



# Launch of Brazil's Candidacy to host the 2014 Global Conference of the Regional Studies Association

19<sup>th</sup> March 2013

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## Key Message

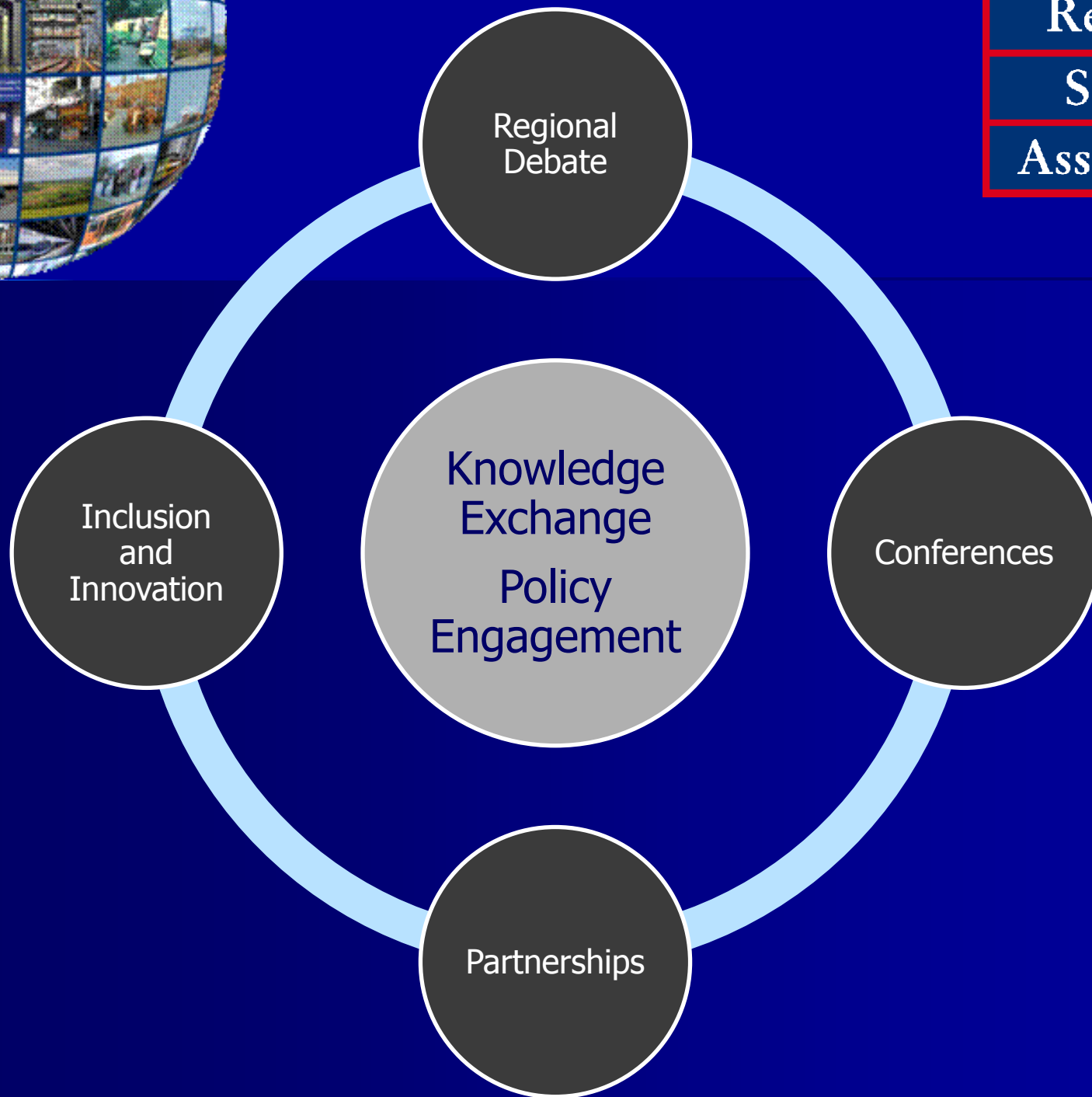
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*'Throughout all the changes it has experienced, knowledge exchange and dissemination has always been at the very core of the Regional Studies Association's activities. Indeed ... it has operated as a site of exchange between academics from different disciplines, universities and countries and also between the academic and practitioner worlds.'*

*James Hopkins, Manchester University, UK (2011)*



# Regional Studies Association





# Knowledge Exchange I Social Capital and the RSA

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“Learned societies’ core activities of publishing and meetings have a common element – they link researchers and, potentially, users of research together. Other activities such as awarding prizes, recognising achievement and maintaining disciplinary identity allow individuals to recognise and evaluate the work of others. It is through these activities that learned societies facilitate interaction by building and sustaining connections, relationships and access to other individuals and knowledge.”

