
MINUTES

RSAI COUNCIL MEETING PALERMO

11H00-13H00, FRIDAY, 30TH AUGUST, 2013, PALERMO, ITALY

Jean-Claude Thill welcomed the members of the RSAI Council. The meeting registered the presence of 9 of the 15 members of the RSAI Council.

1. Apologies (JCT)

Council members present: Jean-Claude Thill (President, Councilor at large), Andres Rodriguez-Pose (ERSA), Jouke van Dijk (ERSA), Neil Reid (RSA), Rachel Franklin (Councilor at large), Gunther Maier (ERSA), Daniel Czamanski (Councilor at large), Johan Lundberg (Councilor at large) and Tomaz Dentinho (Executive Director, Councilor at large).

Apologies from Council Members: Amit Batabyal (Councilor at large), Jichung Yang (PRSCO); Patricio Aroca (PRSCO), Paul Dalziel (PRSCO), Eduardo Haddad (RSAmericas) and Richard Shearmur (RSAmericas)

Ex-officio members present: Roberta Capello (Editor of PIRS), Mike Carroll (Editor of RSPP), Alessandra Faggian (RSA Editor of PIRS).

Apologies from ex-officio members: David Boyce (Archivist); Rui Luís (Treasurer), Eduardo Haddad (book Review Editor), Paul Elhorst (ERSA Editor of PIRS), Takatoshi Tabuchi (PRSCO Editor of PIRS), Yoshitsugu Hayashi (PRSCO Editor of PIRS).

Guests: Hiroyuki Shibusawa (PRSCO Executive Director), Abdellatif Khattabi, Ahmed el Hassani, Asmae Harrad and Fouad Chaatit (Moroccan Section)

M-I. RSAI Council acknowledges the apologies.

Motion M-I was approved unanimously by the councilors.

2. Minutes of previous meeting (JCT)

Jean-Claude Thill asked if there were any corrections to the Minutes of the Ottawa Meeting. No corrections were made and motion was made and unanimously approved:

M-II. Minutes of Ottawa Meeting (November 2012) are approved.

Jean-Claude Thill asked if there was any other point to be included in the Agenda and suggested that point 8 – on the Proposal for the creation of the Moroccan Regional Science Association – should be discussed first so that the invited guests from Morocco could attend the part of the meeting where they had a direct role. That change was accepted by all the councilors.

3. Proposal for the Creation of the Moroccan Section of RSAI (JCT, AK)

Jean-Claude Thill reported that the RSAI Council in Bandung approved new procedures for the approval of New Sections. He also said that the Executive Secretary received the Application of the Regional Science Association of Morocco to the Regional Science Association International that was distributed to the RSAI Councilors.

Abdellatif Khattabi, President of the Moroccan Regional Science Association, thanked the invitation to present the application and acknowledged all the people that supported it. He said that the Regional Science Association of Morocco was created following many activities including visits from Morocco researchers to Amsterdam and Naples and visits of RSAI members to Morocco. Abdellatif Khattabi reported that, after those visits, the idea of the creation of a Moroccan Regional Science Association took form involving researchers from different cities, various disciplines and institutions. The legal constitution was signed by 36 founding members. As can be seen in the application there are plans to promote in the near future training courses, workshops and conferences. The number of members is expected to grow from 36 to around 250.

Johan Lundberg asked if there was any dialogue with the French Speaking Section in the process of the creation of the Moroccan Regional Science Association. Abdellatif Khattabi said that the three RSAI members of the French Speaking Section were contacted, two are founding members and the third never replied. Jean-Claude Thill said that there is a long history of collaboration between the French Speaking Section and Moroccan Regional Science researchers and the idea is that the creation of the Moroccan Section could and should reinforce that collaboration with mutual benefits. Abdellatif Khattabi informed that the Moroccan Regional Science Association is open to collaborate with all the sections. Gunther Maier asked how many institutions were included. Abdellatif Khattabi clarified that 25 entities are involved in the Moroccan Association. Johan Lundberg reported that some people were not happy about the process. Jean-Claude Thill reinforced that there is not a group that is reacting to the creation of the Moroccan Section of RSAI. Roberta Capello informed that regional scientists related to Morocco were informed or involved on the activities that were taken place and new cooperation actions are already programmed for 2014 in Morocco, Montpellier and other places; there were nevertheless some diplomatic issues that could had been better addressed. Jean-Claude Thill highlighted that the French Speaking Section has a long term cooperation with Moroccan regional scientists in education, research and conference organization and that the creation of the Moroccan Regional Science Association can be a win-win situation. Jouke Van Dijk recognized that the problems highlighted are related with the process and not with the result. Tomaz Dentinho did not recognize any major issue in the process because it was just the result of the wish of the Moroccan Regional Scientists, and their institutions, to create an autonomous regional science association. Andres Rodriguez-Pose said that the creation of a RSAI section is a bottom-up process and that the Moroccan proposal is a very good proposal from a country whose official language is Arabic, opening the

space for more sections in Arabic Speaking countries and, being the first recognized section in the African continent, also in Africa. Jean-Claude Thill added that the proposal is very impressive since it involves many institutions and various disciplines. Jouke Van Dijk acknowledged that the Moroccan colleagues adapted very well to the inclusive spirit of regional science. Gunther Maier recognized that the Moroccan proposal fits very well in strategy of RSAI. Jean-Claude Thill recalls that it is very important to monitor the evolution of the cooperation with the French Speaking section. Daniel Czamanski said that it took a long time to promote the interaction between French and the Moroccan regional scientists. Rachel Franklin said that there is nothing we can do about the reaction of the French speaking section and asked if there was some financial support to the Moroccan Section. Tomaz Dentinho informed that the Moroccan section received 2500 Euros and present the proposal that estimates that, through the payment of membership fees, that support will be recovered in three years. Rachel Franklin expressed her agreement on the strategy to recover investments in new sections. Jean-Claude Thill recall that we need drafting guidelines to support new sections; regarding the double registration – in the Moroccan and in the French Speaking section - there is no problem since each member only pays one universal membership fee.

