



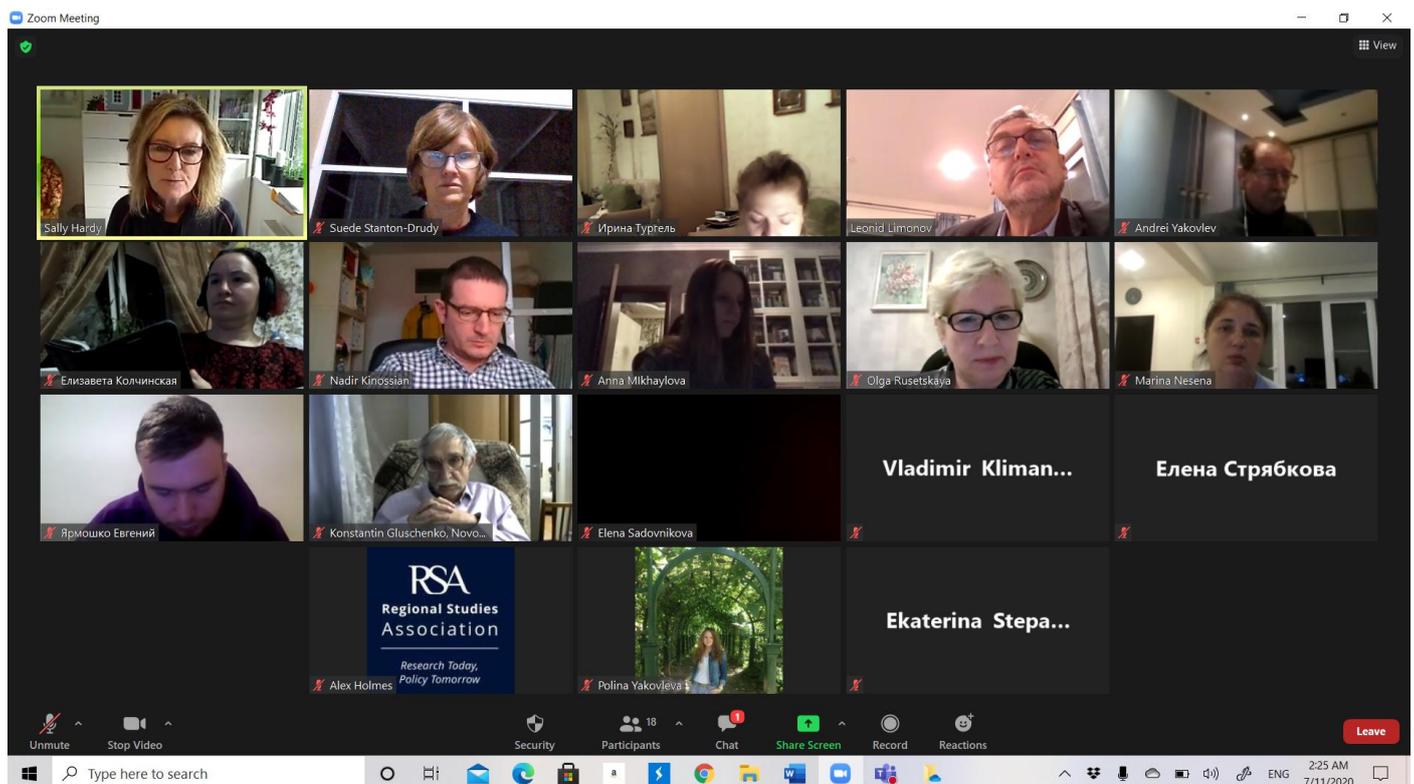
**Minutes for the Annual Meeting  
of the  
Regional Studies Association Russia Division  
by Zoom on 6 November 2020**

**1. Chair's welcome and attendances**

The Chair welcomed people to the Annual Meeting of the Regional Studies Association Russia Division and noted the attendances as follows:

Attendances: Leonid Limonov, Irina Turgel, Vladimir Klimanov, Andrei Yakovlev, Nadir Kinossian, Anna Mikhaylova, Olga Rusetskaya, Marina Nesena, Andrey Yushkov, Konstantin Gluschenko, Elena Sadovnikova, Polina Yakovleva, Ekaterina Stepanova, Elizaveta Kolchinskaya, Evgeniy Yarmoshko, Elena Stryabkova.

