The Role of the Local in Improving Cohesion and Spatial Justice:
integrating place-based with top-down approaches to local development
2nd RELOCAL Project Conference
7th March 2019 (Thursday), LODZ, POLAND

We are pleased to invite you to the Second RELOCAL Project Conference "The Role of the Local in Improving Cohesion and Spatial Justice: integrating place-based with top-down approaches to local development", which will take place on 7th March 2019 and will be hosted by the Department of Regional and Social Geography, University of Lodz, Poland.

The RELOCAL Horizon 2020 Project is funded by the European Commission and runs from 2016 to 2020. The conference intends to provide the debate on contemporary approaches to local development addressing the challenge of socio-economic and territorial cohesion by emphasizing the role of place and territory, and their specific assets. One of the main aims of the conference is to make room for joint discussion of representatives of related, ongoing or already finalized projects funded by European Commission Programs. Results of this discussion will be taken forward to shape the further work of the RELOCAL Project.

We invite scholars, practitioners and policy makers to share their insights as well as practical experience on identifying policies promoting spatial justice and socio-economic well-being at various levels of governance.

We welcome papers that discuss benefits from as well as challenges to, the integration of place-based and top-down approaches to local development. A crucial question is how to align the policy focus of national-regional and local governments in order to ensure that community or regional needs and preferences are better addressed.

The Venue
The Project Conference will be held in of Lodz Agency for Regional Development (Łódzka Agencja Rozwoju Regionalnego) which is located in the center of the city (ulica Narutowicza 34, 90-135 Lodz), in a very short distance to the Lodz Fabryczna Railway Station.

All coffee breaks and lunches during our meeting will be served there.

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Program

08:30  Registration and a morning coffee
09:00  Opening Session
       Keynote Address
       Carlos Mendez, European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde

10:15  Coffee break

Morning
09:00 – 12:30

10:40  From Regional to Local with the IMAJINE Project
       Ana Viñuela, University of Oviedo

11:00  Transport and spatial inequalities
       Tomasz Komornicki, Konrad Czapiewski, Barbara Szejgiec-Kolenda, Polish Academy of Sciences

11:20  Integrating and communicating Cohesion Policy, Urban and Rural policies.
       PERCEIVE project outcomes
       Zbigniew Florańczyk, Barbara Wieliczko, Paweł Chmieliński, Polish Research Institute

11:40  LEADER – an instrument for spatial justice? A comparative study across Europe
       Gusztáv Nemes, Katalin Kovacs - Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Mark Schucksmith, Elizabeth Brooks – Newcastle University, Enikő Vincze, George Zamfir - Babes-Bolyai University, Foundation Desire

12:00  How to make the place-based and the top-down meet? Introducing the Smart Villages approach to the local
       Oskar Wolski, University of Lodz

12:30  Lunch

Afternoon
13:30 – 16:30

13:30  Place-based integration of policies for a healthy and just city
       Joanna Stepień, University of Gdańsk

13:50  Civic budgeting as a tool for, or emanation of better place: Evidence from rural Poland
       Katarzyna Leśniewska-Napierała, Tomasz Napierała – University of Lodz

14:10  The Finnish Way of CLLD
       Patrik Hämäläinen, University of Eastern Finland

14:30  Spatial (in)justice and top-down policies in innovation ecosystems: The case of Alexander Innovation Zone in Thessaloniki
       Lefteris Topaloglou, George Petrakos, Aggeliki Anagnostou, Victor Cupcea, University of Thessaly

15:00  Coffee break

15:20  Panel session involving related projects’ representatives, SAB, stakeholders
16:30  Closing of the Conference

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