



IGU Commission on Local and Regional Development Annual Meeting Cuenca, Spain, 13-15th October 2022

Chair: dr. Carmen Vázquez-Varela

Topic: **Sociodemographic change and its impact on territorial development policies**

Dear colleagues,

As most of you know, the 2022 IGU Congress in Paris has just been on last July. Initially, we planned to hold a meeting in July to create an opportunity for a face-to-face conference with colleagues at a pre-IGU Congress Seminar. However, July seemed to be a very busy month for meetings and pre-meetings of different Commissions and groups, so we thought it would be wise to move our proposal to October.

The seminar, entitled *Sociodemographic change and its impact on territorial development policies* is organized by the International Geographical Union (IGU) Commission on Local and Regional Development (LRD), the Spanish Working Group of Local Development, which is part of the Association of Spanish Geographers (AGE), and the Department of Geography and Spatial Planning of the University of Castilla-La Mancha.

Registration Fee

There is no seminar participation fee. Fees for the excursion will be fixed in due course.

The participants will pay for their accommodation and meals (lunch) during the conference themselves. However, information on meal options will be provided shortly.

Call for papers

The commissions for Local and Regional Development, the Spanish Working Group of Local Development, and the Department of Geography and Spatial Planning of the University of Castilla-La Mancha are pleased to announce a call for papers for the Pre-Congress Meeting on Local and Regional Development, to be held on 13th through 15th of October 2022.

We currently seek **submissions of abstracts within any of the proposed sub-themes by the 23th of September 2022**. Please send abstract (300-500 words) in doc format, as an attachment, to Dr. Carmen Vázquez-Varela carmen.vazquez@uclm.es. The language of the seminar is English. Following acceptance of abstracts (both in English or Spanish), authors will be notified and invited to submit complete papers for its publication by the University of Castilla-La Mancha following the Seminar.

Thematic axes

- Population challenges and territorial development policies.
- Between theory and practice of local development. Issues, methods, and experiences.
- Cross-border cooperation and neighbourhood policies.
- Challenges of urban-rural relationships. Implications on local and regional development.
- Territorial development and 17 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Addressing territorial inequality in a post-pandemic world.

Venue

The seminar will take place at the Faculty of Humanities, Cuenca Campus, University of Castilla-La Mancha. The address is: Avenue Los Alfares, 44, 16071 Cuenca, Spain.

(Website: <https://www.uclm.es/es/Cuenca/educacion-humanidades>).

According to the number of people interested, **the format of the meeting could be hybrid**, combining the face-to-face meeting with online participation.

A further detailed programme will be provided in the 3rd circular to be issued shortly in mid- September.

International Scientific Committee

- **Jerzy Bański** (Poland), Honorary member, Commission on Local and Regional Development at the IGU, Institute of Geography and Spatial Organization, Polish Academy of Sciences.
- **Francisco Javier García Delgado** (Spain), Treasurer/Secretary, Standing Committee of the Working Group on Local Development at the Spanish Geographical Association, Huelva University.
- **Jesús M. González Pérez** (Spain), President of Spanish Geographical Association, University of the Balearic Islands.
- **María Hernández Hernández** (Spain), Vice-Chair, Standing Committee of the Working Group on Local Development at the Spanish Geographical Association, Alicante University.
- **Luis Alfonso Hortelano Mínguez** (Spain), Member of the Standing Committee of the Working Group on Local Development at the Spanish Geographical Association, Salamanca University.
- **Rubén C. Lois-González** (Spain), Member of the Board of Directors of the Spanish Geographical Association, Vice-President of the IGU Executive Committee 2022-2024, Santiago de Compostela University.

- **Antonio Martínez-Puche** (Spain), Chair, Standing Committee of the Working Group on Local Development at the Spanish Geographical Association, Alicante University.
- **Bianca Mitrică** (Romania), Secretary, Commission on Local and Regional Development at the IGU, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy.
- **Ines Grigorescu** (Romania), Chair, Commission on Local and Regional Development at the IGU, Institute of Geography, Romanian Academy.
- **Ángel R. Ruiz-Pulpón** (Spain), Head of the Department of Geography and Spatial Planning, Castilla-La Mancha University.
- **Michael Sofer** (Israel), Honorary member, Commission on Local and Regional Development at the IGU, Faculty of Social Sciences, Bar-Ilan University.
- **Vicente M. Zapata Hernández** (Spain), Member of the Standing Committee of the Working Group on Local Development at the Spanish Geographical Association, La Laguna University.

