

FINAL REPORT

on activities in 2015-2017

The RSA Research Network on EU Cohesion Policy was coordinated by Marcin Dąbrowski (Delft University of Technology), John Bachtler with Laura Polverari and Oto Potluka (University of Basel), together with a group of co-organisers and close collaborators from several other European universities, including Nicola Francesco Dotti (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Ida Musiałkowska (Poznań University of Economics and Business) and Eduarda Costa with Eduardo Medeiros (University of Lisbon). The network thus operated in a decentralised way in order to include a wide variety of people doing research on EU Cohesion policy across Europe through a series of workshops and special sessions.

We organised four workshops, including one in Brussels that was particularly policy-focused and included high-level EU officials and Members of the European Parliament. The workshops covered a wide range of timely topics for Cohesion policy debates, both in academia and in the policy realm, from territorial cohesion, the urban dimension, to the interface between research on Cohesion policy and its implementation, to an appraisal of achievements of the policy in Southern and Eastern European regions, the main beneficiaries of the Structural Funds, in the past and present. We are pleased to report that each of them attracted excellent scholars, including both leading well-established researchers and aspiring ones, as well as practitioners, both from the EU institutions and national or sub-national governments and other organisations. This dialogue between research and practice was one of the hallmarks of our workshops.

For each of the workshops the host organisations of the workshops and our partners / local organisers at those organisations offered their invaluable assistance, hospitality and support, both financial and in kind. We are also proud to report that we strived to support early career researchers and participants hailing from countries with recognised funding difficulties; thus we paid special attention to include the former among our participants and we distributed overall seven bursaries to speakers to enable their participation in the workshops . Apart from the workshops we have organised three special sessions at RSA conferences in Graz (2016), Dublin (2017) and Lugano (2018). At all events we paid due attention to publicising the RSA and its support for our Network and we publicised our activities (and related RSA activity) via our [facebook](#) page (469 followers). Beyond this our mailing list reaches about 160 people in the network's 'orbit' (most of whom are the participants of our past events since 2011).

Our activities during 2015-2017 period (albeit stretching up to present) are summarised below.

1) *Territorial Cohesion and Territorial Impacts*

Lisbon, CEG-IGOT, University of Lisbon, 5-6 November 2015.

No of attendees:

122

Local organisers:

Eduarda Marques da COSTA and Eduardo MEDEIROS (CEG-IGOT, Lisbon University).

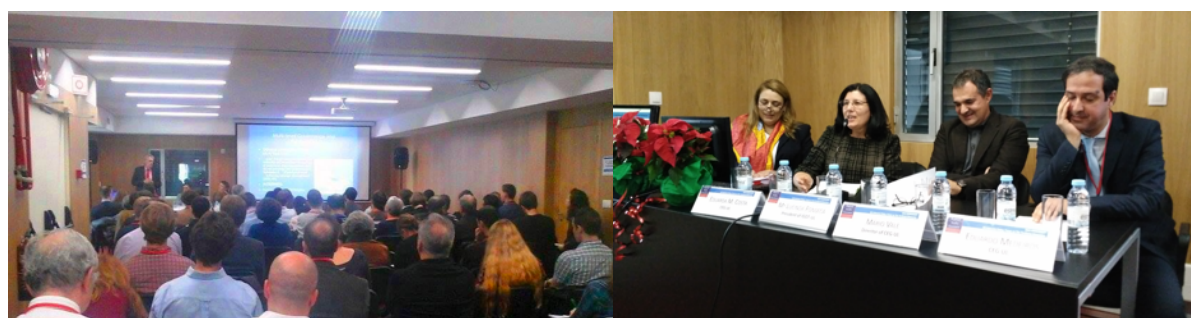
Topical highlights:

Debate on the territorial dimension of the EU Cohesion Policy, and namely on the following topics:

- Assessing territorial impacts at the various spatial levels;
- Implementing the Territorial Agenda and the European Spatial Development Perspective;
- Achieving Territorial Cohesion in the EU.