Jean-Claude Thill proposed a motion to approve the admission of the Moroccan Regional Science Association. Jouke van Dijk and Daniel Czamanski seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

M-III. The Moroccan Regional Science Association is admitted as a Section of the Regional Science Association International.

4. Report of LRPC (JCT)

Jean-Claude Thill reported the thoughts and analysis of the LRPC:

- Concerning the expansion of RSAI – to China, India, Central Asia and Africa - it was created a working group formed by Peter Batey, Kinsley Haynes and Yoshiro Higano that will propose a reflection document on the future structure of RSAI to be discussed in Atlanta Conference 2013, in an expanded LRPC involving also representatives of supranationals.
- Regarding fund raising Geoff Hewings accepted to present a proposal for the creation of a RSAI fund.
- The idea to create a Jean Paelinck award was also open to discussion on issues like the substance of the award, the institution that could host it and the communication with Jean Paelinck.
- Concerning the Report on the RSAI journal, Regional Science Policy and Practice (RSPP) the idea that come out was that: beyond the good job provided by the editor there must be a clearer strategy regarding the policy aims of the journal.

M-IV. The report of the LRPC was acknowledged by the RSAI Council.

5. President's Report (JCT)

Jean-Claude Thill informed the RSAI Council that:

- A decision was taken to locate the World RSAI Conference for 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand, since the Chinese response to create a section was delayed due to the on-going dialogue with the Taiwanese section and also because it was not possible to find a venue that could attract international regional scientists. Colleagues from Thailand can create a RSAI section soon and Bangkok is a very convenient venue.
- Jean-Claude Thill also said that there is not yet a Draft Budget for 2014 since it must include the revenues and expenditures of the World Conference which are not yet totally estimated.
- Jean-Claude Thill recalled that Geoff Hewings agreed to work on a draft document to create a fund that could collect donations.
- Tomaz Dentinho also reported that – to reduce the exchange rate risk - the account that RSAI had in pounds of around 155000 £ was split into two: 90000 Euros on low risk deposit account with an estimated revenue of 3% per year, and the other 77500 £ continued in the same account in pounds.
- Jean-Claude Thill also reinforced the need for a reflection on the structure of the organization taking into account the expected expansion to China, India, Central Asia and Africa.

Related to fund raising, Rachel Franklin is concerned that RSAI would be contacting the very same people who are also routinely contacted for donations by other regional science organizations and since most of them are located in North America she wondered about the strategy of the association. Jean-Claude Thill said that the culture of charitable donation is very much American and that some coordination may be warranted here. Rachel Franklin also asked for what purpose does RSAI need money from donations. Jean-Claude answered that Geoff's report should also address that issue since there is no need for money if there is no place to apply it. Rachel Franklin asked where that demand for money will come from. Jean-Claude Thill said that the creation of a RSAI fund is a proposal so that the Finances of the Association are more secure, so probably it is better to wait for Geoff's proposals. Daniel Czamanski asked for what purpose was the fund raising in North America? Rachel Franklin said that there is a investment fund to support the Benjamin H. Stevens Graduate Fellowship in Regional Science and donations are solicited for this purpose. WRSA also solicit private donations to support a student prize as well. The concern here is that fund raising efforts for North American organizations could be undermined by a new RSAI initiative. Furthermore, North American donors may give preference to already established North American charitable donation programs.

Regarding the expansion of the association and the world conference, Daniel Czamanski said that for some years now there is an expansion of the organization expressed not only in the number and size of the conferences but also in terms of sections. And continued that, regarding the World Congress that strategy should be reconsidered since smaller workshops – like the one that is promoted between the Israeli and the Dutch Sections; and he continue saying that we have to think about what we want to achieve? What is important for us? How we present ourselves? The quality should be a major issue. Alessandra recalled that the

Conference has a scientific committee that should define the quality criteria. Andres Rodriguez-Pose informed that, for some time now, there are two types of sessions in the European Conferences: R session that involves full papers and discussants and O sessions that attracts unfinished contributions. Alessandra asked if there is a need for so many people. Rachel Franklin reinforced that many of the sessions are empty. For Andres Rodriguez-Pose, it is good to have more than 1000 participants and many of the sessions had more than 30 participants. Jean-Claude Thill recognized that in order to avoid the death of regional science the North American conference had to be more open and it has been argued that the quality of presentations has dropped. Daniel Czamanski said that each section or multinational can select its own criteria.

M-V. RSAI Council acknowledged the report of the President Jean-Claude Thill.

6. RSAI Publications (JCT)

Jean-Claude Thill informed the Council there should be a report made by the journal editors. Jouke Van Dijk reinforced that there are performance indicators that are collected by Wiley that can be analyzed by the editors and reported to the Council.

Papers in Regional Science (RC)

Roberta Capello informed the Council that she became editor in chief in January 2013 and the report is for 2012 when Jouke Van Dijk was the editor. Anyway the impact factor grew from 1.4 to 1.55; there are 200 papers submitted per year, the decision is taken within 3 months but there are plans to reduce this to 2 months (see report in appendix 1). Roberta also said that transition was not easy since and there is still some renovation of the editorial team that must be done. We reduce to half the cost of editing.

