

## Spatial Justice in Europe – the First RELOCAL Conference (Barcelona, February 2018)

The international research project titled "*Resituating the Local in Cohesion and Territorial Development – RELOCAL*" (2016-2020), funded under the H2020 Programme of the European Union is organising its first scientific conference on **15<sup>th</sup> (tbc) February 2018 in Barcelona, Spain.**

The broad topic of the Conference is *Spatial Justice in Europe*, and will address issues such as the effectiveness and the perception of European cohesion policies, and participatory governance in local and regional development.

The aim of the Conference is to facilitate scientific debates on these themes among researchers beyond the RELOCAL partnership, inviting also academics engaged in other European projects addressing these and related questions, and meanwhile, sharing and discussing the first RELOCAL findings with a wider academic audience.

Participation in the Conference is free of charge. Those who wish to present a paper are expected to submit their abstracts by **20<sup>th</sup> December 2017.**



RELOCAL has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement N° 727097

## Project Consortium



ILS – Institut für Landes- und  
Stadtentwicklungsforschung



RELOCAL is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme

13 partners in 11 Member States

October 2016 – September 2020 (48 months)

Project coordinator: University of Eastern Finland

Contact: Dr. Petri Kahila ([petri.kahila@uef.fi](mailto:petri.kahila@uef.fi))

For more information visit  
[www.relocal.eu](http://www.relocal.eu)

RELOCAL concept: The notion of **spatial justice** targets balanced and sustainable spatial development. But it is not exclusively jobs or factors directly related to job markets that are at issue, fairness requires that attention be paid to a variety of social needs which are oftentimes group-specific (e.g. youth, elderly, persons with impaired mobility). One challenging aspect in this regard is linking the European Cohesion Policy debate more directly to ethical questions that have been raised in political and social theory regarding “fairness” and “justice”

RELOCAL investigates the role of **localities** and how places and communities can strengthen their involvement in the design, delivery and deployment of **European cohesion policies** in order to achieve higher levels of **spatial justice and cohesion**.

RELOCAL applies a **bottom-up approach** from the local to the European level. It is based on the analysis of over 30 contextually sensitive **case studies** and continuous multi-level stakeholder engagement.

RELOCAL's achievements: conceptual framework for the research (6.2017), draft of methodological manual for case-study research (12.2017), dissemination plan and stakeholder inclusion guidelines, selection of pilot case-study localities/regions (9.2017), performing 8 pilot case studies (10.2017-2.2018)