Keynotes:

- Andreas FALUDI (Delft University of Technology);
- Jacek ZAUCHA (University of Gdańsk);
- Kai BÖHME (Spatial Foresight);
- Maria PREZIOSO (University of Rome Tor Vergata);
- Wolfgang PETZOLD (Committee of the Regions).



2) *EU and the city*

Delft, Delft University of Technology, 14 October 2016.

No of attendees:

28

Local organisers:

Marcin DAŃBROWSKI and Dominic STEAD (Delft University of Technology)

Topical highlights:

- The urban dimension of Cohesion policy;
- Urban Agenda for the EU (Pact of Amsterdam);
- Integrated approach to urban development;

- Socio-economic segregation in European Cities;
- Tools for supporting the urban dimension of Cohesion policy: Community Led Local Development, Integrated Territorial Investment, JESSICA, rural-urban partnerships.

Keynotes:

- Pedro CAMPOS (Dutch Ministry of Internal Affairs);
- Bas VERKERK (former Mayor of Delft).



3) Learning from the implementation and evaluation of the EU Cohesion Policy

Brussels, Université Libre de Bruxelles, 13 June 2016.

No of attendees:

80

Local organisers :

- Nicola F. DOTTI (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) ;
- Fanny SBARAGLIA (Université libre de Bruxelles).

Topical highlights:

Discussions of research-based lessons with key policymakers (Commissioner's Cabinet, MEP, DG-Regio, Committee of the Regions, European Economic and Social Committee):

- Methods and Approaches to Evaluate the Cohesion Policy;
- Evaluation-based Policy Learning in the Case of Cohesion Policy;
- Policy Evaluation for Administrative Capacity;
- Cross-thematic issues on evaluation and policy learning in the case of Cohesion Policy.

Keynotes / invited discussants :

- Peter BERKOWITZ (EU Commission, DG-Regio);
- Ramona COMAN (Director of the IEE-ULB);
- Mathieu FICHTER (Commissioner Cretu's Cabinet) ;
- Andrea MAIRATE (EU Commission, DG-Regio);
- Jan OBLRYCHT (MEP, EPP);
- Wolfgang PETZOLD (Committee of the Regions);
- Magdalena SAPAŁA (European Parliamentary Research Service);

- Monika VANA (MEP, Greens/EFA);
- Petr ZAHRADNIK (European Economic and Social Committee).



4) EU cohesion policy in Eastern and Southern Europe: taking stock and drawing lessons for the Future

Poznań, Poznań University of Economics and Business, 25 September 2017.

No of attendees:

32

Local organisers:

Ida MUSIAŁKOWSKA and Piotr IDCZAK (Poznań University of Economics and Business).

Keynote:

- Eduarda Marques da COSTA (University of Lisbon): “EU Cohesion Policy in Eastern and Southern Europe: repeating paths at different speeds?”

Topical highlights:

- Convergence at regional and micro level. Countries’ experiences with regional and urban policy-making in the Cohesion policy;
- Governance, political factors and impact on the implementation of the Cohesion policy;
- Institutional and sectoral approach towards the Cohesion policy.



