



International Geographical Union - Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces

Strengthening economic resilience: Geographies of policies, knowledge co-creation and industry transformations

May 27-29, 2026, in Turku, Finland

Venue: Turku School of Economics (Rehtorinpellonkatu 3, Turku)

Host: Economic Geography unit, Turku School of Economics, University of Turku

CALL FOR PAPERS

Contemporary trade wars, geopolitical tensions, climate change, pandemics, natural hazards and other social and economic problems highlight the need for more resilient and sustainable knowledge-based economies. Achieving this requires balanced development, coordinated global and local efforts and collaboration among societal actors to find new approaches and solutions. While societal resilience refers to the ability of a society to preserve and restore essential basic structures, *economic resilience* means an economy's ability to prepare and adapt to challenges and recover from crises. Strengthening economic resilience therefore calls for necessary measures locally, regionally, nationally and globally across different sectors of the economy.

The fundamental aim of the IGU CDES 2026 conference is, on the one hand, to explore the economic, political and social measures, strategies and practices that contribute to a more dynamic and harmonious economic development in different parts of the world. On the other hand, it highlights how the interaction and cooperation between different spheres of the society (e.g. industries, government, academia, civil society) affects economic resilience and flexibility, also responding to the UN Agenda 2030. These interactions may contribute to policy development, innovations, knowledge co-creation, and industry transformations, where the role of societal stakeholders such as firms, the public sector, universities and non-governmental organizations can be analysed in different geographical contexts.

The conference seeks to answer a number of related questions, such as: How can companies strengthen economic and societal resilience in their interactions with the public sector, other companies and higher education institutions? What kinds of policies and regulation are needed to

ensure sustainable development and the necessary innovations in critical sectors? How are emerging technologies being used to co-create and share knowledge in communities, including multi-cultural groups? How can digitally mediated knowledge co-creation processes support resilient, competitive and vital regions? What kinds of industrial and trade policies help stabilize sustainable global supply chains?

In line with these questions, the 2026 IGU CDES conference aims to discuss the main theme **Strengthening economic resilience** within at least three sub-themes, and invites papers on the following topics, including but not limited to:

1. Geographies of policies

- Trade policies, geopolitical tensions and global production networks
- Shifts in policy frameworks, capital flows, and the location of firms
- Multi-scalar policy development for sustainability
- Regulation and responsible use of technology across regions
- Policy instruments and support for emerging industries and value chains
- Multilateral, mega-regional and bilateral policy coordination and conflict

2. Geographies of knowledge co-creation

- Multi-stakeholder collaboration for knowledge creation and sharing
- Analytical approaches on innovations and knowledge co-creation for economic resilience (e.g. triple/quadruple helix, ecosystems, networks)
- Innovations, digitalization and resilience in reviving and lagging regions
- Knowledge flows between core and periphery in shaping innovations
- Potential and limitations of emerging technologies for economic resilience

3. Geographies of industry transformations

- The role of firms in strengthening the security of supply
- Governance, industry transformation and supply chains in critical industries
- Spatial dynamics of trade, investments, and productivity
- Structural transformation in leading and emerging regions
- Circular economy transitions, including reuse, recycling, and resource efficiency
- Transformation of work and the role of human-technology interaction

Please submit your abstract (max 250 words), 4-6 keywords, your name and affiliation, via the online form. Click on the link: [SUBMIT ABSTRACT](#). (If it does not work, copy and paste the following link to the address bar of your web browser: <https://sites.utu.fi/igucdes/abstractsubmission/>)

Key dates

- **Abstract submission deadline: February 28, 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: March 6, 2025
- Registration and payment closes: April 15, 2026
- Preliminary program: end-April 2026
- Final program: mid-May 2026
- Conference starts: May 27, 2026

A publication is planned based on the quality of papers e.g. as a book or a journal special issue.
DL for full paper submission: October 31, 2026.

Registration

The conference will only be held in-person. All participants are required to make the registration.

Regular participation fee: 190 €

Reduced participation fee: 150 €

- The reduced participation fee is only available for students and doctoral candidates. Please send a proof of your status to the organizers: cdes2026@utu.fi
- The participation fee includes coffee breaks, lunches, welcome reception, dinner and conference materials as well as the participation in the fieldtrip

The participation fee can only be paid by credit card. Payment details will be provided on the registration form. If you are unable to pay by credit card, please contact the organisers.

Travel grants

Young scholars under 35 can apply for a travel grant (max USD 500) to participate in the conference. The applicants must provide a document confirming their age and an invoice to prove the travel expenses. An essential condition is the acceptance of the abstract and its presentation. Preference will be given to applicants from developing countries. Reimbursement will be made on-site.