(Hopkins 2011, pg 59-60)



## Knowledge Exchange II

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*Information* may be facts or understood data

*Knowledge* is to do with flexible and adaptable skills

Knowledge *sharing* - scholarly publications and presentations

Knowledge *transfer* – formal training, provision of advice

Knowledge *exchange* - two-way exchange of ideas and information



## Knowledge Exchange III

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Three influential factors which affect a societies capability in knowledge exchange –

- **Purpose** – does the society see knowledge exchange as a core aim?
- **Capacity** – does it have the resource (people/time/financial) to engage in it?
- **Relationships** with other bodies and individuals such as government departments, supra-national bodies, think tanks, professional associations, publishing companies etc

Drawn from Developing Dialogue Report (2008)





# Policy Engagement I

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- Captured in RSA aims and objects

*"to promote education in the field of regional studies by the exchange of ideas and information and to stimulate and aid studies and research and disseminate the results of such research"*

- Embedded in our governance structures –
  - ☐ **Board members**
  - ☐ **RSA Research Committee**
  - ☐ **RSA Publications Committee**
  - ☐ Territory, Politics, Governance **Policy Advisory Board**



# Policy Engagement II

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Engagement with policy takes many forms –

❑ **Consultations/Evidence**

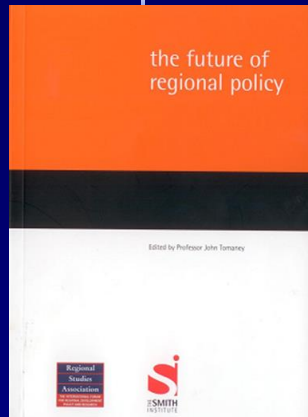
- Local Growth, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Enterprise Zones (All party group)
- Territorial Dimensions of the Future EU Cohesion Policy

❑ **Conferences/Events - often contentious**

- High Speed Rail – Palace of Westminster

❑ **Publications**

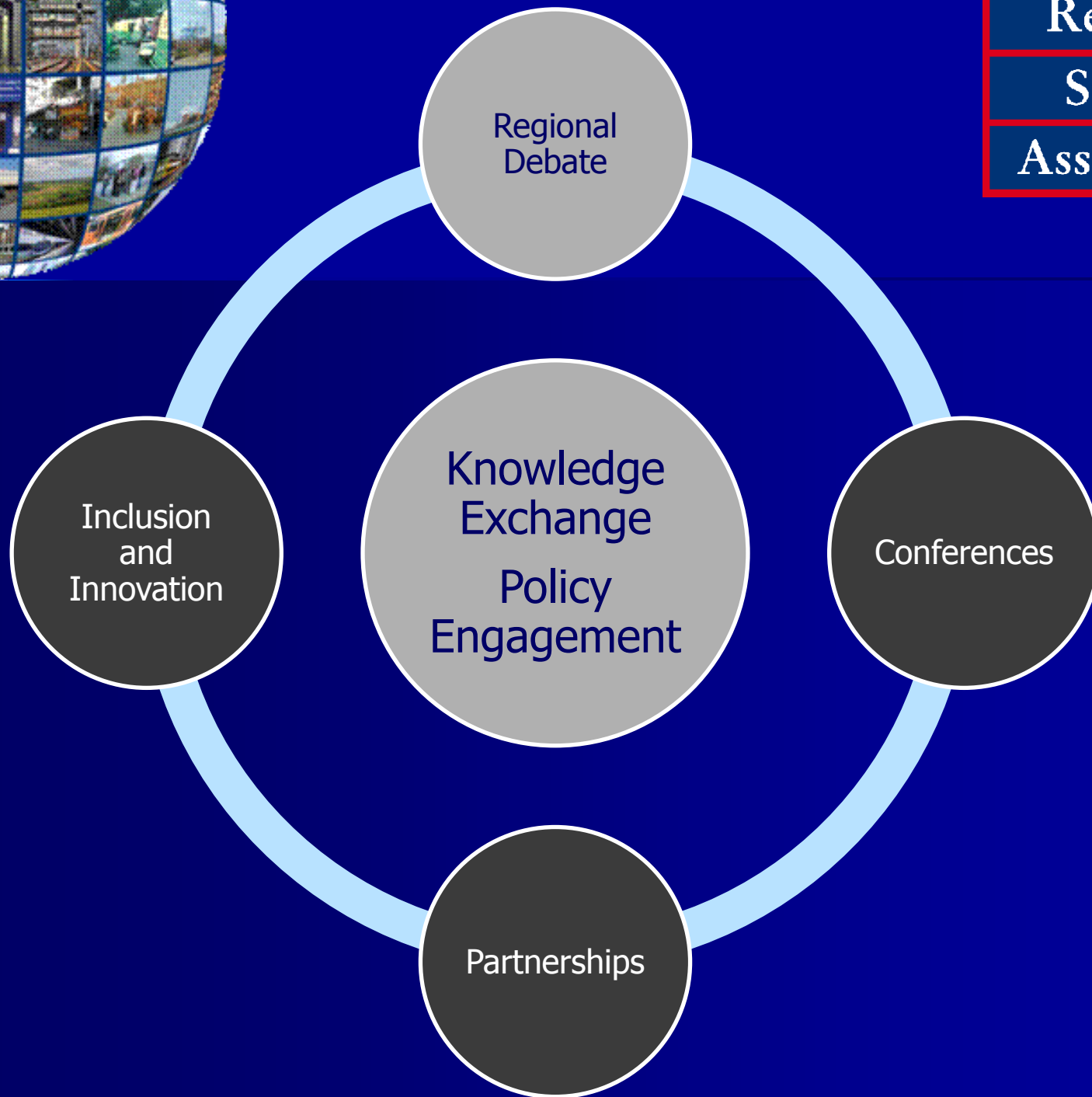
- The Future of Regional Policy
- Changing Gear – is localism the new regionalism?
- Regional Studies – *Policy Debates section*
- The regional dimensions of the transition to a low carbon economy – Australia
- Size, location and agglomeration effects of inward FDI in the USA







