School in Bratislava, convenors of this special session welcome papers from participants of the summer school (but restricted to) with topics such as:

- place based vs. spatially blind (space neutral) policies,
- growth and inequalities,
- institutional aspects of regional policy,
- impact of regional policy in different contexts,
- evaluation of smart specialization strategies,
- counterfactual analysis of policy interventions,
- determinants of the success and failure of regional policy,
- relation between territorial inequality and political populism.