



**European Sociological Association RN36 –  
Sociology of Transformations: East and West,  
Slovenian National Committee of the  
UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Program (MOST),  
School of Advanced Social Studies, Nova Gorica, Slovenia,  
and the Junior Sociologists Network  
of the International Sociological Association**

*cordially invite you to submit paper proposals for the combined events of*

**Midterm Conference of ESA RN36 and  
10<sup>th</sup> Slovenian Social Science Conference  
„ The Social Transformations We Live in:  
Between Cohesion and Fragmentation”**

**September 20-22, 2018, Nova Gorica, Slovenia**

*Scope and questions of the Conferences:*

We all are witnessing contradictory and complex tendencies in the world we live in. It is becoming fragmented in many spheres. Simultaneously global marketization, the continuing rise of transnational organisational forms, and super-national political unions suggest unification and homogenization. The global tendencies increasingly make our world interconnected and interdependent. These interdependencies call for the greater coordination, integration and cohesion but they can hardly be taken for granted. At the same time a corporate-driven policy agenda and the distorted economic

views bolstering them have deepened inequality and undermined social stability in regions across the world. It was not just the persistent patterns of huge inequalities between different parts of society but also the growing frustration that political systems have become unresponsive to the concerns of people suffering from the current state of affairs.

Do we live in the era that seems to favour exclusion over inclusion? In the time, when the first (exclusion) is fast becoming a routine measure to which mechanically to resort, internal choices assume yet more attraction and facility. It may refer to many aspects of social and political life and rise many questions. The EU has remained suspended between rhetorical commitments to integrate and real world action which demonstrates that politics remains, in the eyes of the large majority, properly within the nation state. Mass migration and the related cross-cultural encounters can generate productive and mutually beneficial inter-cultural practices; however, they may be exploited to promote segregation, discrimination, fundamentalism, and extremism. Is information and digital revolution in this or other respect a decisive factor for the social integration or new social divide? How people feel solidarity and on what grounds? What are new divides arising? Can individualisation be seen as a basis for cohesion and solidarity or as a factor of atomisation and fragmentation?

What are the forces or ideas that are capable to secure a peaceful and so thriving society, well-integrated and imbued with the spirit of mutual cooperation?

What changes can we reveal through our studies in the region of Eastern and Central Europe? Do they lead to cohesion or fragmentation? Or both but in different aspects? Is it a part of greater change, which one? Do we face now fundamental contradictions? Or may be we talk about illusive cohesion and illusive fragmentation? And many other questions...

Contributions addressing these, and similar aspects of social transformations generating cohesion and/or fragmentation, are welcome. You may address both Eastern and Western societies, global North or global South, deal with broad comparative perspective, individual case studies, and apply a broad variety of theories, qualitative, quantitative and mixed research methods.

*Keynote speakers:*

- **Petr Jehlička**, The Open University, UK
- **Martin Mendelski**, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, Germany
- **Frane Adam**, Institute for Developmental and Strategic Analysis, Slovenia

*Abstract, language, and submission:*

The organizers invite theoretically or empirically grounded papers on the above topics. Special consideration will be given to empirically grounded papers, either comparative or country-based. The language of the abstracts, the papers and the conference will be English. Abstracts should be about 400 words long and should be accompanied by the name(s) of the author(s), his/her/their affiliation(s) and e-mail(s).

**The processes of abstract submission and acceptance is managed using the online platform, available [here](#).**

*Important Deadlines:*

- Deadline for submitting paper proposals (max. 400 words) – **May 30, 2018**
- Notification of paper acceptance – **June 15, 2018**
- Deadline for registration – **June 30, 2018**

*Conference Fees:*

- Regular fee – EUR 45
- Discounted fee for ESA and SNC MOST members – EUR 30
- Discounted fee for PhD students – EUR 20

*Accommodation and Travel:* Will be covered by the participants.

*Meals:* Will be provided by the organisers.

*Conference venue:*

**School of Advanced Social Studies** / Fakulteta za uporabne družbene študije v Novi Gorici, Gregorčičeva 19, 5000 Nova Gorica, Slovenia

**Nova Gorica** is the youngest Slovenian town. In 2017, it celebrated its 70th birthday. It is located at the border with Italy. As a unique example in Europe, the two towns, Slovenian Nova Gorica (or New Gorica) and Italian Gorizia (Gorica) are located at the border with no border crossings and living in great co-existence on all levels. It is a town with a mild climate, green and blooming all year round, young, lively and friendly to the visitors from all over the world. (*Source: novagorica-turizem.com*)

*Contact:* [sssc@fuds.si](mailto:sssc@fuds.si)

*Organizing institutions:*

- ESA RN36 "Sociology of transformations: East and West";
- Slovenian National Committee of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations Program (MOST);
- School of Advanced Social Studies / Fakulteta za uporabne družbene študije v Novi Gorici;
- ISA Junior Sociologists Network.