# Regional Studies Association





# RSA Connection to Regional Debates I

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## **EU Cohesion Policy Conference 2011**– Fifth Cohesion Report

180 participants / 29 countries

Participation - academia, EC officials and managing authorities

61 papers / 27 sessions including plenaries, workshops and roundtables

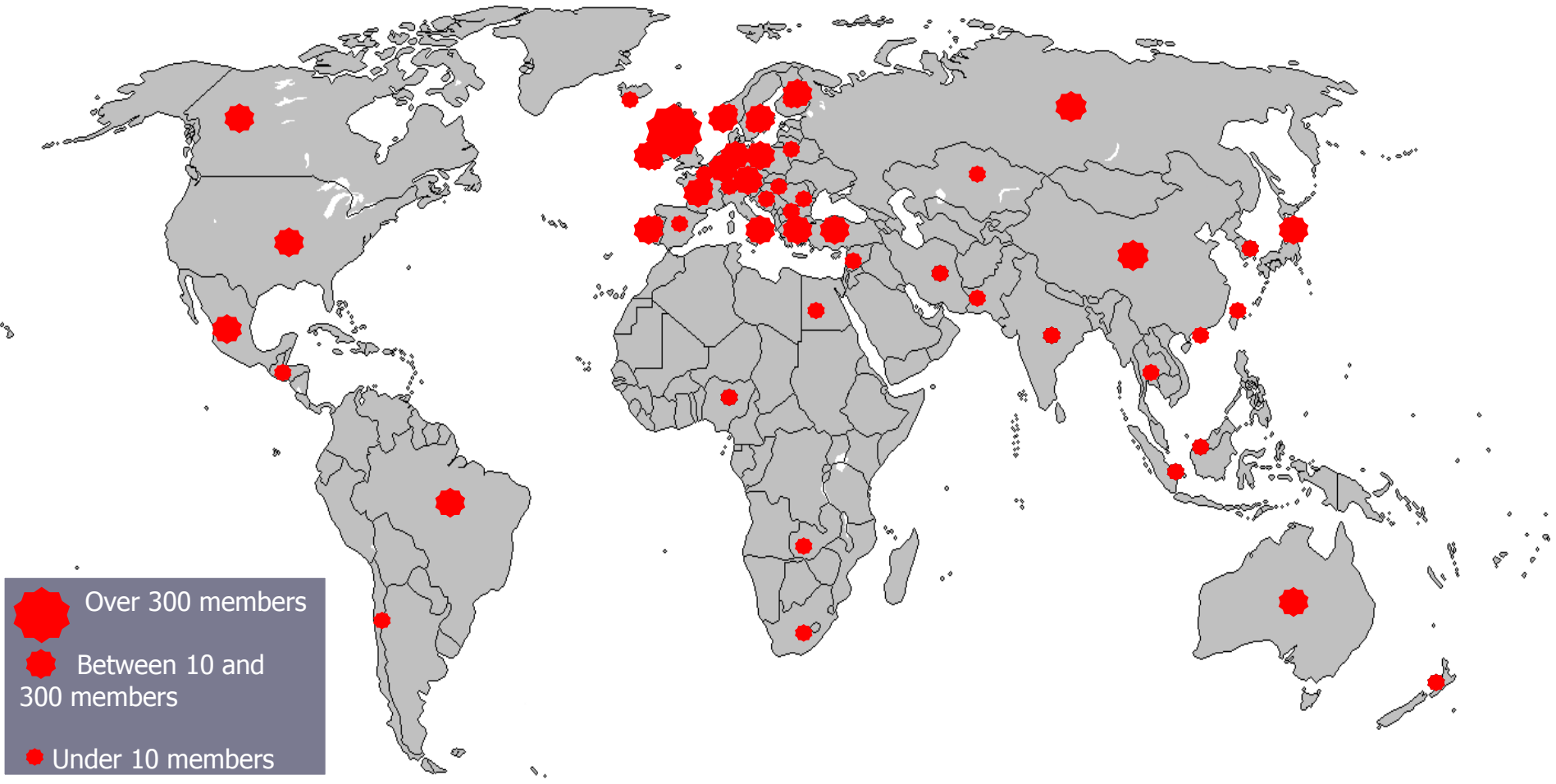
- Topics:
  - Europe 2020 and Cohesion Policy – new directions
  - Territorial Cooperation – the concept of macro-regions
  - Monitoring and evaluation of Cohesion Policy
  - Territorial cooperation across external borders

Outcomes: Journal articles, SI *Studies in Agricultural Economics*

RSA Research Network “Effectiveness, added value and future of EU Cohesion Policy”

