

## IGU COMMISSION ON THE DYNAMICS OF ECONOMIC SPACES

### 2025 REPORT

#### B. Membership

##### *Steering Committee:*

The Steering Committee of the IGU Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces (CDES) consists of eleven members from different countries. The Steering Committee has three female and eight male members, some of them come from less developed countries.

The members of the Steering Committee in 2025 are the followings:

1. **Chair:** Eva Kiss, HUN-REN RCAES Geographical Institute, Budapest, HUNGARY. Email: chair@igu-cdes.org, info@igu-cdes.org,
2. **Vice-chair:** Patrick Heidkamp, Department of the Environment, Geography & Marine Sciences, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven CT, USA. Email: heidkampc1@southernct.edu
3. Harald Bathelt, Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto, Toronto, CANADA. Email: harald.bathelt@utoronto.ca
4. Gavin Bridge, Durham University, Durham, UNITED KINGDOM. Email: g.j.bridge@durham.ac.uk
5. Sharifah Dawood, Geography Section, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, MALAYSIA. Email: sdawood@usm.my
6. Yigit Evren, Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul, TURKEY. Email: evren@yildiz.edu.tr
7. Robert Hassink, Department of Geography, Kiel University, Kiel, GERMANY. Email: hassink@geographie.uni-kiel.de
8. Canfei He, College of Urban and Environmental Sciences, Peking University, Beijing, CHINA. Email: hecanfei@urban.pku.edu.cn
9. Erja Kettunen-Matilainen, University of Turku, Turku, FINLAND. Email: erja.kettunen-matilainen@utu.fi
10. Robert Kudlak, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan, POLAND. Email: robert.kudlak@amu.edu.pl
11. Edilson A. Pereira Junior, Ceará State University, Fortaleza, Ceará, BRAZIL. Email: edilson.junior@uece.br

##### *Commission corresponding members:*

The number of members has continued to grow over the past year. This is due to the various events we have organized in Europe, Africa and South America, as well as the developments made on the website and social media platforms. The range of countries of origin of the members has also expanded. At the end of 2025, the total number of members was 682 people, who came from 44 countries (Tab. 1).

Table 1: Members of the IGU Commission on the Dynamics of Economic Spaces by country, as of 1 December 2025

Country	Number of members
United Kingdom	125
USA	105
Germany	80
Canada	47
Turkey	43
Australia	29
New Zealand	21
Spain	20
Sweden	19
Netherlands	18
Poland	18
China, Hong-Kong, Taiwan	14
South Korea	12
Brazil	12
Norway	11
Finland	11
Italy	10
Japan	7
Hungary	7
France	6
India	6
Egypt	6
Greece	5
Switzerland	5
Austria	5
Romania	5
Denmark	4
Singapore	4
Slovenia	3
Israel	3
Columbia	3
Ireland	2
Russia	2
Slovakia	2
South Africa	2
Nigeria	2
Belgium	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Ethiopia	1
Portugal	1
Jordania	1
Estonia	1
Malaysia	1
Mexico	1
<b>Total: 44 countries</b>	<b>682</b>

## B. Meetings

**a,b,** In 2025 CDES organized the following three events:

1. CDES Annual Conference:
2. Sessions at the IGU Thematic Conference in Cairo, Egypt
3. Sessions at the IGU Thematic Conference in Santa Maria, Colombia

### 1. CDES Annual Conference in Poznan, Poland, September 16–18, 2025

The conference theme “Geopolitical Turbulences, Environmental Challenges and the Reconfiguration of Economic Spaces” aroused great interest. In addition to the two keynote presentations, 26 presentations were given, which were grouped around the main topics of the conference (geopolitics, environmental challenges, changes in economic spaces). The number of participants was 43, many of whom represented less developed countries (e.g. Malaysia, Jordan), but there were also participants from countries of the Global South (e.g. Brazil, South Africa). A significant proportion of the participants were women (35%). Despite the different approaches, the participants agreed that the geopolitical tensions and environmental challenges of recent years have resulted in very significant changes in the economic spaces at both global and local levels. A new initiative to increase the number of young researchers was the introduction of the “Travel grant”, which was awarded to a young Jordanian scholar. The “Best Commenter award” was given to Prof. Robert Hassink, the most active and most commenting participant of the conference (Photo 1).



Photo 1. The participants of the Conference in Poznan, 2025

2. At the IGU Egypt 2025 Thematic Conference (April 12-19), CDES organized three sessions on three different topics. These were the followings:

- Africa and Arab countries in global production networks
- Industry 4.0 technologies in the dynamics of economic spaces

- Sustainable economic development in Africa and Arab countries: challenges and possibilities.

