



IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development Annual Meeting Cuenca, Spain, 13-15th October 2022

Chair: dr. Carmen Vázquez-Varela

Topic: **Sociodemographic change and its impact on territorial development policies**

Dear colleagues,

As most of you know, the 2022 IGU Congress in Paris is approaching! Initially, we planned to hold a meeting in July to create an opportunity for a face-to-face conference with colleagues at a pre-IGU Congress Seminar. However, July seems to be a very busy month for meetings and pre-meetings of different Commissions and groups, so we thought it would be wise to move our proposal to October.

The seminar, entitled *Sociodemographic change and its impact on territorial development policies* is organized by the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Local and Regional Development (LRD), the Spanish Working Group of Local Development, which is part of the Association of Spanish Geographers (AGE), and the Department of Geography and Spatial Planning of the University of Castilla-La Mancha.

Registration Fee

There is no seminar participation fee. Fees for the excursion will be fixed in due course.

The participants will pay for their accommodation and meals (lunch) during the conference themselves.

Call for papers

The commissions for Local and Regional Development, the Spanish Working Group of Local Development, and the Department of Geography and Spatial Planning of the University of Castilla-La Mancha are pleased to announce a call for papers for the Pre-Congress Meeting on Local and Regional Development, to be held on 13th through 15th of October 2022.

We currently seek submissions of abstracts within any of the proposed sub-themes by the 10th of September 2022. Please send abstract (300-500 words) in doc format, as an attachment, to Dr. Carmen Vázquez-Varela carmen.vazquez@uclm.es. The language of the seminar is English. Following acceptance of abstracts (both in English or Spanish), authors will be notified and invited to submit complete papers for its publication by the University of Castilla-La Mancha following the Seminar.

Thematic axes

- Population challenges and territorial development policies.
- Between theory and practice of local development. Issues, methods, and experiences.
- Cross-border cooperation and neighbourhood policies.
- Challenges of urban-rural relationships. Implications on local and regional development.
- Territorial development and 17 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Addressing territorial inequality in a post-pandemic world.

Venue

The seminar will take place at the Faculty of Humanities, Cuenca Campus, University of Castilla-La Mancha. The address is: Avenue Los Alfares, 44, 16071 Cuenca, Spain.

(Website: <https://www.uclm.es/es/Cuenca/educacion-humanidades>).

According to the number of people interested, **the format of the meeting could be hybrid**, combining the face-to-face meeting with online participation.

A further detailed programme and the composition of the Scientific and Organising Committees will be provided in the 2nd circular to be issued shortly in early May.

The city of Cuenca

Cuenca, an inland intermediate city in central Spain, is located in the middle of the deep gorges of the Júcar and Huécar rivers. From an administrative point of view, Cuenca is the capital of the province that name and belongs to the autonomous region of Castilla-La Mancha.

The fusion between architecture and its natural environment earned the city of Cuenca its declaration by UNESCO as World Heritage in 1996. With its privileged situation, Cuenca maintains a medieval urban distribution almost intact and for this reason was included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO as a Fortified Historic City. The city is divided into two separate areas: the "new" city southwest of the old one, separated by the Huécar river.

As regards management strategies, in 2004, the Real Patronato de Cuenca, the Royal Board of the City, was created to promote and coordinate all the actions to be carried out in Cuenca by the Administrations and different entities for the promotion of the conservation and revitalization of the city's cultural heritage. This consortium has a website showing the different actions and strategies under development. (with the latest events, news...) (<http://www.consorciodecuenca.es/>).

In recent decades the city has experienced a moderate growth in population (53,988 inhabitants in 2021) and economy, the latter especially due to the growing tourism sector, and both of them fuelled by improvements in road and train communications. Cuenca has strongly bet on culture and as a result of this it was declared a World Heritage Site in 1996. In recent years, new cultural infrastructure has been built.

Cuenca is one of the EU cities with the vastest forest area (53.000,00 has.) with unique species of autochthonous fauna and flora. However, Cuenca's forest is underexploited, weakening the economic and businesses creation capacity associated to it. Currently, URBAN FOREST INNOVATION LAB (UFIL) -an Urban Innovative Action (UIA), an Initiative of the European Union- aims at fostering local economic development, through the promotion of innovative means of forest exploitation that include a rural-urban perspective.





Getting to Cuenca

Madrid – Cuenca:

By car, 170 km from Madrid by motorway (2 hours).

By High-speed rail (55 minutes). Prices depending on advance purchase and date of travel, from 7€ to 80€

Accommodation

In the next circular we will also provide a list of available hotels and accommodation as well as the prices agreed with the organisers of the meeting.