# RSA Connection to Regional Debates II

## RSA Membership in 2012





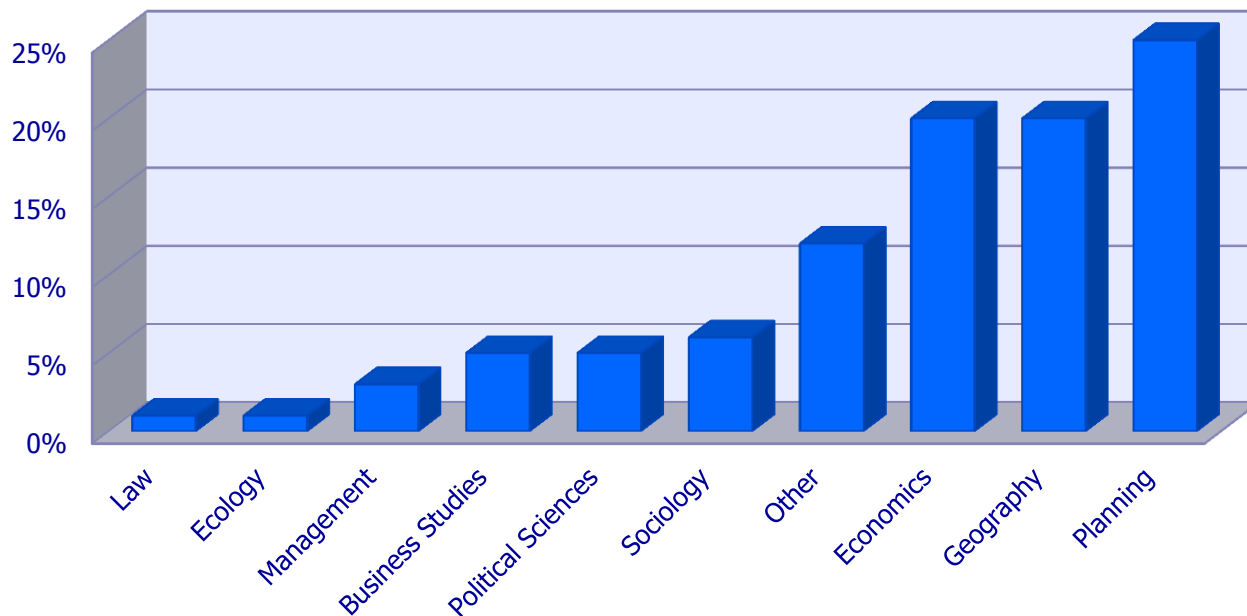
# RSA Connection to Regional Debates III

## RSA Membership 2012

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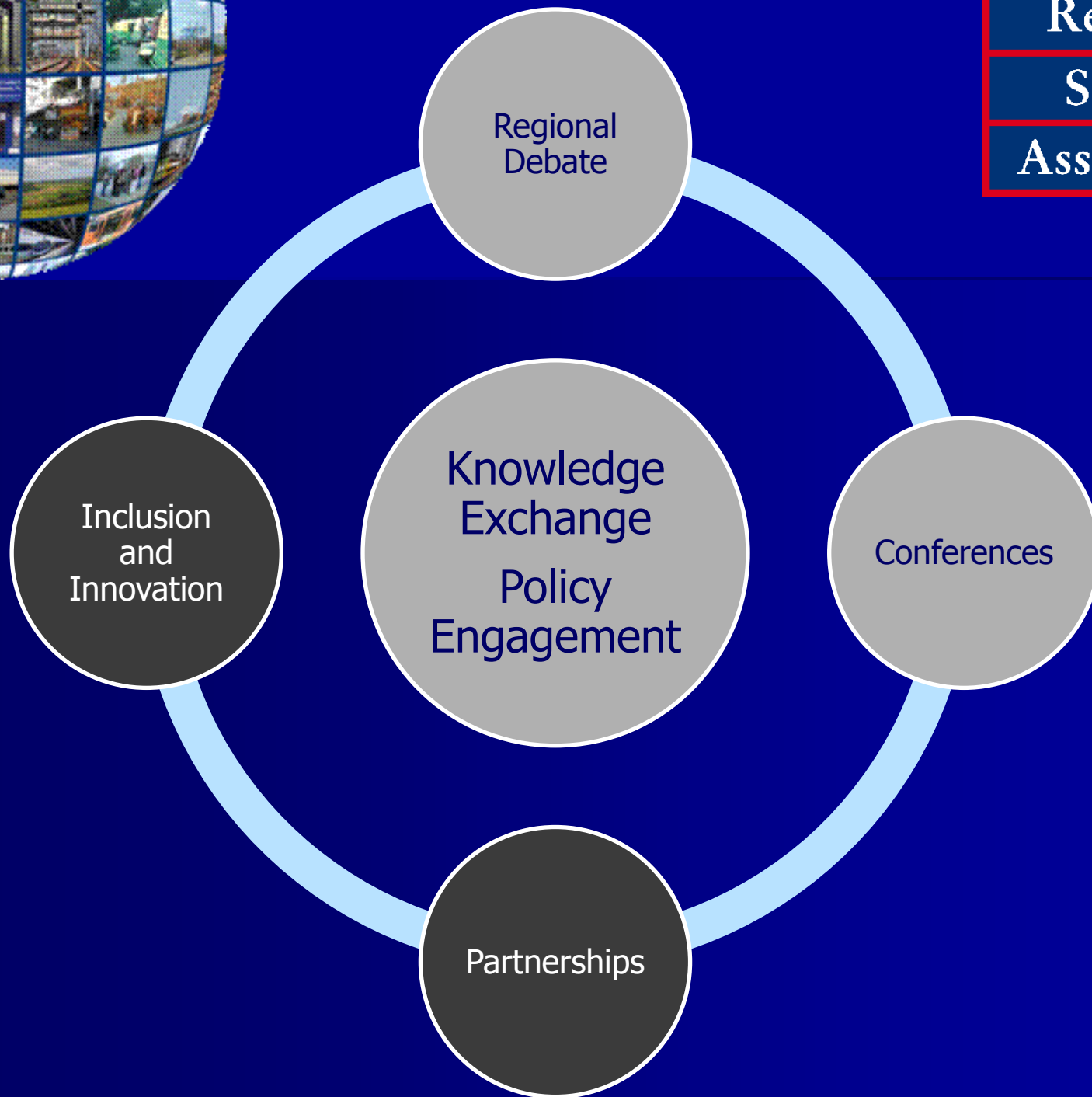
By Discipline