Jean-Claude Thill informed that the day after the end of the conference, there will be a business meeting between RSAI leadership, the editors, and the publishers. There is one point not to print the journal which will cut its costs. Roberta said that she would like to have 150 copies to distribute. Michael Carroll said that he had a lot of requests for printed issues. Gunther Maier pointed out that the future will be electronic and free access journals and the solution is to print on demand. Jean-Claude recognized that the opinion of the council on printing issues is divided so he defended that RSAI should stay with the status quo. Roberta Capello informed that some members like the printed versions. Gunther Maier defended that RSAI should not pay the members subscription of the journals since most of those members already have access. Jean-Claude Thill informed that some universities' subscriptions are delayed by one year.

M-VI-1a. RSAI Council acknowledged the report on PIRS 2012

M-VI-1b. RSAI Council decided to continue to publish the printed version of PIRS

Regional Science Policy and Practice (JCT)

Jean-Claude Thill informed that the Council should discuss the report to evaluate RSPP journal and the performance of the editorial team; the report was produced by Jacques Poot, Andres Rodriguez-Pose (Committee Chair), Janet Kohlhase, Mark Partridge and himself and distributed on paper among the members of the council. He asked the editors if they wanted to stay in the room. Andres Rodriguez-Pose said that he would be very pleased if they decided to stay.

Andres Rodriguez-Pose said he was asked to review RSPP with the help of the committee he would like to thank. The aim was to compare the results with the established aims. There are many strong points: - it is international, - it represents the diversity of RSAI, - it covers a large range of topics, - there is equilibrium in the contributions from the various supra-nationals; - and there are a lot of big names publishing in the journal. There are also some issues of concern: - there are not many unsolicited submissions and most of the submissions are invited papers; - many papers are case studies; - and the number of citations is limited. Andres Rodriguez-Pose concluded with a few recommendations: a) the original idea to mobilize academics and practitioners cannot be viable since academics will regard practice as a second option and practitioners do not like to publish in academic journals, so the advice is to try to make it more academic into regional policy and planning issues – like Regional Studies or Environment and Planning C; b) there are international issues that deserve attention such as aging, regionalization,... c) there must be some plan to increase the number of submissions; d) indexing is crucial and Scopus is not difficult to get; e) there are some editors that are not contributing a lot. Summing up we should have a more strategic report by the Atlanta Meeting.

Roberta Capello said that special issues should involve high level policy makers addressing hot topics in regional policy. We should go out of the experimental stage and it is time to make a jump and the report provide some guidelines on that. Jean-Claude Thill points out that the meeting with Wiley tomorrow can be important. Alessandra Faggian reinforced that the publisher can have a crucial role in promoting the journal and that there are not a lack of big names. Gunther Maier said that there is a need for a marketing plan that identifies the market and the way to target it. Andres Rodriguez-Pose recalled that the report clearly recommended an audience and an academic focus in regional policy. Jouke van Dijk said that the editors should take to report produced and adapt it to a business plan.

The following motions were proposed by Jean-Claude Thill and seconded:

M-VI-2a. RSAI Council approves the recommendations of the RSPP Evaluation Committee

Motion M-VI-2a was approved by the majority of the council by 8 votes in favor and 1 abstention by Neil Reid, co-editor of RSPP.

M-VI-2b. RSAI Council approves that the editorial team should produce a business plan for the journal to be evaluated by the RSAI Council in Atlanta.

Motion M-VI-2b was approved by the majority of the council by 8 votes in favor and 1 abstention by Neil Reed, co-editor of RSPP.

RSAI Newsletter (JCT)

Tomaz Dentinho informed the Council that nobody answered the call for editors but there are a few possibilities that were contacted. Jean-Claude Thill said that the Presidency will find candidates to be presented to the RSAI Council in Atlanta.

7. Sections Recognition and Development (JCT)

- **RSAmericas (JCT)**

Jean-Claude Thill informed the Council that Eduardo Haddad and Patricio Aroca and some other RSAI members from Mexico and Spain will participate in a Conference on Local Development that will take place in Cuba in November, just before the Conference in Atlanta. He also reported that he will visit Peru before the RSAmericas conference in Arica to gauge interest in creating a section in Peru.

- **ERSA (TPD)**

Tomaz Ponce Dentinho reported that there will be a workshop and short course on regional science in Armenia on the 5th and 6th of December supported by Gulbenkian Foundation. He also reported that the Baltic Section has just been accepted by ERSA and so they must present a report to RSAI.

- **PRSCO (JCT)**

Jean-Claude Thill said that the creation of a section in Thailand will go along with the world conference organization in Bangkok. A workshop may take place in Bangkok in January 2014.

8. RSAI Awards (JCT)

Proposal for a Jean Paelinck Award

Jean-Claude Thill outlined the proposal to establish a Jean Paelinck Award. Some councilors questioned the need for one more award and well as the focus of the award. Given the lack of support for the proposal as it stands, the proposal is withdrawn to be taken up at a future date.

Peter Nijkamp Award / List of Developing Countries

Jean-Claude Thill said that it was important to clarify whose countries should be included in the list of developing countries. Since the meeting is to end, he suggested that the proposal should be voted by email. Tomaz Dentinho distributed via email the list of countries ranked by GDPpc (PPP) (Appendix 2) with two alternative thresholds (15000 US\$ and 20000 US\$). Patricio Aroca seconded the motion saying that:

M-VII. RSAI Council approves that the upper threshold for countries whose nationals are eligible to be nominated for the Peter Nijkamp award is 20,000 US\$ for the GDPpc (PPP).

Motion M-VII was approved by the majority of the council by 10 votes in favor and 5 abstentions (List in Appendix 3).

9. AOB

None other issue was raised by councilors and the meeting was adjourned.

