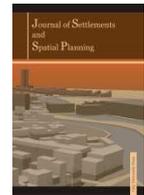




Centre for Research on Settlements and Urbanism

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## Call for papers:

### Smart Specialisation: Challenges and Opportunities for Lagging Regions

#### Hosted by Cluj IT Cluster

**Guest Editors:** Dominique FORAY\*, Stelian BRAD\*\*, Andrei KELEMEN\*\*\*

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*Journal of Settlements and Spatial Planning* will publish a thematic issue in 2018 with papers related to section "Smart Specialisation: Challenges and Opportunities for Lagging Regions" of the RSA Central & Eastern Europe Conference 2017, Cluj-Napoca, Romania organised jointly by Babeş-Bolyai University and the Regional Studies Association (RSA).

Over the last decades new patterns of regional disparities and polarisation have developed in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) countries, drawing the attention of both researchers and policy-makers. Cohesion Policy responded to this challenge by focusing on balanced spatial development of the European regions. However, although achieving significant progress in developing towards the EU-average, CEE still faces serious internal spatial imbalances between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas, between core regions and peripheries. The increasing social and economic disparities at regional level within CEE have led to the need to develop new strategies with a strong spatial focus, in order to deal with and respond to the challenges. This conference seeks to explore questions such as: how can we deal with polarisation and peripheralisation? What are the challenges for future place-based policies? What new approaches should be developed to deal with growing regional imbalances?

The RSA CEE Conference in Cluj-Napoca welcomes inputs from researchers, policy-makers and practitioners working in all areas of regional development. The conference will offer an excellent opportunity for initiating a multidisciplinary dialogue on a diversity of themes.

This special issue will include research results that will be presented in the session dedicated to the theme: **Smart Specialisation: Challenges and Opportunities for Lagging Regions.**

You are welcome to submit your contributions on this topic!

For more details on the UBB/RSA conference please see:

<http://www.regionalstudies.org/conferences/conference/rsa-cee-cluj2017>

**Papers can be submitted to the following email address:** [s2@clujit.ro](mailto:s2@clujit.ro)

For more details on guidelines for submitting papers to our journal, please check the [Author Guidelines](#).

Time schedule:

- **Deadline for full papers:** August 31, 2017
- **Review and feedback on full papers:** November 15, 2017
- **Revised version:** February 1, 2018
- **Publication:** March 2018 (Special Issue 6/2018)