**RSA Membership in 2012 by Discipline**



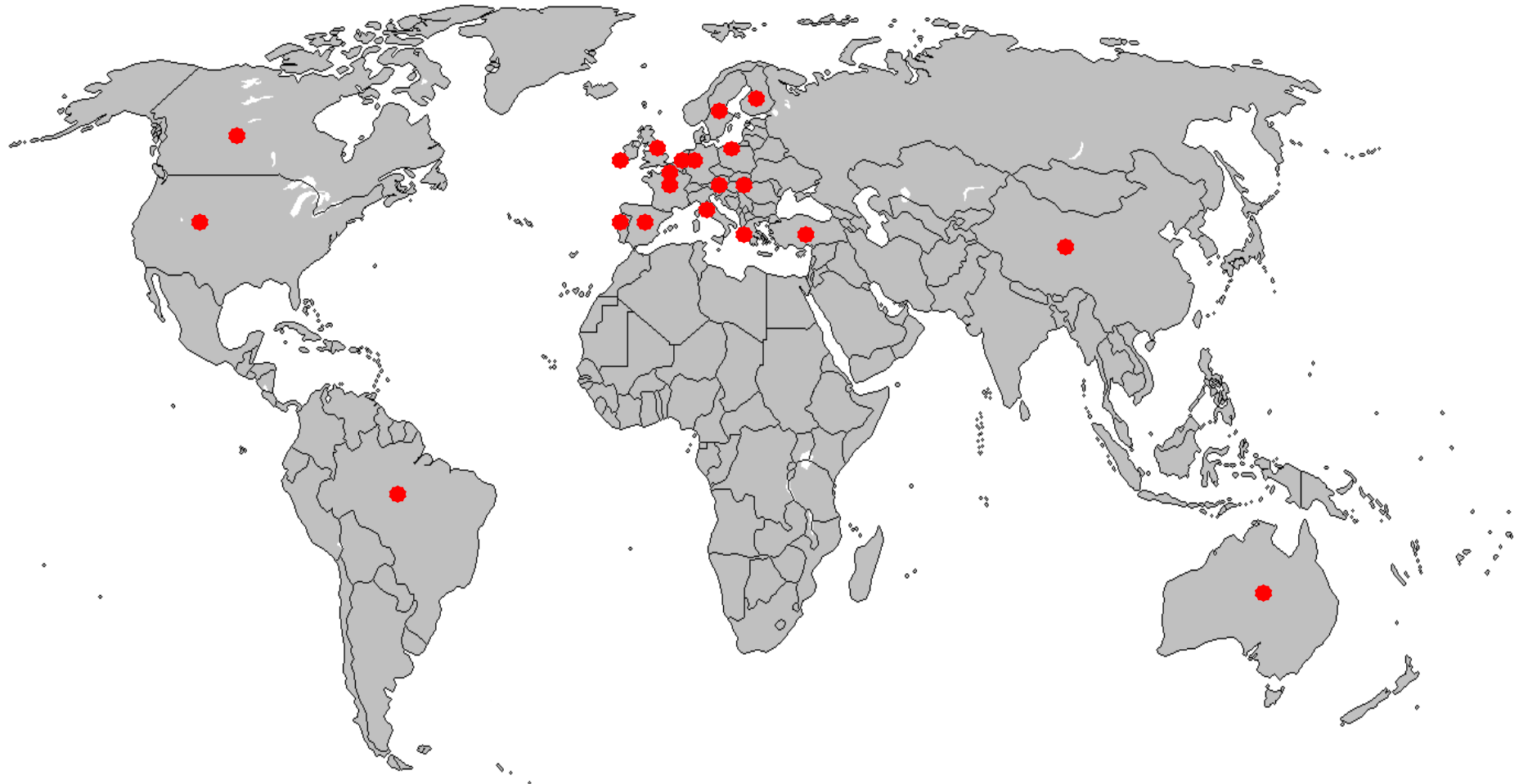


# Regional Studies Association





# RSA International Conferences 1967-2014





## RSA Conferences II

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Exchange with concrete experiences, understanding regional development in China, strengthening linkages with the RSA  
Elkin Velasquez, UN-Habitat, Kenya 2012

A free conference place! What a treat. I could not have attended the RSA Leuven conference without the bursary. It was a great event and I was able to do brilliant networking.

Joanie Willet, PhD Student, University of Exeter, UK, 2010.



It was perfect place to get ideas, to meet people, to discuss with scientists in official and informal atmosphere. It was perfect event.

