

**Call for Papers****17<sup>th</sup> Geoffrey J.D. Hewings  
Regional Economics Workshop****and****16<sup>th</sup> GfR Summer Conference  
in Regional Science**

**Keynote: Prof. Dr. Hans Koster (VU Amsterdam)**  
„The Persistence of Urban Decline“

**Vienna, September 17 - 18, 2026**

The Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO) is very pleased to announce the **17<sup>th</sup> Regional Economics Workshop** in honour of **Geoffrey J.D. Hewings**, Emeritus Professor of Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and member of WIFO's Scientific Board.

This year's workshop, which aims at bringing together researchers from various fields of regional science to discuss ideas and exchange knowledge, will be jointly organized with the **16<sup>th</sup> GfR Summer Conference in Regional Science**. The GfR is the German speaking section of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA).

We are proud to announce that Prof. Dr. Hans Koster accepted our invitation to give a keynote speech:

**Hans Koster** is Professor of Urban Economics and Real Estate at the Department of Spatial Economics, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He is also Research Fellow with the Tinbergen Institute and affiliated to the CEPR. Hans' research concerns the economic analysis of cities, regions and the environment. In his keynote, he will present recent research on the persistence of urban decline.

You are invited to submit any theoretical or empirical contribution within the field of regional science. The topics of interest include questions related to:

- regional specialization, structural change, and knowledge diffusion,
- geographical impact of economic policy measures,
- regional labour markets,
- regional tourism,
- regional location analyses, spatial location choice and location concepts,
- regional planning,

or any other topic in regional science.

The workshop is open for contributions characterized as "work in progress" and for contributions from young researchers. Submissions should include an **extended abstract** (up to 2000 words).

Abstracts of papers intended for presentation should be submitted via the GfR website at <https://gfr.ersa.org>.

The **fee for participants** of the workshop is 70 EUR (incl. conference dinner) and due upon acceptance. All papers presented may be published in the **WIFO Working Paper** series.

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**Deadline for submission of extended abstracts:** **May 15, 2026**

**Notification of acceptance:** **June 15, 2026**

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