Organizing Committee

- **Carmen Vázquez-Varela** (Spain), Vice-Chair, Commission on Local and Regional Development at the IGU, Department of Geography and Spatial Planning, Faculty of Humanities, Castilla-La Mancha University.
- **Ana E. Aparicio** (Spain), Department of Geography and Spatial Planning, Faculty of Humanities, Castilla-La Mancha University.
- **José M. Martínez-Navarro** (Spain), Department of Geography and Spatial Planning, Faculty of Education, Castilla-La Mancha University.
- **José A. Montero** (Spain), Department of Geography and Spatial Planning, Faculty of Education, Castilla-La Mancha University.

The city of Cuenca

Cuenca, an inland intermediate city in central Spain, is located in the middle of the deep gorges of the Júcar and Huécar rivers. From an administrative point of view, Cuenca is the capital of the province that name and belongs to the autonomous region of Castilla-La Mancha.

The fusion between architecture and its natural environment earned the city of Cuenca its declaration by UNESCO as World Heritage in 1996. With its privileged situation, Cuenca maintains a medieval urban distribution almost intact and for this reason was included in the World Heritage List of UNESCO as a Fortified Historic City. The city is divided into two separate areas: the "new" city southwest of the old one, separated by the Huécar river.

As regards management strategies, in 2004, the Real Patronato de Cuenca, the Royal Board of the City, was created to promote and coordinate all the actions to be carried out in Cuenca by the Administrations and different entities for the promotion of the conservation and revitalization of the city's cultural heritage. This consortium has a website showing the different actions and strategies under development. (with the latest events, news...) (<http://www.consorciodecuenca.es/>).

In recent decades the city has experienced a moderate growth in population (53,988 inhabitants in 2021) and economy, the latter especially due to the growing tourism sector, and both of them fuelled by improvements in road and train communications. Cuenca has strongly bet on culture and as a result of this it was declared a World Heritage Site in 1996. In recent years, new cultural infrastructure has been built.

Cuenca is one of the EU cities with the vastest forest area (53.000,00 has.) with unique species of autochthonous fauna and flora. However, Cuenca's forest is underexploited, weakening the economic and businesses creation capacity associated to it. Currently, URBAN FOREST INNOVATION LAB (UFIL) -an Urban Innovative Action (UIA), an Initiative of the European Union- aims at fostering local economic development, through the promotion of innovative means of forest exploitation that include a rural-urban perspective.



Getting to Cuenca

Madrid – Cuenca:

By car, 170 km from Madrid by motorway (2 hours).

By High-speed rail (55 minutes). Prices depending on advance purchase and date of travel, from 7€ to 80€

Accommodation

Because October in Cuenca is high season for tourism, most hotels are fully booked, so we have pre-booked several rooms in Hotel Torremangana (4 stars) (<https://www.hoteltorremangana.com/>) for the nights of 12, 13 and 14 October. The hotel is located in the city centre, in front of a park bordering the river Júcar, next to the old town and about 15 minutes walking distance from the university campus.

The costs for accommodation in this hotel are **77 € per day** (single room or double room for single use) or **88€ per day** (double room), bed and breakfast included, as well as VAT. Please reserve your room ASAP, as single rooms are limited in number. On the night of 15 October the hotel is very busy, so we have been told that a price will be offered depending on occupancy and availability. You are kindly asked to make your own accommodation arrangements on time, mentioning "JORNADAS ACADÉMICA IGU-UCLM" (reservas@hoteltorremangana.com).

Of course, besides the hotel arranged by the organisers, the city of Cuenca offers a good number of accommodation possibilities in the old town and in the city centre. All of them within walking distance of the university campus.

Below is a selection of hotels, inns, hostels, and guesthouses, to which should be added a long list of tourist accommodation in dwellings and flats.