Gintare Pociute, Nature Research Centre, Lithuania 2012

Ideal global context, many Asian participants, combination of different views on regional policy making

Ida Musiaklowsak, Poznan University of Economics, Poland

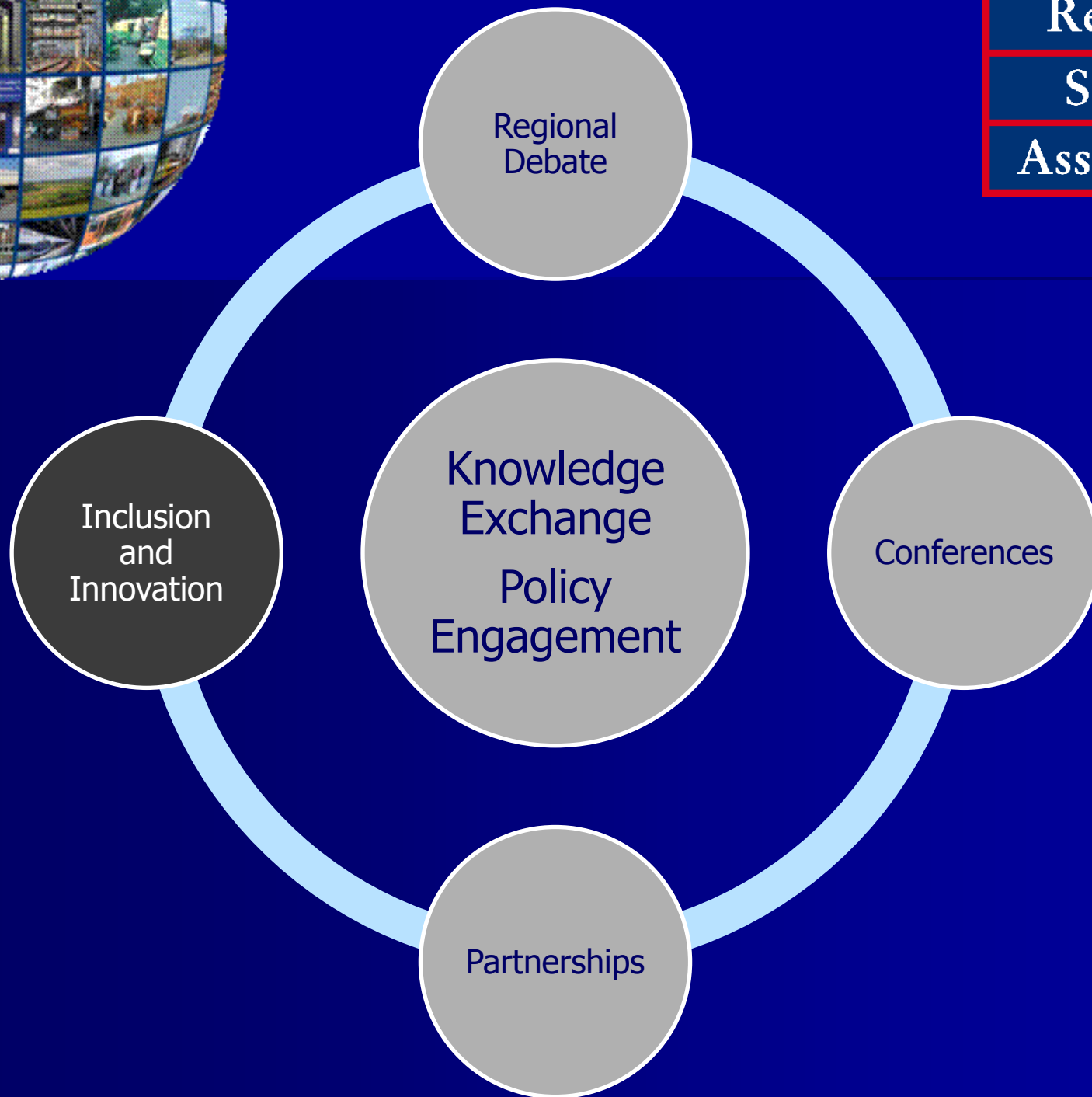


Good range of countries represented, interesting parallel sessions.

Kristine Peters, Flinders University, Australia



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# RSA Partnership Working I

## European Partnerships

Open Days – European Week of Regions and Cities (Brazilian Mostra)

Open Days - c.6000 practitioners, policy makers and academics

100 sessions - exchange of best practice and panel debates

OD University - 8 sessions, exchange views, test new academic concepts in regional and urban planning

RSA is now the exclusive partner for the OD University

Early Career Poster Competition – to recognise and reward new talent and encourage policy engagement

2013 innovation - Master Class which will incorporate a World Café session



# RSA Partnership Working II

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## Smith Institute

- think tank promoting progressive policies for a fairer society
- provides a high-level forum for new thinking and debate on public policy and politics
- interested not only in innovation and new ideas but also how to translate policy into practice

Where Next for  
Local Economic  
Partnerships?

