

Regional Conference of IGU, Kraków, Poland, 18-22.08.2014

1. Title of a thematic session: *Knowledge and Rurality: Creation, Transfer & Migration*

2. A short description of the session:

Human capital (embodied knowledge), treated as a resource of knowledge and skills, is thought today to be a factor of success of individuals, towns, regions, and states. It is usually identified with the level of education, which is a rough measure of the body of formal knowledge acquired. A significant feature of human capital is its mobility. Human capital forms in a strictly defined spatial environment, but it can move freely (e.g. brain drain). Hence its resources and distribution in space will be affected by two groups of processes: those connected with its formation (education), and with its movement (migration). Human capital may be an important factor in the socio-economic transformation and local development. But the biggest problem that prevents the conversion of knowledge into economic resources in rural areas, is the lack of such knowledge there.

Nowadays the knowledge is an important factor in agriculture development. The range of factors determining the economic performances of farms have changed over time. While natural conditions were critical historically where agriculture production was concerned, the later achievements of agronomy and the management sciences have been such as to ensure that these aspects proved to be of ever-greater importance. Nevertheless, changes of this kind come at a price, since farmers must be familiar with the current state of biological, technical and economic knowledge, which is to say that the manager of a contemporary farm must understand, not only the processes influencing agricultural production directly, but also aspects of the surrounding social and economic environment. That is way important issue is the transfer of knowledge into the agriculture sector.

The aim of this section is stimulating a discussion about the role of education, knowledge, human capital, creativity, skills on rural areas, in agriculture performance and generally in local development. We would like to underline three specific issues of that topic: (1) creation of knowledge (mainly education on different stages), (2) transfer of knowledge (mainly focus on the agriculture sector) and (3) migration of human capital (and their role in processes of peripherization and metropolization of local and regional structures).

The session welcome all the presenters who will linked in their work the issues of “knowledge, education, human capital, skills” with “rurality, agriculture and local development”. We do hope, that the session will stimulate an interesting discussion and bring a further collaboration.

Session is open to all registered participants.

3. Organizers and the chairpersons of a session:

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