Open Special Session Proposal

for

RSA Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) Conference 2019

Session Title: **Creative Cities in the CEE Countries: Theory, Best Practices and Challenges**

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Researchers, international organisations and European Union institutions have been dealing with creative cities for over two decades. Creative industry is playing more and more important role in the economic growth of the cities of Central and Eastern European Countries. In theory, there are many elements of creative cities, such as vibrant cultural life, the presence of creative industry (e.g. design, IT, craft, marketing) and a so-called "creative class". Metropolises and centres of polycentric urban regions often try to subsidize their creative sector in order to realize benefits from these activities. Not only local governments, but the European Union introduced many initiatives to foster cities, which are interested in developing their creative sectors. One of the most important tools is the title of "European Capital of Culture" (ECOC), but there are other initiatives, like Community-led Local Development (CLLD) or the new monitoring system "Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor" (CCCM). The goal of this session is to strengthen the scientific debate related to creative cities in the CEE countries.

We invite theoretical and empirical papers related, among others, to the following issues:

- What is the interpretation of creative city in different regions?
- How can the creativity of a city be measured?
- What elements are altered by the decision makers of the city if the goal is to enhance creativity?
- What indicators express a city's level of creativity?
- What are the most important challenges in the CEE countries relating to creative cities?
- What kind of effects of the EU (financial subsidies, new tools and systems etc.) can be observed?
- Are there best practices concerning creative cities in CEE countries?