Edited by Michael Ward and Sally Hardy



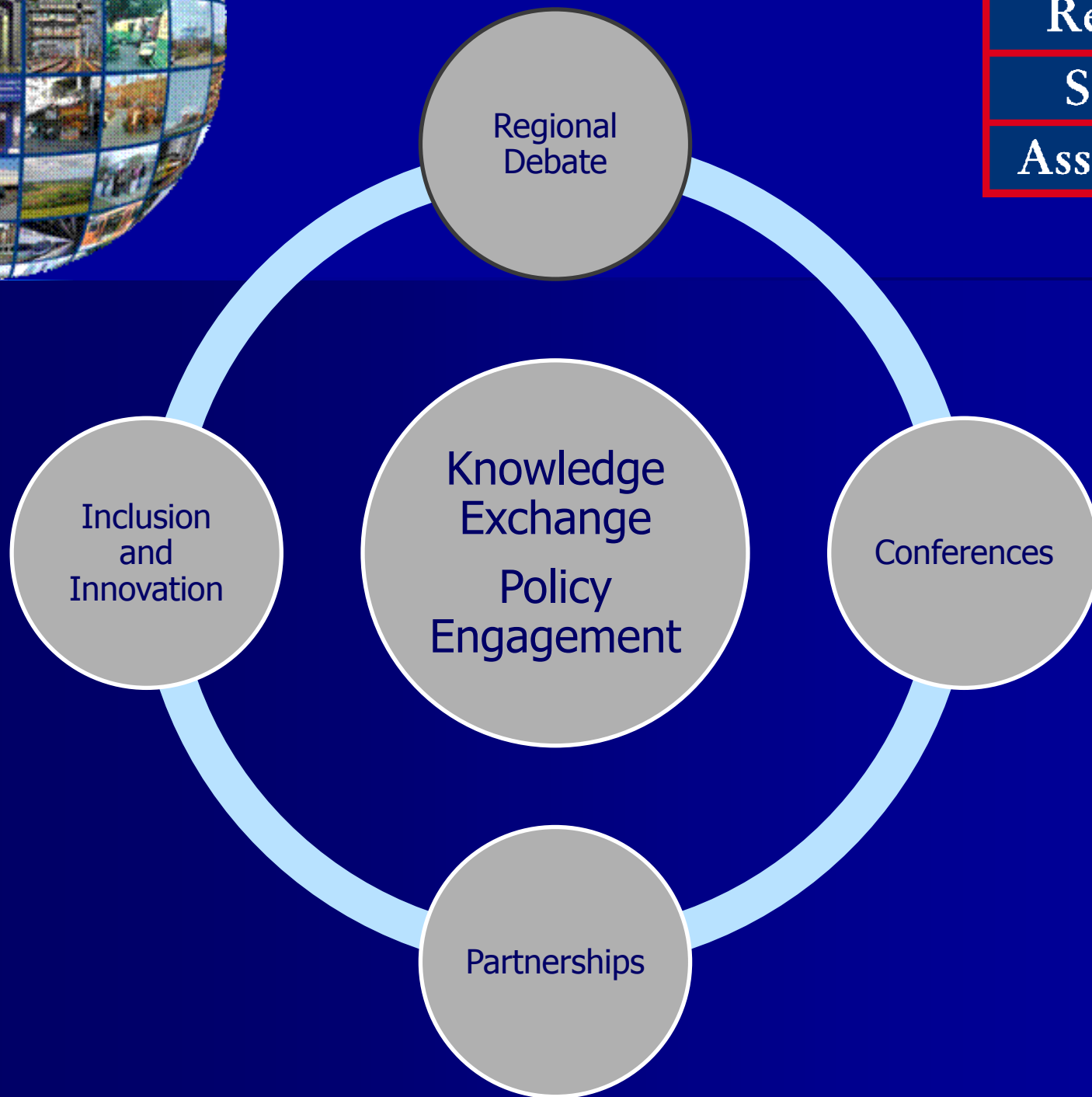
RSA has collaborated since 2009  
Two publications and one coming ....  
Three events and one coming ....

Collaboration brings different stakeholders together





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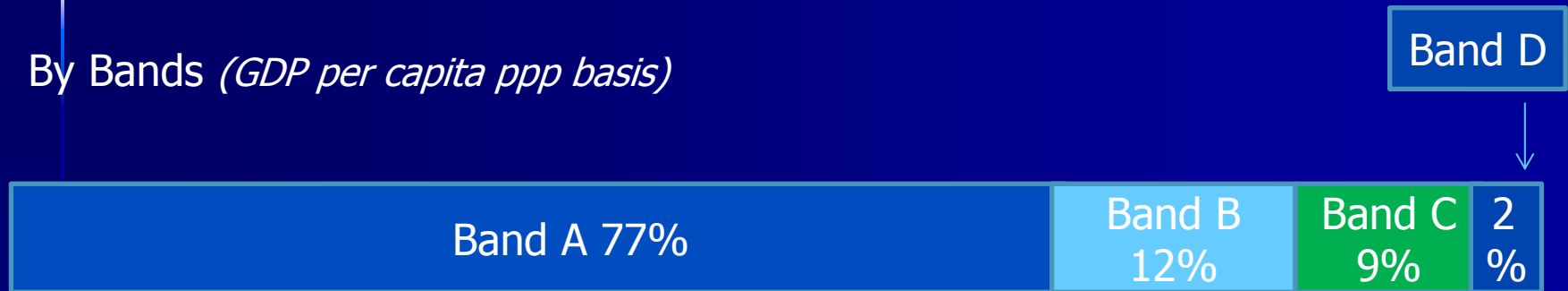