Regional Studies Representatives: Sally Hardy, Suede Stanton-Drudy



**Report from Chief Executive of RSA**

Sally Hardy, Chief Executive of the Regional Studies Association provided an overview of RSA activities over the last year and future plans of the Association relevant to the RSA Russia Division. She reported that it had

been a very difficult year for the Association which had cancelled all face to face events and refunded around £130,000. Since March the RSA had been running two webinar series, the professional development series and the Regions, Cities, Industry series, all of which were free. The RSA had striven to be a source of community cohesion by hosting the RSA Global travelling webinar series, virtual coffee mornings and alumni meetings. The Association had supported researchers with a round of small grants, with a second round imminent and a third round possible and by continuing to work with the European Commission via the RSA's Foundation RSA Europe to co-organise the Smart Specialisation webinars. Sally reported that next year the RSA would not hold an annual conference but in the spirit of community cohesion would facilitate a partnership conference entitled Regions in Recovery. Sally concluded by encouraging attendees to sign up to the new RSA App "RSA Hub" and invited attendees to email here with suggestions on how the RSA could best support its Russian members.

Sally took a question from the floor on the Association's financial viability and reported that as the majority of the Association's funding was derived from publishing and with solid reserves the Association was very stable financially.

Sally reported that the RSA currently had open calls for short form Policy Expo books on policy facing issues, and applications for Editorial posts on the RSA flagship journal *Regional Studies*. She invited attendees to apply for these or to email her or Joan Fitzgerald to propose a book for the *Regions and Cities* book series.

## 2. Minutes from previous meeting

The Chair noted that the previous meeting was not a formal meeting and that the following notes had been prepared to minute that meeting.

*Leonid Limonov informed attendees about the results of the work of the Russian division in 2018: he noted the increase in the number of RSA members and participants from Russia of RSA events, also the increase in the number of events, organized by the Russian Division independently or in the framework of bigger events, as well as of events where the presentation of RSA activities took place. The participants also noted the importance of RSA work on the development of the system of scientific publications: journals and monographs. Another significant result was the expansion of the geography of RSA participants. In particular, in 2018 in Lugano a record number of participants from Russia attended the annual RSA conference (12 people). The participants of the meeting approved the report on the activities of the Division, reelected Prof. Leonid Limonov as a Chair of the Russian Division and supported the proposal to hold the next conference of the Russian Division in Yekaterinburg in November 2019.*

The Chair reported that subsequent to that meeting two more members of the Russia Division were appointed by the RSA as Ambassadors to Russia: Irina Turgel and Vladimir Klimanov. Both actively participated in RSA conferences and promoted RSA activities in their area. Leonid with Irina Turgel organised the Yekaterinburg conference in 2019.

The minutes of the previous meeting were put to a vote. The Chair confirmed that RSA members and members of Leontief Centre could vote at this meeting as the Leontief has corporate membership.

The minutes were approved by the meeting.

### 3. Report to the Board of Division Activities

#### **RSA Russia Division Chair – Leonid Limonov**

The Chair noted that the Division was not a legal entity and did not received financial support from the RSA and was supported by Leontief Centre. The Division conference was also able to be presented as part of the Leontief conference. The Chair reported there had been an increasing number of participants from Russia attending RSA conferences and events, and the RSA Russia Division had increased the number of RSA members from Russia. The Chair encouraged non-members to join and those members who had joined but were not active he encouraged to contact him to capitalise on their membership. The Chair requested regular reports from the RSA about membership in Russia. He concluded by noting there had been a sharp decline in activity as a result of the pandemic as Russian members were possibly not as interested in attending events online, and he suggested that the Division could be more active during this time.

