

ARL-Congress 01 - 02 October 2026

„Maternushaus“

Kardinal-Frings-Straße 1, 50668 Cologne, Germany

European Regional Policy in Times of Transition

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 01 October 2026

- 11.00 a.m. Gender Workshop
– prior to the official program –
More information here: <https://www.arl-net.de/de/content/arl-congress-2026>
- 12:30 p.m. Arrival / Registration/Light Lunch
- 01:00 p.m. Opening (ARL)
Markus Hesse (Vice President of the ARL)
- 01:10 p.m. Words of welcome
Teresa De Bellis-Olinger (Mayor of the City of Cologne),
Minister Mona Neubaur (Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Protection, and Energy,
State of North Rhine-Westphalia, video speech)
- 01:45 p.m. Keynote I: The EU's proposed budget and its implications for European Integration
Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (London School of Economics)
- 02:45 p.m. Coffee break
- 03:15 p.m. Keynote II: Future Directions of EU Cohesion Policy
Rachel Lancry Beaumont (European Committee of the Regions, Head of Department for the
COTER Commission)
- 04:15 p.m. Panel discussion
Kai Böhme (Spatial Foresight), Wolfgang Petzold (Retired EU official),
Thiemo Eser (Ministry of Housing and Spatial Planning, Department of Spatial Planning) and
Luisa Pedazzini (Politecnico di Milano)
- 05:00 p.m. Coffee break / Room change

05:30 p.m. Three parallel sessions

Session I: EU Cohesion Policy

Chairs: Markus Hesse (University of Luxembourg and Vice President of the ARL), Britta Bockhorn (ARL)

- > The Metropolitan Dimension of the Cohesion Policy: Lessons from France and Italy
Christophe Demazière (University of Lille), Giancarlo Cotella, Erblin Berisha (University of Turin)
- > Rich urban areas or poor municipalities?
Ilván Tosics, Olga Müller (Metropolitan Research Institute, Budapest), Judit Kálmán (Corvinus University Budapest)
- > The Territorial Dimension of the EU Cohesion Policy in Germany: Analysis, Review and Policy Recommendations for the EU Funding Period 2028–2034
Christian Huttenloher, Rene Peter Hohmann (German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development (DV))
- > Approaches to support structurally disadvantaged regions: What are (in)effective pathways for EU cohesion policy?
Alena Znamenáčková (Institute for Politics and Society)

Session II: Cross-Border Perspectives

Chair: Jens Kurnol (Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development)

- > Mapping Transnational Cooperation: Participation Patterns and Policy Implications from Interreg Northwest Europe
Nora Crossey (Interreg Northwest Europe, Contact Point Germany)
- > The potentials and obstacles of cross-border accessibility of services in German border regions
Philipp Gareis, Claire Duvernet (Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development)
- > Trust and Needs as Drivers of CrossBorder Cooperation Formation: The Case of Poland's Cross-Border Regions
Malgorzata Lesniak-Johann, Andrzej Raczy, Sylwia Dołzbłasz (University of Wrocław)
- > Who Benefits from Transnational Cooperation? Uneven Territorial Participation in Interreg B and Implications for Future EU Regional Policy
Sina Redlich (Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development)

Session III: History of EU-Cohesion Policy

Chairs: Wendelin Strubelt (former Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning), Detlef Briesen (Gießen University)

Panellists:

- > Guy Baudelle (University of Rennes I)
- > Sylwia Dolzblasz (University of Wrocław)
- > Klaus Kunzmann (TU Dortmund)
- > Maria Prezioso (Tor Vergata University Rome)

07:00 p.m. Dinner including a dinner speech by Reimar Molitor (Cologne/Bonn Region)

Friday, 02 October 2026

08:00 a.m. Arrival / Coffee

08:30 a.m. Welcome

08:35 a.m. FRU Award Ceremony

Sonja Deppisch (FRU – Förderkreis für Raum- und Umweltforschung e. V.)

The FRU Sponsorship Award is granted for outstanding academic work by individuals in the early stages of their careers.