Date of next meeting (11H00-13H00, Friday, 15th November, 2013, Atlanta, USA)

Appendix 1- Editorial Report 2012



Editorial Report 2012

1. Editorial Team

Papers in Regional Science has gone through a change in the Editor-in-chief and in the Editorial team. Roberta Capello was appointed Editor-in-Chief by the RSAI Council in Bratislava, in August 2012, replacing Jouke van Dijk who served for two three years terms.

The old Editorial Team, comprised of Philip McCann (University of Groningen, The Netherlands, since 2007), James LeSage (Texas State University–San Marcos, U.S.A., since 2007), Takatoshi Tabuchi (University of Tokyo, Japan, since 2009), Yoshitsugu Hayashi (Nagoya University, Japan, since 2009) and Jouke van Dijk (University of Groningen, The Netherlands as Editor-in-Chief since 2007 and Editor since 2005), ended its term in December 2012. The new team – made of three new members, Alessandra Faggian (Ohio State University, U.S., since 2013), Paul Elhorst (University of Groningen, the Netherlands, since 2013), and Roberta Capello (Politecnico di Milano, since 2013) and two old ones, Takatoshi Tabuchi and Yoshitsugu Hayashi – started in January 2013.

As it was in the past, in the Editorial Team each of the three supra regional organisations of RSAI, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific are represented, but all submissions are allocated by the Editor-in-Chief to the editors based on areas of scholarly expertise and not on region of origin of the authors of a manuscript. The Editorial Team consists also of Eduardo Haddad (University of Sao Paulo, Brasil, since 2013) the book review editor, who substituted Charlie Karlsson. Elisabete Martins has taken over the role of Sophia Klaassen, and is now in charge of the Editorial Office. This annual report provides information about the progress Papers in Regional Science made in 2012, when PiRS was still run by the previous Editorial team. It contains updated information of the previous reports, and it is structured like the previous ones, to guarantee continuity in the information on the historical trends of the journal in terms of publication, citation and geographical coverage of articles published.

The new Editorial Team would like to take this opportunity to thank Jouke van Dijk, previous Editor in Chief, all the members of the previous Team, and the Editorial Manager, Sophia Klaassen, for the work done for the journal. The data contained in this report refer to 2012, and therefore reflect the work done by the previous Team.

2. Editorial Board

The Editorial Board reflects all the fields of the submissions to PiRS. The Editorial Team continues the policy developed by the previous Editorial Team of rotating Editorial Board Membership and will review the composition of the Board regularly.

At the moment the Editorial Board comprises the following members:

Maria Abreu	University of Cambridge	UK
Olga Alonso-Villar	University of Vigo	Spain
Luc Anselin	Arizona State University	USA
Kristian Behrens	University of Quebec at Montreal	Canada
Marcus Berliant	Washington University	USA
Eckhardt Bode	Kiel Institute for the World Economy	Germany
Michael C. Carroll	Bowling Green State University	USA
John I. Carruthers	George Washington University	USA
Juan Carlos Duque	EAFIT University	Colombia
Gilles Duranton	University of Toronto	Canada
J. Paul Elhorst	University of Groningen	The Netherlands
Alessandra Faggian	Ohio State University	USA
Manfred M. Fischer	Vienna University of Economics and Business Adm.	Austria
Raymond J.G.M. Florax	Purdue University	USA
Masahisa Fujita	Kyoto University	Japan
Harry Garretsen	University of Groningen	The Netherlands
Yoshiro Higano	University of Tsukuba	Japan
Kara M. Kockelman	University of Texas at Austin	USA
Janet Kohlhase	University of Houston	USA
Tatsuaki Kuroda	University of Nagoya	Japan
Don Lacombe	West Virginia University	USA
Michael L. Lahr	Rutgers University	USA
Julie Le Gallo	Université de Franche-Comté	France
Carlos Llano	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	Spain
Enrique López-Bazo	University of Barcelona	Spain
Toshihiro Matsumura	University of Tokyo	Japan

Tomoya Mori
 Olivier Parent
 Pierre Picard
 Jacques Poot
 Andrés Rodríguez-Pose
 Yasuhiro Sato
 Tony E. Smith
 Jean-Claude Thill
 Jens Suedekum
 Erik T. Verhoef
 Brigitte Waldorf
 Dao-Zhi Zeng

Kyoto University
 University of Cincinnati
 University of Luxembourg
 University of Waikato
 London School of Economics
 Osaka University
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of North Carolina
 Universität Duisburg-Essen
 VU University Amsterdam
 Purdue University
 Tohoku University

Japan
 USA
 Luxembourg
 New Zealand
 UK
 Japan
 USA
 USA
 Germany
 The Netherlands
 USA
 Japan

3. Publication and circulation statistics

Figure 1 summarizes the geographic coverage of Papers in Regional Science. The geographical distribution of authors pertains to full articles, research notes and comments, book reviews and includes editorials and introductions. Data refer to 31 December 2012.¹ The unit of measurement is author pages, implying that pages of multiple-authored articles are pro-rated.

Figure 1 shows that the geographical distribution of authorship continues the trends of very recent years, with a slight decline of European and American authors, and an increase in Asiatic ones. In 2012, European authors contributed for over 75% of the author pages and authors from the Americas decreased to less than 10%. The contributions from the Pacific area are nearly 20%, and constantly increase due to the increasing number of submissions from this area.