#### **RSA Ambassador to Russia – Irina Turgel**

Irina Turgel reported that events with a very specialised topic would be useful to present during this time of virtual working and webinars. She believed this would assist the Division to access new networks. She supported the creation of a database with names, area of specialisation and emails, provided it did not violate data privacy and was restricted to disseminating information around projects they were working on. She voiced a desire to help young researchers, and in response Sally Hardy invited Irina to contact her to discuss forming an Early Career and Student network with a core group of 10-15 members.

### 4. Events

The Chair reported that the next Division event was planned for the end of October 2021, but noted that it depended on vaccination, availability of flights and visas etc, in the absence of which the next conference would need to be cancelled or arranged in ZOOM. The decision will be made in 2021 (probably in June) depending on the situation with pandemic and vaccination plans. Division conferences were normally annually in St Petersburg or in Yekaterinburg, however future events may be virtual until the end of pandemic regulations.

The Chair suggested for the Division one general conference per year, and some smaller seminars focusing on particular problems or including some sessions within larger conferences. The Chair also suggested the format could be mixed – off and online/hybrid events.

Irina Turgel reported that the Ural Federal University was planning a webinar in December this year devoted to smart cities which RSA Russia Division could be invited to take part in.

Vladimir Klimonov supported the creation of a database of experts to assist with the running and promotion of Division events.

The Chair asked meeting participants to email him any suggestions they had in relation to potential Division events.

#### 5. To elect Members to the Board

The Chair explained that for consistency with other RSA Divisions and for stability it was desirable the RSA Ambassadors were Members of the Board of their Division. It was therefore proposed that RSA Ambassadors to Russia be appointed as Members of the Board of the RSA Russia Division for the term of November 2020 - November 2023.

The Chair then opened to the floor for anyone to nominate themselves to be on the Board. No further nominations were received.

The vote was taken and the meeting agreed to the proposal to appoint RSA Ambassadors to Russia Irina Turgel and Vladimir Klimanov to the Board of the RSA Russia Division for the term of November 2020 - November 2023. Leonid Limonov was re-elected as the Division Chair. So, the Board was approved for the term of November 2020 - November 2023 as consistent of 3 members: Leonid Limonov – Chair and 2 members: Irina Turgel and Vladimir Klimanov.

At this point Sally Hardy and Suede Stanton-Drudy left the meeting which continued in Russian.

#### 6. Future direction of the Division

Members had several proposals and ideas on the future direction of the Division. Vladimir Klimanov suggested to establish regular contacts with the Russian Division of ERSA (European Regional Science Association) through its Chair Prof. Aleksandr Pelyasov. In particular to discuss with him an initiative to organize a joint event of 2 Divisions at the end of 2021 or in 2022. Irina Turgel said that the workshop in Yekaterinburg on smart cities may be arranged as RSA-Russia event. The proposals were made to have in the future some RSA-Russia workshops in Russian and also to work more with students and young researches – to arrange special sessions for them and to encourage them to apply for travel grants to take part at the RSA events in other countries.

#### 7. Any other items for discussion but not decision

Leonid Limonov informed participants that in December 2020 there will be the 4th Russian Economic Congress, where he is invited to chair several sessions of the conference “Spatial and Regional Economic Development”. He will use this opportunity to inform the Congress participants on the RSA activities and on the RSA journals. Elena Stryabkova invited all participants to take part at the 3-d International Scientific Conference "Spatial Development of Territories", organized by the National Research University "Belgorod State University" (BelSU), which will take place in November 26-27th, 2020 in ZOOM. Leonid Limonov agreed to welcome participants of the Conference and to tell them about RSA and RSA – Russia activities at the Opening Session of the Conference.

Papers End