The participants presented 19 papers and posters, which primarily examined the economic role of Africa in global economic networks, the spread and application of new technologies, and the new challenges that have emerged for a sustainable economy. The participation of CDES at this conference is also significant because only 13 IGU committees were represented in Cairo (Photo 2).



Photo 2. The participants of the CDES sessions at the IGU Cairo Conference

3. At the IGU Thematic Conference, held in Santa Marta, Colombia, October 27 - November 1, 2025, entitled "Diverse Geographies of Peace, Environmental Impacts, Territorial Conflicts and War in the Contemporary World", CDES co-organized one session and organised another one. These were the followings:

- Thematic session 2: Informal and illegal economies and their territorial configurations (12 presentations).
- Thematic session 12. Economic, Environmental, and Geopolitical Dynamics: Contemporary Challenges (20 presentations). The number of presentations in this session was the highest of the entire conference, indicating that there is a significant interest in the dynamics of economic spaces in different parts of the world. 38 abstracts were submitted to the session. The participants were mainly from South America, but there were also participants from Asia and Europe in the session. The presentations were held in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

The aim of the CDES session was to stimulate a moment of dialog, both theoretical and empirical, on geo-economic, political and environmental changes in the first quarter of the 21st

century. The problematization of several dynamics, such as territorial modernization, productive restructuring, global production networks, the platform economy, innovation and knowledge, environmental issues and energy problems were just a few examples of the topics that aroused in the new global scenario (Photo 3).



Photo 3. The participants of the CDES session at the IGU Thematic Conference in Santa Marta, Colombia

**d,e,f:** The main data of the three CDES events are summarized in the table 3.

Table 3.

The participants of CDES events by gender, 2025

Event name	All participants	Participants by gender		Conference/session organizers by gender		Keynote speakers by gender	
		male	female	male	female	male	female
<b>1. CDES Conference Poznan, Poland</b>	43	28	15	6	1	2	-
<b>2. Sessions at IGU Thematic Conference Kairo, Egypt</b>	22	16	6	2	1	-	-
<b>3. Sessions at IGU Thematic Conference Santa Marta, Colombia</b>	25	17	8	1	3	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>

**C.** The following meetings or other events are planned to hold in 2026 and later years:

- **CDES Annual Conference, Turku, Finland, May 27-29, 2026.** Topic: "Strengthening economic resilience: Geographies of policies, knowledge co-creation and industry transformations."
- **CDES Regional/Thematic Conference, Fortaleza, Brazil, 9-11 September, 2026.** Topic: "Geographies of Americas in a global context of transition of economic spaces"
- Plan: Online/in-person webinar/ meeting/conference on teaching economic geography in the second part of the year, 2026.
- Plan: CDES Annual Conference, France, 2027.

### **C. Networking**

- CDES contacted the Commission on the Education of Geography to organize a joint event in the context of the education of economic geography. The Education Commission was open to this idea and hopefully in 2026 there will be joint events (online or in-person).
- CDES contacted the Gender Commission and we jointly organized a session for the 2026 IGU Regional Conference. The session title is "Digitalization and Employment: Challenges for inclusion and diversity in the Industry 4.0 new spatial configurations".

b, No cooperation.

c, There were no cooperative efforts.

### **D. Publications**

- a,** A special issue was being edited in the ADP journal in 2025 based on the previous CDES conference and will probably be published in early 2026.

b, The special issue will be an open edition.

c, The current website address of CDES is: <http://www.igu-cdes.org>

CDES is also present on various social media platforms, these are:

<https://linkedin.com/company/igu-cdes>

[https://twitter.com/igu\\_cdes](https://twitter.com/igu_cdes)

<https://www.instagram.com/igu.cdes/>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61553866137765>

## E. Popularization

a, There was not such publication.

**b,** At the annual conference in Poznan, the chair of this Commission (Prof. Eva Kiss) and one of the keynote speakers (Prof. Gavin Bridge) were interviewed by local TV. They pointed out the importance of the conference and drew attention to the impacts of current geopolitical and environmental challenges on the spatial structure of the economy and the change in its geographical patterns (Photo 4).



Photo 4. The chair of the IGU CDES speaks to local TV in Poznan, 2025.

## F. Finances

CDES received an annual grant from IGU. Of the USD 1500, USD 1467 was actually received, due to bank charges. This was used as follows:

USD 500 for travel grant: for a young researcher to attend the conference (received by a young Jordanian scholar),

USD 780 for CDES conference support,

USD 160 for IT contribution, website developments,

USD 60 for bank transaction costs.

### G. Archival Contributions

Some photos from CDES' 2025 events.

Photos from CDES Poznan Conference, 2025



Photos from CDES sessions at the IGU Thematic Conference, Cairo, Egypt, 2025



Photos from CDES sessions at the IGU Thematic Conference, Santa Marta, Colombia