Keynote speakers

Patrik Ström, PhD, Econ Dr, is the Director of the European Institute of Japanese Studies (EIJS) and Center for Asian Studies (CAS) at Stockholm School of Economics. His research is focusing on the development of the advanced service industry and the transformation of economies that are becoming more service and knowledge based. This includes the transition towards the green economy. The primary regional focus has been Japan, South Korea, China and other emerging markets of East Asia as well as the Single Internal Market in the EU. Patrik has been involved in various policy related activities connected to the EU single market for services, such as the High-Level Group on Business Services, where he chaired the working group on internationalization. He has also written on the green transition for the European Parliament's Committee on Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO). In addition, he is part of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on Trade, Services and Development organized by UNCTAD, working on issues on international trade and investments in services as well as how services can contribute to the global energy transition as part of the green economy.



In the academia, Patrik has published in major journals, such as *Journal of International Business Policy*, *Geoforum*, *Geografiska Annaler B.*, *The Service Industries Journal*, *Technovation*, *Critical Perspectives on International Business*, and *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*. He is the editor of *the European Institute of Japanese Studies, East Asian Economics & Business Studies Series* published by Routledge. Patrik has also served as Guest Editor in journal Special Issues, such as “The Resilience of the Global Service Economy” in *The Service Industries Journal*, and in the Special Issue “Industry re-configurations and multi-level policy implications of the transition towards the green economy in Asia and Europe” in *Asian Business & Management*.

The topic of Patrik Ström's Keynote speech is: “*Services in the changing geoeconomic and geopolitical landscape*”.

Martina Fuchs, PhD, is Professor and the Head of the Institute of Economic and Social Geography at the Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences, University of Cologne (Germany). Martina Fuchs also is the Faculty's leading Pro-Dean. In general, her research is on the impacts of multinational companies and global value chains on regions in Europe and the Global South. In particular, she works in three overlapping research fields. First, she explores the spatial impacts of digitalization and Artificial Intelligence. This includes research on industry 4.0, urban production and online trade. Second, she is interested in matters of local knowledge, skills and employment. In particular, she analyzes the impacts of foreign direct investments on the local working conditions, and related activities in vocational education and training, for example in Mexico, India and China. Third, she investigates issues of socio-ecological transformations, with a current focus on how green skills can contribute to promote the green city. In all these research areas, a central focus is on change agency, and whether the local population, especially the workforce, develops the capacity to act in order to achieve sustainability transformations.



Martina Fuchs has published in leading geography journals, such as *Regional Studies*; *Environment and Planning A*; *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*; *Geoforum*; *Geography Compass*; *TESG – Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*; *ZFW – Advances in Economic Geography*; and *Critical Perspectives on International Business*. She has served as Guest Editor in journal Special Issues, such as on “Digitalization and Labor Restructuring”, with Andrew Cumbers, in *ZFW – Advances in Economic Geography*, and as Guest Editor on the issues “The Impact of Skills and Training on Local Development” and “Skills for Local Sustainability Transformations and Development” in *International Journal of Training and Development*.

The topic of Martina Fuchs' Keynote speech is: *“Strengthening Knowledge for Local Sustainability Transformations: What are Companies doing?”*