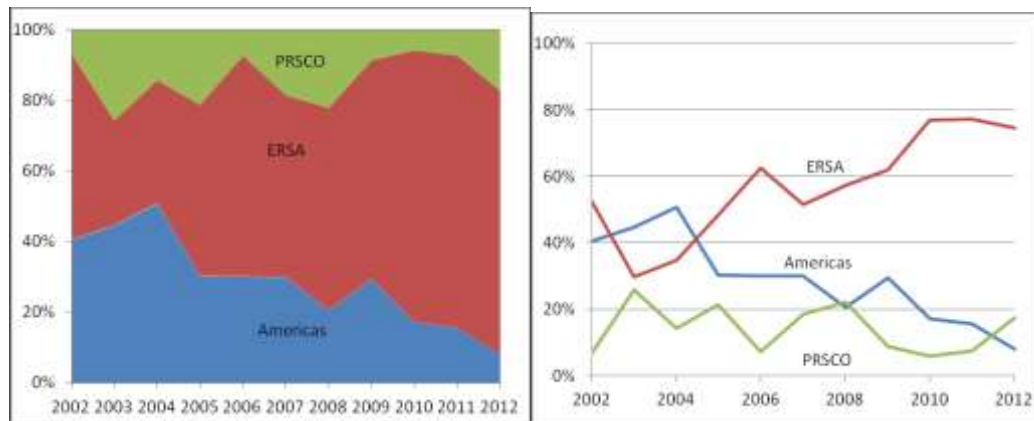


Fig. 1. Geographic distribution of authors in author pages (% per year and proportion), Vol. 81–91, 2002–2012

The geographical distribution of authorship is not an explicit editorial goal, as publication decisions are based on scientific merit and quality considerations alone. What is a goal, instead, is the geographical distribution of submissions, as well as an increasing trend of submissions over time, which signals an increase of attractiveness of the journal throughout the world.

Figure 2 shows the development of the number of submissions over time. In 2012, the number of total submissions confirms the positive trend of 2011, with a decisive increase from the PRSCO area, achieving a similar number of submissions than in Europe, and a slight decline from the US. In particular, the journal received 87 submissions from Europe, 33 from the Americas, and 77 from the Pacific, obtaining 197 submissions in total.

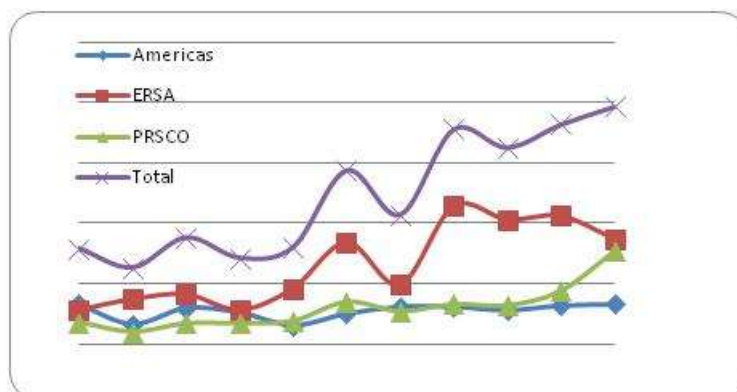


Fig. 2. Geographically detailed number of submissions, 2002–2012

¹ Data of previous reports date middle of October.

As was presented for 2011, Figure 3 shows the affiliations of authors, again with page numbers as an indicator, broken down by categorization of disciplines using the following 'departmental' affiliations:

- Economics & Applied Economics (including Agricultural Economics, Land Economics, Business and Management Sciences),
- Geography & Planning & Urban and Regional Studies (including Regional Science and Regional Research Centers),
- Engineering (including Transportation),
- Public Policy and Government Research Agencies,
- Miscellaneous (including Social Sciences).

Figure 3 shows the extent to which Regional Science has a multidisciplinary focus. The dominance of Economics & Applied Economics slightly decreased. The weight of these two fields has slightly decreased, even if they still account for almost 65% of the total number of author pages in 2012. The number of pages of contributions from Geography & Planning increasing slightly in 2012 with respect to 2011 to around 22%.

At the end of 2012, there were 3,951 RSAI members receiving Papers in Regional Science (and Regional Science Policy & Practice), an increase compared to 3,697 members at the end of 2011 and of 3,571 of 2010.

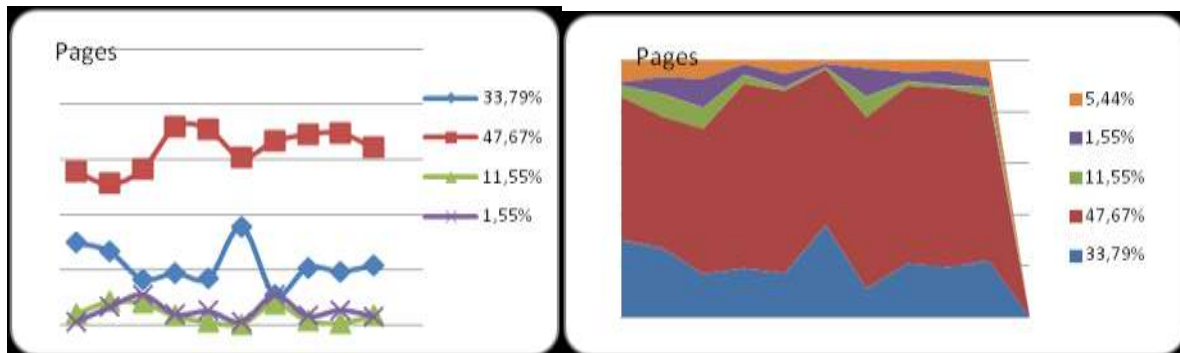


Fig. 3. Author pages by affiliation of the author(s), volume 81–91, 2002–2012

4. Editorial operations statistics

Tables 1–3 present an overview of the number of submissions, rejection rates, manuscript processing, and the geographic distribution of peer reviewers for the period 2002–2012, respectively. Submissions exhibit a positive trend (Table 1). In 2007 the number of submissions increased sharply to 144 submitted manuscripts in total. This is partly due to the fact that papers for the two special issues of 2008 and 2009 were all submitted in 2007. In 2008 the number of submissions decreased because there were no submissions for a special issue and in 2009 the number of submissions increased again sharply partly due to the fact that papers for the two special issues of 2010 and 2011 were nearly all submitted in 2009. In 2010 the number of submissions decreased because there were only submissions for one special issue. And in 2011 the number of submissions increased again to an all-time high partly due to the fact that papers for the two special issues of 2012 and 2013 were nearly all submitted in 2011. In 2012 we achieved 197 submissions.

