

## **Message for the opening ceremony of the 11th Romanian RSA Conference, May 12-13 in Pitesti**

Dear Colleagues and Friends in Romania,

My good friend Professor Daniela Constantin, who is the President of the Romanian Regional Science Association, asked me to give you a message for this 11<sup>th</sup> Romanian RSA Conference here at the Constantin Brâncoveanu University in Pitesti. As President of ERSA it is a great pleasure for me to do so. Two years ago I attended a previous edition of this conference organized by the Romanian ERSA section and I have good memories of my visit to Romania and the inspiring well-organized conference in Suceava.

And again it is great to see that this 11<sup>th</sup> conference with the main theme "Future Dynamics of Regional Development and Planning" will bring together young and senior researchers to stimulate regional science research with the exchange of the state-of-the-art developments in the field and how this can be useful for regional policy.

I would like to thank the Romanian Section and the Local Organising Committee for compiling the scientific programme and the Constantin Brâncoveanu University and Bucharest-Ilfov Regional Development Agency for their support to make this event possible. Under the leadership of Professor Constantin, the Romanian section is one of the best functioning and active sections of ERSA and the members are also active internationally.

I noticed that a substantial group of Romanian colleagues will participate in the next 57<sup>th</sup> annual ERSA Congress that will take place in my hometown Groningen, The Netherlands, 29 August – 1 September 2017, with the theme "*Social Progress for Resilient Regions*". The call for papers has resulted in almost 1000 submission of abstracts. More information about the congress can be found at the congress website: <http:// groningen.ersa.org> We look forward to welcoming you in Groningen.

And today, in this beautiful city of Pitesti, I wish you a pleasant stay and fruitful participation in the 11<sup>th</sup> Romanian RSA Conference with your colleagues and friends and I hope to meet many of you in Groningen by the end of August!

Jouke van Dijk

ERSA President