Name	Type of accommodation	Hotel classification	Address	Website	E-mail address	Phone number	Category
Parador de Cuenca	Hotel	4 stars	Subida a San Pablo, s/n 16001 CUENCA	https://www.parador.es/es/paradores/parador-de-cuenca	cuenca@parador.es	+34 969 232 320	D
Hotel Torremangana	Hotel	4 stars	San Ignacio de Loyola, 9 16002 CUENCA	http://www.hoteltorremangana.com	reservas@hoteltorremangana.com	+34 969 240 833	D
Convento del Giraldo	Hotel	4 stars	San Pedro, 12 16001 CUENCA	https://www.hotelconventodelgiraldo.com/es/	reservas@hotelconventodelgiraldo.com	+34 969 232 700	D
Leonor de Aquitania	Hotel	3 stars	San Pedro, 60 16001 CUENCA	http://www.hotelleonordeaquitania.com	reservas@hotelleonordeaquitania.com	+34 969 231 000	B
NH Ciudad de Cuenca	Hotel	4 stars	Ronda de San José, 1	https://www.nh-hoteles.es/hotel/nh-ciudad-de-cuenca	nhciudaddecuenca@nh-hotels.com	+34 969 230 502	B
Alfonso VIII	Hotel	3 stars	Parque de San Julián, 3 16002 CUENCA	http://www.hotel-alfonsoviii.com	reservas@hotel-alfonsoviii.com	+34 969 212 512	B
Oyo Francabel	Hotel	3 stars	Avenida Castilla La Mancha, 7 16003 Cuenca	https://francabel-hotel-cuenca.hotelmix.es/		+34 969 226 222	B
Arévalo	Hotel	2 stars	Ramón y Cajal, 23 16004 Cuenca	http://www.hotelarevalo.com	info@hotelarevalo.com	+34 969 223 979	B
Pedro Torres	Hotel	2 stars	Cervantes, 15 16004 Cuenca	http://www.hotelpedrotorres.es	info@hotelpedrotorres.es	+34 969 239 477	B
Plaza Cuenca	Hotel	2 stars	Sándalo, 1 16004 Cuenca	https://hotelplazacuenca.es	reservas@hotelplazacuenca.es	+34 969 239 477	B
Posada de San José	Inns		Ronda de Julián Romero, s/n 16001 Cuenca	https://www.posadasanjose.com/	info@posadasanjose.com	+34 969 211 300	D
Hospedería del Seminario	Hostel		Plaza de la Merced, 3. 16001 Cuenca	https://www.hospederiadelseminario.es/	reservas@hospederiadelseminario.es	+34 969 228 747	D
Posada del Huécar	Hostel	2 stars	Paseo del Huécar, 3 16001 CUENCA	http://www.posadahuecar.com	contacto@posadahuecar.com	+34 969 214 201	B
Hospedería de Cuenca	Hostel		San Pedro, 27 16001 CUENCA	https://hospederiadecuenca.com	reservas@hospederiadecuenca.com	+34 969 239 117	B
Hostal San Pedro	Hostel	2 stars	Calle de San Pedro, 34 16001 CUENCA	http://hostalsanpedro.es/	hostalsanpedrocuenca@gmail.com	+34 969 23 45 43 +34 628 40 76 01	B
Hostal Tabanqueta	Hostel	2 stars	Calle del Trabuco, 13 16001 CUENCA	http://www.hostaltabanqueta.com	info@hostaltabanqueta.com	+34 969 211 290	B
Hostal Cortés	Hostel		Ramón y Cajal 45 ES 16004 Cuenca	http://www.hostalcortes.com	info@hostalcortes.com	+34 969 220 400	B
Green River Hostel	Guesthouse		Avenida Virgen de la Luz, 15 16001 CUENCA	http://www.greenriverhostel.com	hola@greenriverhostel.com	+34 681 051 779 +34 969 241 349	A

Note on reading the table: The "categories" presented are only indicative and have been created to give approximate price ranges. However, prices may vary depending on the reservation terms (deadlines, dates...) and the commercial practices of the establishments. Categories A correspond to youth hostels or rooms without private bathroom. Categories B and higher are hotels, with B being the least expensive and D the most expensive.