The acceptance rate has increased in 2012 keeps decreasing, and the rejection rate decreasing, in the spirit of the Editorial Team to be a highly selected journal.

An important goal of the previous Editorial Team was to reduce the time period between submission date and first-decision date to on average four months and for revisions three months. Table 2 shows that the time period between the submission of a new paper and the first decision is 3 months in 2012, while from the revision and the second decision is in 2012 just over two months. One of the main targets of the new editorial team is to keep this trend and even decrease both the time to the first decision and the second decision, as well as from the second to the last one.

The same attempt will be made by the new editorial team to decrease the time period between the final decision of acceptance of a manuscript and publication in print, with the collaboration of WB.

Table 1. Number of submissions and rejection rates

Cohort	Submissions	Acceptance rate	Rejection rate	Pending manuscripts
2002	79	0.39	0.61	
2003	63	0.35	0.65	
2004	88	0.37	0.63	
2005	71	0.36	0.64	
2006	80	0.38	0.62	
2007	144	0.27	0.73	
2008	108	0.23	0.77	
2009	178	0.34	0.66	
2010	163	0.32	0.68	1
2011	182	0.27	0.73	3
2012	197	0.14	0.86	103

Table 2. Manuscript processing in months

Cohort	First decision	Second decision	Third decision	Final decision of acceptance to Early View	Final decision to publication in print
2002	5,2	3,5	1	—	8
2003	6,1	3,9	1	—	9,2
2004	5,6	3,3	1,5	—	9
2005	6,1	2,9	—	—	12,8
2006	5,4	4,9	—	9	11,9
2007	3,1	2,7	1,3	7,4	11,4
2008	2,5	2,4	0,8	5,6	10,4
2009	3	2,6	1,5	2,9	8,8
2010	3,2	2,9	1,3	2,6	9
2011	3,1	2,5	2	1,9	11,4
2012	3	2,6	1,2	3,4	4,9

In 2012 a total of 354 reviewers were used by PiRS. It is standard policy of the editors to have three reviewers per manuscript, with some exceptions to two when either there is a strong delay from the third referee, or the difficulty in finding a third referee on a particular theme in an acceptable amount of time. From Table 3 it is clear that the geographic distribution of peer reviewers over the period 2007 - 2012 shows that the greater involvement of European reviewers at the expense of American reviewers continued also in 2012. The distribution of the reviewers is by and large in line with the published author pages for 2012 as shown in Figure 1.

Table 3. Number of reviewers and proportion of reviewers by supra region

Year	Reviewers	ERSA	Americas	PRSCO
2002	194	0,38	0,44	0,18
2003	186	0,34	0,53	0,13
2004	192	0,39	0,5	0,11
2005	192	0,38	0,31	0,32
2006	181	0,4	0,52	0,08
2007	213	0,58	0,32	0,1
2008	230	0,56	0,34	0,1
2009	325	0,62	0,25	0,13
2010	332	0,61	0,23	0,15
2011	337	0,59	0,25	0,15
2012	354	0,62	0,22	0,16

The 2012 ISI Impact Factor (IF) data was released on the 19 June 2013 and for *Papers in regional Science* it has seen a 8% increase from 1.430 to 1.541. From official sources, the new IF means that *Papers in regional Science* is now ranked:

- 27th (out of 72 journals) in the Geography category (vs. 23/73 in 2011);
- 32nd (out of 90 journals) in the Environmental Studies category (vs. 38/89 in 2011);
- 73rd (out of 332 journals) in the Economics category (vs. 74/321 in 2011).

The comparison with 2011 shows that PiRS has increased its ranking position in Environmental Studies category, maintained the same position in the Economics category, and lost some positions in the Geography category.

Figure 4 gives an overview of the trend in the Citation Impact Factor for selected regional science journals during the period 2002–2012. The Impact Factor for 2008 more than doubled compared to 2007 and for 2009 it increased to 1.397. Since 2010 the Impact Factor has constantly increased. PiRS is now the regional science journal with the highest Impact Factor together with Journal of Regional Science (JRS) and Regional Studies (RS).

Figure 5 gives the 5-year Impact Factor for the years 2008-2012 – published by Thompson Reuters since 2009 – for the same group of journals as in Figure 4. The advantage of the 5-Year-Impact-Factor is that citations to articles published in the last 5 year are counted, instead of only for the last 2 years. Furthermore, this measure is less sensitive to outliers caused by a highly cited article in one particular year.

The 5-Year Impact Factor for PiRS in 2012 is 1.73 and this is just as in 2010 higher than the traditional 2-Year-Impact Factor. This makes clear that articles published in PiRS are more cited after two years than in the first two years after publication. The 5-year Impact Factor for PiRS takes an intermediate position in the same range as Journal of Regional Science (JRS) and Regional Studies (RS).