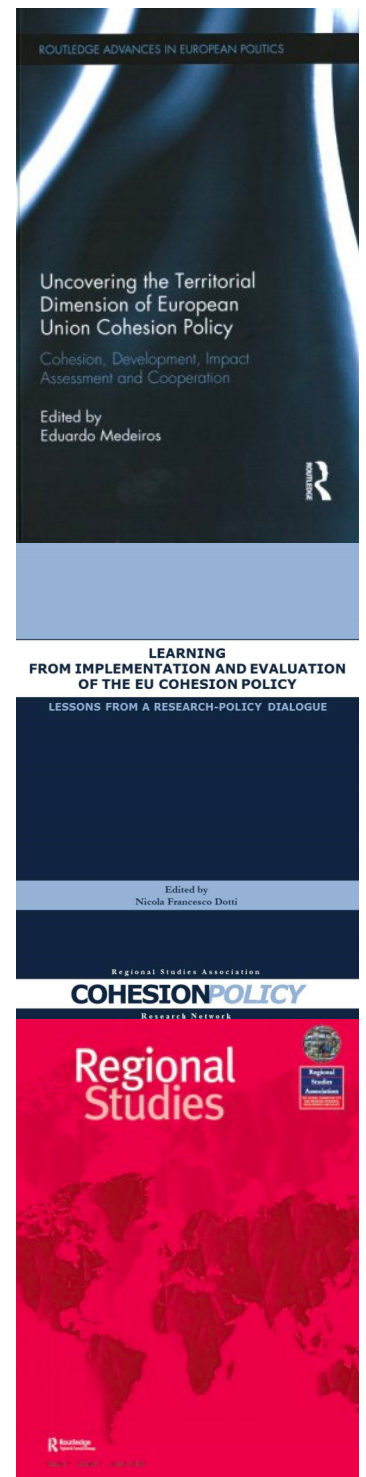
5) Special sessions at RSA conference

- RSA Conference 2016 Graz – *Cohesion Policy for European Regions and Cities*;
- RSA Conference 2017 Dublin – *Cohesion Policy at a crossroads* (double session);
- RSA Conference 2018 Lugano - *Territorial Cohesion: from Theory to Policies*.

6) Outcomes

- Book on the basis of Lisbon workshop edited by Eduardo Medeiros, published by Routledge, entitled 'Uncovering the territorial dimension of European union Cohesion Policy'. The book includes three parts: (I) The Territorial Dimension of Policies (with chapters by Eduardo Medeiros, Jacek Zaucha, Gordon Dabinett and Martijn de Bruijn), (II) Implementing European territorial cohesion policies (chapters by Lee Pugalys, Peter Smitt and Lisa Van Well, Dorota Kamrowska-Zaluska and Hanna Obracht-Prondzynska, and Estelle Evrard); and (III) Territorial Impact Assessment of European policies (chapters by Eduardo Medeiros, Kai Böhme and Christian Lüer, and Stephanie Essig and Jiannis Kaucic). More information: <https://www.routledge.com/Uncovering-the-Territorial-Dimension-of-European-Union-Cohesion-Policy/Medeiros/p/book/9781138049178>
- Publication of a policy-friendly 'Learning from Implementation and Evaluation of the EU Cohesion Policy: Lessons from a Research-Policy Dialogue' eBook, edited by Nicola F. Dotti with about 2,000 downloads in the first 6 months, of which about half from Belgium (NB the Head of Cabinet agreed to disseminate the link internally to the DG-Regio and the eBook was published for the European Week of Cities and Regions): <http://www.regionalstudies.org/uploads/documents/Lessons4CP.pdf>
- *Regional Studies* special issue on policy transfer (edited by Marcin Dąbrowski, Ida Musiałkowska and Laura Polverari) to be published in 2018 and entitled 'Drawing lessons from international policy transfer initiatives in regional and urban development and spatial planning' and including four research papers by Ebru Ertugal, Julie Miao, Ren Thomas with colleagues and Marcin Dąbrowski, Ida Musiałkowska and Laura Polverari.
- Book on Southern, Central and Eastern Member States in preparation (edited by Ida Musiałkowska and Piotr Idczak).

In closing, we would like to warmly thank the RSA for its trust and support in our activities. We have been extremely fortunate to be able to benefit from the RSA Research Networks scheme already twice and we hope to



continue our collaboration on Cohesion Policy taking it towards new exciting research avenues. We plan to reflect on how to best organise cooperation to explore those avenues and work on a proposal for renewal of the network for a third round, which you can expect from us.

Once again, many thanks!

Sincerely,

Marcin Dąbrowski

John Bachtler

Laura Polverari

Oto Potluka

Nicola Francesco Dotti

Magdalena Sapała

Ida Musiałkowska

Piotr Idczak

Eduarda Costa

Eduardo Medeiros

Also on behalf of the numerous participants of and contributors to our events between 2015 and 2017.