# RSA Membership 2012 Inclusivity

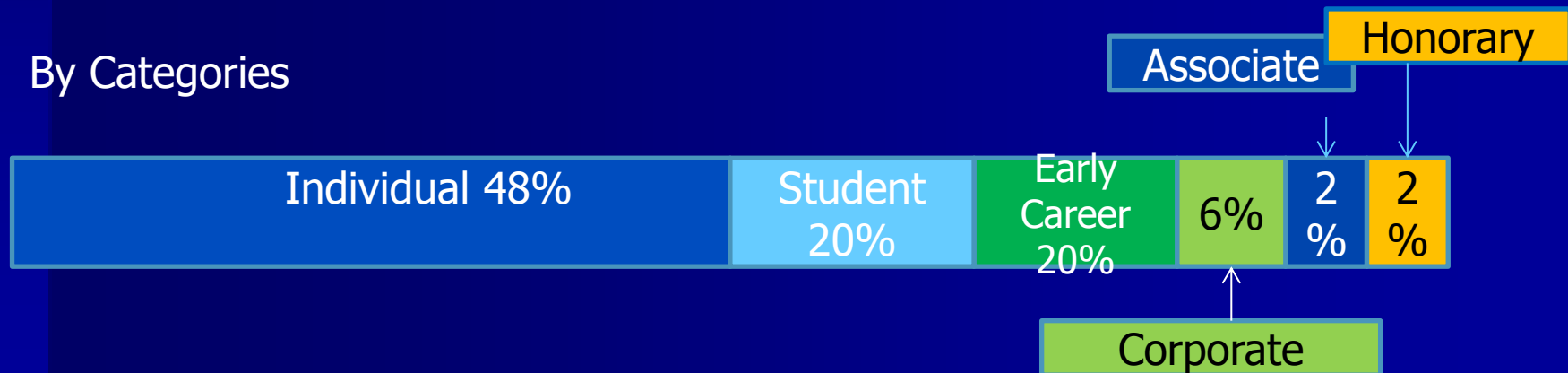
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By Bands (*GDP per capita ppp basis*)



*Brazil moved in 2013 from Band C to Band B reflecting growth in its GDP per capita.*

By Categories





# Innovation

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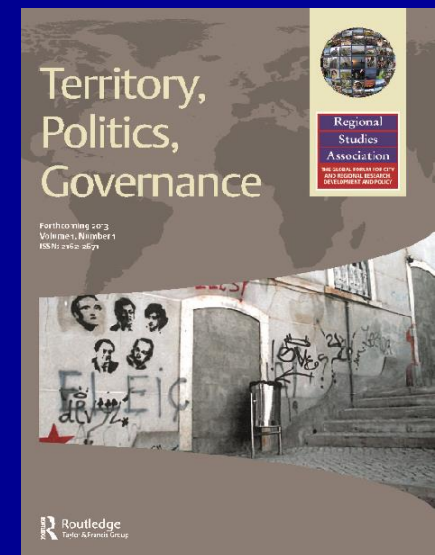
RSA seeks to engage with the wider community in all its endeavours – research, publishing, events

Publishing – New journal launch - open access, 2014  
Territory, Politics, Governance – new launch 2013

Conference - UCLA conference strategy

Social media - twitter feeds, face book sites

Other ideas? Master Class or Student and  
Early Career day?  
Residential fieldtrips?





# Why is the Brazilian Conference important to the RSA?

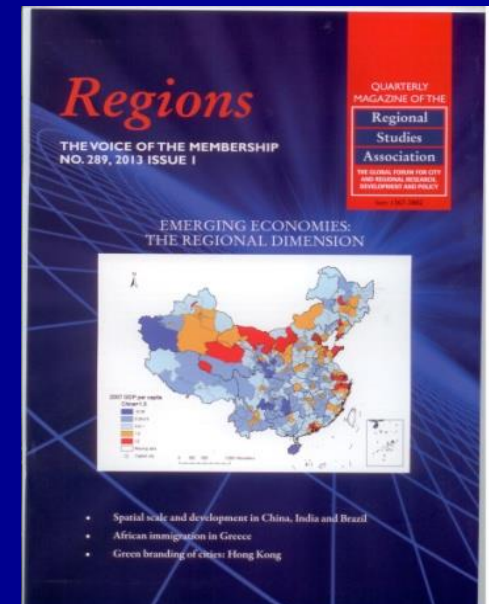
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RSA sees conferences as the start of something new

We want to learn from the Brazilian experience

We would like to see opportunities arise from this event for

- Collaborative work
- Research
- An RSA Division







It's not all work

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**FILM PREMIER**  
"Rivers,  
Environment  
and  
Development  
in Europe  
and Asia"



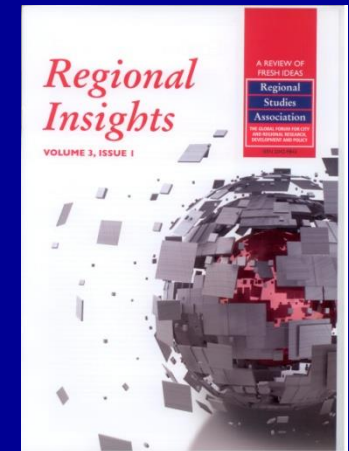




# What is your role?

## Regional Studies Association

- Get involved – both institutionally and individually
- Suggest topics or themes
- Suggest key speakers who you'd like to hear
- Offer to give a paper
- Chair a session
- Act as a session discussant
- Ask questions in the sessions
- Talk to lots of other participants



Join us in the Regional Studies Association

[www.regionalstudies.org](http://www.regionalstudies.org)



# Thank You

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