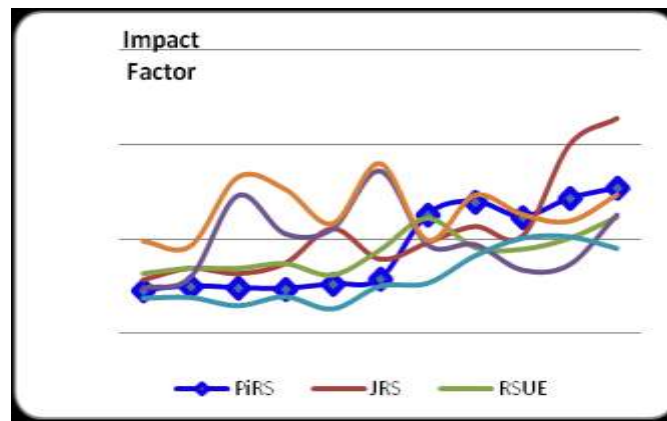


Fig. 4. Citation Impact Factor for various regional science journals, 2002–2012

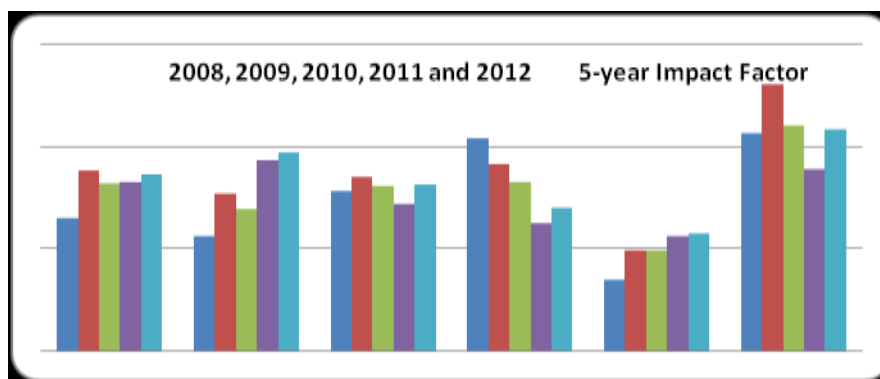


Fig. 5. Citation 5-year Impact Factor for various regional science journals in 2008-2012

5. Editorial policy

All papers submitted to *Papers in Regional Science* are handled via the internet based online submission system of Scholar One. This system proved to be very efficient and helps to keep the turnaround time from submission to first decision to the present level around three months, which is quicker than the target of four months agreed with the RSAI council. The new Editorial Team is getting used to this system and the efficiency in handling papers has increased since the beginning of the three years term.

The editorial policy of the new team has been presented in the Editorial published in issue 1 of 2013, vol. 92. We inherited a journal well positioned in the international scientific world thanks to the work of the previous editorial teams. This wealthy situation is an advantage for the new team. We can go on following the trajectories established by the previous team, and thanks to the exploitation of the good reputation that the journal has achieved, we are sure to maintain good results.

However, our efforts will be directed at strengthening some aspects of the journal, which call for specific attention, such as:

- (i) increasing the number of submission from authors based in the Pacific area where the journal's presence is more limited (especially if compared to Europe);
- (ii) solidifying and reinforcing the journal's position in North and South America. This would also require a clear analysis of the competitors in this area, so as to put in place a truly winning strategy;
- (iii) balancing the presence of papers in the different fields of regional science, which include not only economics – a traditional strong area of the journal – but also other disciplines.

Some strategies can be foreseen to achieve these goals, and some have already been put in place. We expect the numbers of published papers from the Pacific area to increase thanks to the special issue on China, still to be completed.

Historically, the special issues decisively contributed to the citations. For example, in 2009 and 2010 the special issues contributed for 25% to the IF of 2011. As in the past, we expect high numbers of citations of the articles published in the special issues, and for this reason, special issues are very important and critical for the success of the journal. In 2013, two special issues are already previewed, one entitled 'Regional economic and labour market policies: Concepts, results and challenges' prepared by guest-editors Uwe Blien and Stefan Fuchs (Institute for Employment Research (IAB)) and Georg Hirte (Faculty of Traffic Sciences, University of Technology Dresden), published in issue 2, 2013, and another on China, not yet finished.

The Martin Beckmann prize for the best article published in *Papers in Regional Science* has been established to promote the visibility of the journal. For 2012 the prize is awarded to Torben Dall Schmidt and Peter Sandholt Jensen for the article Social networks and regional recruitment of foreign labour: Firm recruitment methods and spatial sorting in Denmark, published in Early View.

6. Impressions from the first six months work

Six months have already pasted since the new Editorial Team started its work. It is not a long time, but sufficient enough to have an impression on what is working and what needs to be improved.

The choice of the Editorial Team has been a good one; the journal has Editorial Team members devoted to their work, with enthusiasm and professionalism, with a broad range of knowledge able to cover all different scientific fields to which submitted papers belong. With such a team, we do hope to decrease the time of decision, of both the first and second revision, on which the attractiveness of an international journal strongly depends.

The new Manager of the Editorial Office, Elisabete Martins, guarantees the support to the Editorial Team, as well as to referees and to authors with efficiency and high professionalism. We could not hope a better and more valuable help than Elisabete. She learnt to handle the software of the journal in a few days, and efficiently governed the transition from Sophia Klaassen to her. No problem arose. We would like to take the opportunity to thank Elisabete Martins for preparing materials for this Editorial Report in just a few days, as well as her outstanding work managing Scholar One submission and review management system and supporting the Editors in their work.

The transition from the old to the new Editorial Team has been nearly completed, also for those papers that remained in the hands of the old Editors because of an already existing decision on their side. The transition phase has been a complex one. We will now increase our efficiency handling only papers that have been submitted when we were already Editors.

We appreciate also the support from Wiley provided by Jenna Cheah, Wil Stobbart, Rhiannon Rees and Tom Pater which is instrumental in keeping the actual performance of Papers in Regional Science.

