
**Regional Studies Association, European Conference 2012,
Networked regions and cities in times of fragmentation:
Developing smart, Sustainable and inclusive places
13-16 May, 2012- Delft, The Netherlands¹⁸**

The theme of the Regional Studies Association European Conference, organized in partnership with the OTB Research Institute- Delft University of Technology, was “Networked regions and cities in times of fragmentation: Developing smart, sustainable and inclusive places”. Over 300 people from many different countries attended the four days of the conference, which provided a timely opportunity for participants to come together and reflect on the various strengths, weaknesses, challenges and opportunities of networked cities and regions within these different contexts of fragmentation. The conference had some illustrious speakers, like UvA professor Maarten Hajer, Sir Peter Hall, Catherine Ross (Georgia Tech), the Polish economist Danuta Hubner (ex Director of the DG Regio) and many others. The thematic strands of the conference were the following:

- A. EU Regional policy and practice
- B. Climate change, energy and sustainability
- C. Migration, housing and labour markets
- D. Social and environmental justice and inclusive places
- E. Rural and peripheral challenges
- F. Territorial cohesion and cooperation
- G. City-regions, networks and urban systems
- H. Spatial analysis and regional economies
- I. Borders, border regions and cross-border learning
- J. Industries, entrepreneurship, and regional competitiveness
- K. Innovation and knowledge economies
- L. Creativity, identities and branding
- M. Territorial governance: planning policy and practice
- N. Infrastructure and development
- O. Local and regional economic development

¹⁸ Conference overview by Dr. Vasilis Avdikos, Department of Regional Economic Development, University of Central Greece