

Successful GUS-SCORUS Conference in Warsaw

The bi-annual conference of the Standing Committee on Regional and Urban Statistics ([SCORUS](#)) took place in June in Warsaw, Poland, co-organised by Statistics Poland. The theme of this conference was "New Scale – New Needs – New Statistics". The 2018 conference attracted more than 90 participants from over 15 countries. The Programme Committee led by Eurostat and the local organising team of Statistics Poland put together a successful mix of scientific and social events. The programme consisted of six thematic sessions, two keynote speeches and a closing panel discussion. In his opening speech President of Statistics Poland, Mr Dominik Rozkrut, emphasised the need for strategic partnerships: partnerships with regional and local public administration, research and higher education, private non-profit organisations and the business sector. The second keynote speaker, Jagdev Singh Virdee, gave some insights into the cooperation between the Royal Statistical Society and the Official Statistics in the UK. This was then followed by two days of interesting presentations and lively discussions whereby delegates focused on a wide range of topics. Topics included city statistics, urban-rural linkages, functional geographies, the potential of open data and big data for territorial indicators, etc. As one participant wrote in the feedback survey: *"The presentations were really interesting and well prepared. The participants were passionate about their subjects, and really eager to talk about it during the coffee breaks and other social events, which is also a great way to learn new information."*



All presentations are accessible on the [conference website](#). Participants were asked to vote for the "best" presentation; this was not an easy task, thanks to the many excellent contributions! The presentation of Ricardo Barranco, from the European Commission Joint Research Centre, on '*Data and Methods for Territorial Modelling: LUISA case study*' and the presentation of Marie-Pierre de Bellefon, from INSEE, on '*A scenario for the new French Urban Areas Zoning*' were awarded as best presentations by the audience.

In the closing panel discussion several institutes were represented: OECD, Statistics Poland and Eurostat. The aim of the panel was to summarise the key take-away messages of the conference and conclude pathways for the future: People, policy makers are focusing on their community and official statistics shall be able to provide the information needed at the local, regional, functional area level, in a timely manner in order to remain useful. This could be achieved with the use of new partnerships, new methods and data sources, like open data, big data, geospatial data.

The SCORUS Management team would like to again thank Statistics Poland for the excellent work, and all others as well: Eurostat, OECD, presenters, chairs and attendees for their contributions.