The new Editorial Team will for sure be another lever for moving on. We would like to take the opportunity for expressing our gratitude to the old Editorial Team members that have spent a long time in serving the journal with devotion and commitment.

Finally, we would like to thank all authors and reviewers for their cooperation and the members of the Editorial Board for their continuous support. Submission by authors of their best work to Papers in Regional Science and timely responses from reviewers allows the editors to provide both timely and informed feedback to authors.

This results in scholarly contributions of high quality articles about a broad variety of topics in regional science and from wide geographical spread of authors that will enhance the further development and success of Papers in Regional Science as the flagship journal of RSAI.

Roberta Capello

Editor-in-chief Papers in Regional Science

also on behalf of the other members of the Editorial Team

Alessandra Faggian, Paul Elhorst, Yoshitsugu Hayashi, Takatoshi Tabuchi and Eduardo Haddad

Milan, Italy

October,

2013

Appendix 2- List of Developing Countries

Country	GDPpc	Country	GDPpc
Democratic Republic of Congo	358.718	Sri Lanka	5.891.478
Zimbabwe	544.108	Kiribati	5.894.798
Burundi	615.197	Jordan	5.974.652
Liberia	649.147	Samoa	6.069.356
Eritrea	755.976	Angola	6.135.298
Niger	778.890	Paraguay	6.180.160
Central African Republic	787.102	Bhutan	6.337.085
Malawi	854.246	Egypt	6.499.847
Madagascar	949.889	Iraq	6.849.274
Afghanistan	1.010.670	Micronesia	7.225.009
Togo	1.072.187	Ukraine	7.292.217
Guinea	1.103.850	El Salvador	7.330.016
Mali	1.114.133	Algeria	7.374.460
Mozambique	1.129.508	Tonga	7.446.123
Ethiopia	1.154.960	Namibia	7.585.518
Guinea-Bissau	1.233.639	Guyana	7.753.944
Sierra Leone	1.237.774	Albania	7.950.176
Haiti	1.238.874	Bosnia and Herzegovina	8.165.586
Comoros	1.244.819	Turkmenistan	8.280.108
Nepal	1.278.587	Belize	8.528.031
Burkina Faso	1.350.880	Marshall Islands	8.643.586
Myanmar	1.364.817	China	8.776.541
Uganda	1.407.455	Libya	8.985.124
Rwanda	1.434.975	Maldives	9.073.945
Tanzania	1.517.952	Jamaica	9.093.341
South Sudan	1.606.196	Timor-Leste	9.450.579
Benin	1.643.546	Dominican Republic	9.466.323
Côte d'Ivoire	1.658.674	Tunisia	9.567.012
Zambia	1.668.218	Thailand	9.757.853
Kenya	1.771.481	Ecuador	9.804.021
The Gambia	1.837.529	Azerbaijan	10.345.722
Chad	1.883.957	Peru	10.390.880
Bangladesh	1.974.469	Serbia	10.404.811
Senegal	2.000.724	FYR Macedonia	10.511.529
Mauritania	2.064.172	Colombia	10.553.279
Lesotho	2.080.925	South Africa	11.202.027
Tajikistan	2.154.024	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	11.649.116
São Tomé and Príncipe	2.294.468	Montenegro	11.714.229
Yemen	2.294.664	Brazil	11.770.630
Cameroon	2.320.575	Suriname	12.106.595
Cambodia	2.320.786	Costa Rica	12.266.534
Kyrgyz Republic	2.377.987	Romania	12.664.030
Sudan	2.613.809	St. Lucia	13.057.117
Djibouti	2.627.839	Islamic Republic of Iran	13.219.559
Nigeria	2.651.094	Venezuela	13.241.972
Papua New Guinea	2.689.795	Kazakhstan	13.573.061
Pakistan	2.833.215	Grenada	13.652.698
Lao P.D.R.	2.890.405	Dominica	14.010.680
Ghana	3.208.989	Bulgaria	14.061.949
Solomon Islands	3.267.111	Turkey	14.772.285
Tuvalu	3.295.461	Panama	14.864.611
Moldova	3.398.443	Mexico	14.963.953
Uzbekistan	3.413.928	Mauritius	15.250.189
Vietnam	3.453.194	Belarus	15.344.981
India	3.748.299	Uruguay	15.511.562
Cape Verde	4.040.006	Lebanon	15.603.206
Philippines	4.290.796	Gabon	16.038.802
Nicaragua	4.343.433	St. Kitts and Nevis	16.328.238
Honduras	4.542.460	Botswana	16.462.750
Republic of Congo	4.604.970	Malaysia	16.465.683
Fiji	4.707.189	Russia	17.238.308
Indonesia	4.822.872	Latvia	17.486.005
Vanuatu	4.863.926	Antigua and Barbuda	17.730.032
Bolivia	4.974.963	Croatia	17.829.974
Mongolia	5.071.036	Chile	17.864.436
Guatemala	5.150.765	Argentina	17.885.937
Morocco	5.169.917	Hungary	19.604.151
Armenia	5.621.598	Trinidad and Tobago	19.912.722
Georgia	5.716.024	Syria	..
Swaziland	5.808.387	Kosovo	..

Appendix 3- Votes on Motion VII

	Name	Favor	Against	Neither
1	Jean-Claude Thill			
2	Andres Rodriguez-Pose			
3	Jouke van Dijk			
4	Gunther Maier			
5	Jichung Yang			
6	Patrício Aroca			
7	Paul Dalziel			
8	Eduardo Haddad			
9	Neil Reid			
10	Richard Shearmur			
11	Amit Batabyal			
12	Rachel Franklin			
13	Daniel Czamanski			
14	Johan Lundberg			
15	Tomaz Dantinho			