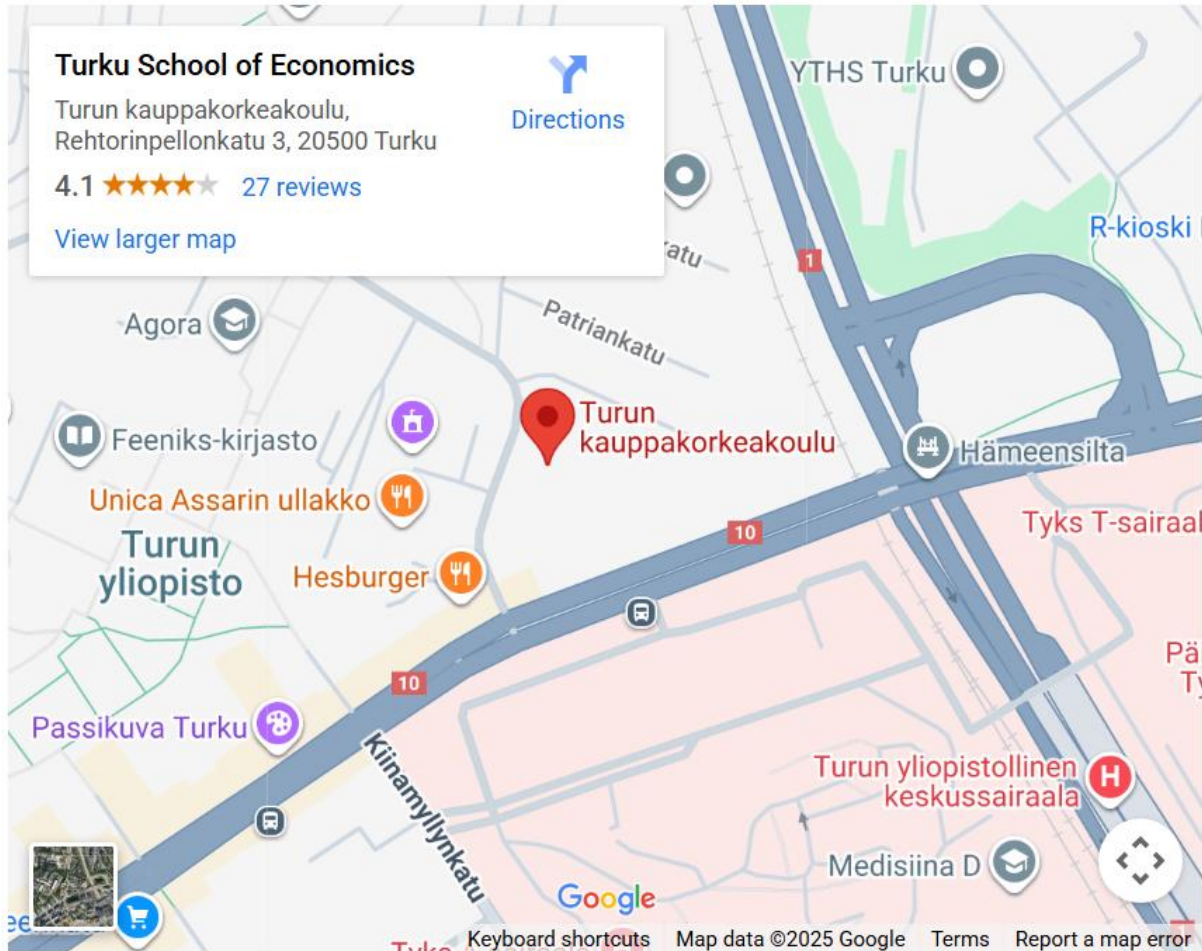
Antti Pekanheimo is Chief Operating Officer and Deputy CEO at Port of Turku Ltd, where he is responsible for the preparedness and continuity governance. He is Sea Captain by education and has a long and wide experience in port management in various positions in maritime operations. Ports have a central role in global trade and the security of supply as the bulk of trade is transported by sea, thus relevant for economic resilience. Captain Pekanheimo has been employed by the Port of Turku since 2007, when he started his Port career as Deputy Harbour Master and was promoted to Chief Operating Officer and Harbour Master in 2018 and holds the position as Deputy CEO since 2022. Before becoming land based, he sailed on several RoRo and general cargo ships for different Finnish shipping companies and worked in several projects within the maritime safety and security developments, as a maritime consult and as a Nautical Inspector in Antiqua and Barbuda.

Antti Pekanheimo is a member of the board in several nautical and other organizations and became a certified board member in 2022. He is a strong supporter and actor in the development of the Finnish maritime industry and is working hard for new opportunities and solutions to expand the maritime trade and traffic between Finland and other countries. Besides his daily duties, Captain Pekanheimo is currently finalizing his Master of Maritime Management degree at Novia University of Applied Sciences in Turku.

The topic of Antti Pekanheimo's Keynote speech is: *“How resilience & emergency supply affects ports today”*.

Venue and map

The IGU CDES 2026 conference will take place at the Turku School of Economics in Turku, Finland. Street address: Rehtorinpellonkatu 3, 20500 Turku.



How to get to Turku

- (1) **By Air:** Turku can be accessed by a flight to Helsinki Airport and then train/bus. Also, Turku airport can be directly accessed from Copenhagen and Stockholm (by SAS), from Riga (by Air Baltic), and from Gdansk (by Wizz Air).
- (2) **By Train:** Turku is easily reachable from Helsinki Airport or Helsinki station.
- (3) **By Ferry:** There are ferry connections between Stockholm and Turku (Viking Line; Tallink Silja).

Arriving from Helsinki: Participants staying in Helsinki or arriving at Helsinki Airport before the conference have several transportation options to reach Turku.

- (1) **By Train:** Direct trains operated by VR (<https://www.vr.fi/en>) depart from Helsinki Central Station ca. every hour, travel time 2 h. Tickets can be purchased online, at ticket machines, or at the station.
- (2) **By Bus:** Frequent bus services run between Helsinki and Turku, departing from the Helsinki Bus Terminal in Kamppi Centre. Tickets can be bought preferably online (<https://www.matkahuolto.fi/en>), at bus terminals, or from the driver. Travel time 2-3 h.

