

# 13<sup>th</sup> WORLD CONGRESS OF THE RSAI

## Smart Regions - Opportunities for Sustainable Development in the Digital Era

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**RSAI**  
THE REGIONAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL



**GfR**

Gesellschaft für  
Regionalforschung

German speaking section of the  
European Regional Science Association

### *Special Session (SS59) on: Labour mobility and regional development*

Special session of the German Speaking section of RSAI

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The relationship between labour mobility and regional economic development is an interdependent one. In principle, migration decisions result from the evaluation of local labour market conditions and location-specific amenities. Economic prosperity and regional growth are thus, on the one hand side, supposed to be important determinants of labour mobility. On the other hand, a high share of well-educated workers is a key competitive asset for regions' economic prospects. Human capital stimulates productivity, innovation, and therefore a region's economic growth. We observe huge differences in human capital across regions. Moreover, growth or decline of regions populations and the human capital endowment of regions is mainly driven by migration flows (Krabel & Flöther, 2014; Chen and Rosenthal, 2008), with highly qualified workers showing the highest mobility rates among all skill groups. This special session aims at providing new evidence on the interdependent relationship between labour mobility and regional economic development.

#### **References**

- Chen, Y. and Rosenthal, S. (2008) Local amenities and life-cycle migration: do people move for jobs or fun?, *Journal of Urban Economics*, 64(3), 519–537.
- Krabel, S., & Flöther, C. (2014). Here today, gone tomorrow? Regional labour mobility of German university graduates. *Regional Studies*, 48(10), 1609–1627. doi:10.1080/00343404.2012.739282

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