

## Call for applications: RegPol<sup>2</sup> school for PhD students in Bratislava

**Topic:** “Beyond disparities: strategies towards a balanced spatial development”  
**Date:** 19 – 23 September 2016  
**Venue:** Tatragolf Mountain Resort (Velka Lomnica, Slovakia)  
**Organisers:** Slovak University of Technology (STU), Marie Curie ITN RegPol<sup>2</sup>

### Objectives

The third RegPol<sup>2</sup> school “Beyond disparities: strategies towards a balanced spatial development” is open to PhD students who have already conducted their fieldwork and who are now planning to start the analysis of their data.

The first aim of this event is to discuss students’ empirical findings in relation to their conceptual and theoretical frameworks. The second aim is to provide them with guidance on analytical and visual tools that may be useful for the last phase of their PhD projects. Participants will work in small groups on their own empirical material, and will seek to discuss appropriate methods of analysing, interpreting, and visualising their data. Last, but not least, they will discuss their topic with different stakeholders, getting an insight into the workings of policy-making in regions that are considered to be peripheral.

The week-long school includes keynotes and seminars led by established researchers as **Prof. Martin Müller** (University of Zürich) and **Prof. Lummina Horlings** (University of Groningen). These sessions will mainly deal with the strategies pursued by actors on various scales in overcoming the effects of socio-spatial polarisation.

Students will also have the opportunity to discuss different methodological approaches for analysing their empirical material (qualitative approaches: discourse and media analysis, comparative analysis, interview analysis, qualitative content analysis; quantitative approaches: multivariate statistics and descriptive statistics).

Furthermore, students will be given practical training in moderation and conflict management - skills that they will find helpful when organising their own workshops. As in previous RegPol<sup>2</sup> schools, we will also offer open formats for broader discussions, such as the World Café.

Last, but not least, participants will have a hands-on opportunity to see how local and regional actors in Slovakia tackle processes of polarisation and peripheralisation. Members of the Slovakian government, as well as EU and OECD representatives will join the school to give an insight in policy making and regional development in the area. The school will be completed by an excursion in the High Tatra Mountains region, considered to be one of the most peripheral regions in Slovakia.

### Background

The project “Socio-economic and Political Responses to Regional Polarisation in Central and Eastern Europe” (RegPol<sup>2</sup>) focuses on the evolution and persistence of socio-spatial processes of polarisation and peripheralisation. Analysis is also conducted on governance issues of core-periphery relations, as well as on local strategies and potentials that respond to polarisation in Central and Eastern Europe. Being a Marie Curie Initial Training Network, the project is funded by the European Union, and aims to provide young researchers with appropriate training opportunities for their career.

### Application

For its third school, the RegPol<sup>2</sup> project offers five places for external young researchers. We invite you to exchange your ideas on the above mentioned topics. STU will provide 4 ECTS for full participation in the school.

The participation, including lunch and one excursion will be free of charge, but travel and accommodation costs have to be covered by the participants themselves. We can offer assistance in reserving hotel rooms for successful applicants (approx. 50€ per night).

Interested young researchers should send a **short motivation letter and CV** (together no more than 2 pages) to Franziska Görmär ([f\\_goermar@ifl-leipzig.de](mailto:f_goermar@ifl-leipzig.de)) until **19 August 2016**. You can find more information about the RegPol<sup>2</sup> project at [www.regpol2.eu](http://www.regpol2.eu), or the IfL website at [www.ifl-leipzig.de](http://www.ifl-leipzig.de).