09:05 a.m. Room change

09:15 a.m. Three parallel sessions

Session IV: Regional Policy / Planning (1)

Chairs: Katharina Kapitzka, Sebastian Krätzig (ARL)

- > Ukraine's Regional Policy on the Way to the EU: Adapting to Cohesion Policy Standards in the face of Military Challenges
Eugenia Maruniak (National Academy of Sciences)
- > The Regional Dimension of a European Housing Policy
Carola Fricke (Saarland University)
- > A guide to the disempowerment of citizens in spatial planning. Case study of Poland
Izabela Mironowicz (Gdańsk University of Technology)
- > Transforming Spatial Governance in Slovakia: Long-Term Implications of Planning Reform, Standardisation, and Landscape-Based Territorial Development
Marek Dinka (Authority for Spatial Planning and Construction of the Slovak Republic)

Session V: Sustainability Transformation

Chairs: Antje Bruns, Abeer Janes (ARL)

- > Toward a Sufficiency-Oriented Regional Policy – Principles, Challenges, and Local Implementation
Marco Pütz, Samuel Suter, Tonja Iten, Irmi Seidl (Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL)
- > A territorial turn for the European Green Deal: Why vulnerable neighbourhoods must be central
Sonia de Gregorio Hurtado, Jean Monnet Chair (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid)
- > The Good, the Bad, and the Unknown: Reclaiming the Democratic Potential of Digitalization for Sustainability Transformations in European regions
Angela Oels (Universität Augsburg), Jens Marquardt (TU Darmstadt), Rainer Rehak (Weizenbaum-Institut und TU Berlin), Sabine Weiland (Université Catholique de Lille)
- > Data Rich, Action Poor: Satellite Monitoring and the Limits of Climate Governance in European Regions
Anna Hellings, Thomas Schönberger (ESPON Contact Point, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development)

Session VI: Left-behind regions

Chairs: Jana Baldy, Martin Sondermann (ARL)

- > Unlikely Pioneers? Net Zero Governance in 'Left-Behind' Places in the UK and Germany
Wolfgang Haupt (IRS – Leibniz-Institute for Research on Society and Space, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich), Oleg Golubchikov, Sina Shahab, Anna Badyina (Cardiff University)
- > Governing Green Transformation: A Spatial Justice Perspective on European Just Transition Policies
Barbara Demeterova (TU Wien), Marie Aschenbrenner (HM Munich University of Applied Sciences)
- > Lagging regions' dual challenge of structural and transformative change: Implications for regional policy" has been assigned the session "Left-behind regions
Hendrik Hansmeier, Knut Koschatzky (Fraunhofer-Institute for Systems and Innovation Research (ISI))
- > The Role of Local Institutions in Advancing PlaceBased BeyondGDP Development Strategies
Alena Myshko (Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), L'Aquila)

10:45 a.m. Coffee break

11:15 a.m. Three parallel sessions

Session VII: Regional Policy / Planning (2)

Chairs: Barbara Warner, Jonas Müller (ARL)

- > Transformative Knowledge Regions
Anna Butzin, Kerstin Meyer (Institute for Work and Technology (IAT))
- > Rebalancing urban-rural interdependencies: the case of the Metropolitan City of Bologna, Italy
Francesco Vettore (University of Bologna)
- > The REGIONALE as a Real-World Laboratory Format for Regional Transformation? Perspectives on Institutionalisation and Transferability of Innovation Processes
Peter Stoms-van der Vlugt, Eyaiu Hassen (ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development),
Luise Porst (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research (ZALF) e.V.),
Thomas Weith (ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development and University Potsdam)
- > Multi-level governance in the making: Lessons from Polish Regions
Rafal Gajewski (University of Gdańsk)

Session VIII: Rückblick auf 30 Jahre Regionalpolitik in NRW (German language session)

Chairs: Stefan Gärtner (Institut Arbeit und Technik (IAT)) und Rainer Danielzyk (Leibniz Universität Hannover)

- > Zur Geschichte der regionalen Strukturpolitik in NRW seit den 1980er
Stefan Goch (Ruhr-Universität Bochum)
- > Wie muss sich regionale Strukturpolitik unter Transformationsbedingungen in NRW verändern?
Stefan Gärtner (IAT)
- > Kommentar aus der strukturpolitischen Praxis: Was resultiert aus den aktuellen Diskussionen für NRW?
Michael Henze (Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Industrie, Klimaschutz und Energie des Landes NRW)
- > Vorstellung der AG Thesen (Transformation, Prävention und Kohäsion)
Angelika Krehl (Hochschule Niederrhein)

Session IX: Visions for Europe

Chair: Peter Ache (Radboud University, Nijmegen)

Panellists:

- > Sıla Ceren Varış Husar (Slovak University of Technology)
- > Ledio Allkja (POLIS University, Tirana)
- > Jean Peyrony (DG of Mission opérationnelle transfrontalière, Paris)
- > Martina Koll-Schretzenmayr (ETH Zurich)
- > Patrycja Artymowska (Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy)

12:45 p.m. Room change

01:00 p.m. Concluding remarks and farewell

01:20 p.m. Lunch

02:15 p.m. Walking tour: "Cologne in Europe" (optional)
Further information will follow shortly.

05:30 p.m. End