

CALL FOR PAPERS

INNOVATION AND NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PATHS

Special session of the 24th Annual Meeting of the Hungarian Regional Science Association

21-22 October 2026, Debrecen, Hungary

Regional economies are facing profound transformations driven by technological change, digitalisation, sustainability transitions, geopolitical shifts, and evolving global knowledge networks. In this rapidly changing environment, innovation plays a central role in shaping new regional development paths, influencing the capacity of places to adapt, diversify, and remain competitive. The geography of innovation highlights that innovation processes are inherently spatial, embedded in regional innovation systems, institutions, social networks, and local capabilities. At the same time, regions differ considerably in their ability to generate, absorb, and exploit new knowledge. Understanding the factors that foster or hinder innovation has therefore become essential for addressing regional disparities, promoting sustainable growth, and supporting economic resilience.

Against this background, the Innovation Subcommittee of the Regional Science Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA RTB IAB) invites contributions to the special session entitled “Innovation and New Regional Development Paths” at the Annual Meeting of the Hungarian Regional Science Association to be held at the XXIV. Annual Meeting of the Hungarian Regional Science Association.

The session aims to bring together researchers, scholars, and policy-makers to discuss recent theoretical, empirical, and methodological advances related to innovation and regional development. We welcome contributions employing quantitative, qualitative, or mixed-method approaches, and encourage interdisciplinary perspectives on the spatial dimensions of innovation and development.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Regional Innovation Ecosystems: Structures and Dynamics
- Geography of Science, Innovation and Knowledge Flows
- Economic Complexity, Diversification and Regional Transformation
- Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Regional Development
- Digitalisation, Platformisation and Technological Change
- Sustainability Transition and Inclusive Growth
- Institutions, Social Capital and Innovation Policy
- Spatial Inequalities, Resilience and Regional Adaptation
- Network Origins of Socio-Economic Trajectories in Regions

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