

65th ERSa Congress Global Challenges and Regional Responses in a Transition Era 25 to 28 August 2026 | Sofia, Bulgaria



Event Overview¹

The 65th ERSa Congress will take place from 25 to 28 August 2026 in Sofia, Bulgaria, under the theme “Global Challenges and Regional Responses in a Transition Era”. The congress is organised by the European Regional Science Association (ERSa) and represents one of the key annual international meetings in regional science, regional economics, and spatial analysis. It brings together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners working on regional development and territorial cohesion.

The congress focuses on how regions respond to major global transitions and structural challenges. While the official programme highlights a broad research agenda, it places strong emphasis on contemporary issues such as economic transformation, spatial inequalities, innovation dynamics, sustainability transitions, and policy responses to global shocks. The congress aims to provide a platform for advancing theoretical and empirical research on regional resilience and adaptation in a rapidly changing world.

The scientific programme covers a wide range of regional science topics, including regional economic development, spatial planning, innovation systems, urban and rural dynamics, regional labour markets, infrastructure and connectivity, environmental sustainability, and territorial governance. It also supports interdisciplinary contributions addressing global change and regional policy responses.

Key dates for the 65th ERSa Congress include the call for special session proposals starting on 10 October 2025, the deadline for special sessions on 7 January 2026, abstract and paper submission opening on 12 January 2026, the submission deadline on 28 February 2026, notification of acceptance and registration opening on 16 March 2026, early-bird registration deadline on 24 May 2026, and the final deadline for presenters on 15 June 2026.

The congress will take place from 25 to 28 August 2026 in Sofia, and follows the tradition of ERSa annual meetings, including the ceremonial handover of the ERSa flag, which took place on 29 August 2025 during the closing ceremony of the previous congress in Athens.

More information: <https://ersa.org/events/65th-ersa-congress/>

¹ *Event overview edited by Kreshnik Bello, Professor, SRDS J.*