(3) From Helsinki Airport: Express buses provide direct service from Helsinki Airport to Turku, taking ca. 2 h. Tickets are available online, at airport kiosks or from the driver. Check timetables and fares online (<https://www.matkahuolto.fi/en>). Advance purchase is recommended to guarantee seat.

About the University and the Faculty

Established in 1920, the **University of Turku** is a highly international university, where education and research are closely intertwined. It has a compact campus and a cosy atmosphere. The University offers over 70 programmes and over 130 subjects in 8 faculties. Turku is the oldest genuine student city in Finland. Students of University of Turku are a visible part of the city life also in Rauma and Pori. The extensive, continuous campus of Turku, in the near vicinity of the city centre and the River Aura, is unique in all of Europe.

Turku School of Economics (TSE) is the most popular business school among Finnish applicants and an internationally renowned educator in business and economics. TSE is listed among the best business schools in the world, and we offer our students high-quality education accompanied by analytical, teamwork and communication skills. Our education builds on versatile and high-quality research. TSE is the proud partner of more than 500 companies and other organisations in research, education and innovation.

Economic Geography unit is part of TSE Department of Marketing and International Business. Our research is characterised by a spatial approach. We examine the spatial organisation of economic activities, relationships between these activities and interaction between economic agents and their environment. The scope of analysis ranges from local to global. At TSE, the focus areas in economic geography are innovations, strategic urban and regional development, globalisation, international trade, trade policy, Asian economies, Global South, consumer behavior, retail geography, as well as business responsibility and sustainability.

Fieldtrip

A fieldtrip is organized on May 29 afternoon to **Port of Turku**, located at ca. 6 km (20 min drive) from Turku School of Economics. Port of Turku is Finland's 2nd biggest passenger traffic port and the biggest between Finland and Sweden, and it is part of the European TEN-T transport network and core route system of the European cargo transports. Its history dates back to early trading posts along River Aura in the Iron Age when ships sailed to the river from all over the Baltic Sea. Goods were traded with the Balts, Swedes and Novgorodians, and the port was known far away in the Mediterranean thanks to the Arab Al-Idris who drew the port "Abuwa" (Åbo for Swedish) in his map in 1154. Later, the port was part of the Hanseatic League, and by the 16th century most ships from Turku headed to Danzig, Stockholm, Lübeck or Tallinn. As Finland's biggest city of the time, Turku hosted the leading port up to the early 19th century, after which the role of Helsinki and other ports increased. Today, the Port of Turku plays a central role in Finland's logistics chain and national security of supply. Its significance rests on rapid and regular connections to the West, uninterrupted movement of critical goods, alternative routing capacity during Baltic Sea disruptions, robust and reliable infrastructure, and close co-operation with the authorities and industry. These capabilities are further reinforced by continuous development and investments in port infrastructure, security, digitalization and sustainability. The fieldtrip will include a bus tour (45 min) around the port hosted by harbour master Ville Alander. He will introduce the port's core functions and present the new terminal construction project. Participation in the fieldtrip is covered by the registration fee. Duration: ca. 2-3 hours, including travel to and from the port.

Accommodation

Accommodation must be booked individually and is not covered by the registration fee. Below, please find some suggested hotels located in the city center, within a walking distance or a good public transport connection to the conference venue.

To check their availability and prices, please visit their websites:

- (1) Original Sokos Hotel Kupittaa (1 km) <https://www.sokoshotels.fi/reservation/hotel/TURKUP>
 - (2) Hotel Scandic Julia (1.3 km) <https://www.scandichotels.com/fi/hotellit/scandic-julia>
 - (3) Centro Hotel Turku (1.4 km) <https://centrohotel.com/>
 - (4) Holiday Club Turun Caribia (1.4 km) <https://www.holidayclubresorts.com/en/hotels-resorts/>
 - (5) Bob W Turku City Center (1.5 km) <https://bobw.co/locations/turku>
 - (6) Scandic Hamburger Börs (1.6 km) <https://www.scandichotels.com/en/hotels/>
- Also, for more affordable accommodation:
- (7) Forenom Aparthotel Turku (1.9 km) <https://www.forenom.com/fi/majoitus/turku/>
 - (8) Ineon Hotel (1.7 km) <https://ineon.fi/>
 - (9) Tapulitalo Guest House (550 m) <https://tapulitalo.fi/>
 - (10) Kotimaailma Aparthotel Villa Hortus (600 m) <https://www.kotimaailma.com/en/cities/>

Local organizer

Economic Geography unit, the GLO-RES project and the BETH project, Turku School of Economics, University of Turku, Finland. E-mail: cdes2026@utu.fi

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Organizing committee

IGU-CDES Committee



Chair: Prof. Dr. Eva Kiss (HUN-REN, Research Centre for Astronomy and Earth Sciences, Geographical Institute, Budapest, HUNGARY)

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