About PASCAL International Observatory

The PASCAL International Observatory helps decision-makers design and implement balanced regional development strategies which contribute to economic development, social equity and environmental sustainability. PASCAL was founded in 2002 to extend the path-finding work on learning regions and cities inaugurated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which illustrated the benefits of appropriate strategies of public governance.

PASCAL is a global alliance of decision-makers, academic entrepreneurs, researchers, policy analysts and practitioners drawn from government, higher education, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. PASCAL mobilises and joins the knowledge held by universities, regions and partner organizations to benefit society. PASCAL reflects the values, commitments and skills of regionally engaged, trans-disciplinary experts who see the importance of place, social cohesion and lifelong learning. PASCAL is a learning organization, self-critical and forward-looking, preparing to address global and local problems for which existing knowledge is inadequate. This is an ethical commitment to a just world. PASCAL is guided by the following priorities:

- **PLACE MAKING and PLACE MANAGEMENT.** Coordinated, multi-stakeholder efforts improve life in cities and geographic regions by drawing on all available assets: built, cultural, financial, human, natural, political and social. Because cities and multi-jurisdictional regions have become drivers of the new economy, it is important to think, act, learn and measure in new ways related to the context in which we all want to flourish. *Place matters: where we live shapes how we live.*

- **SOCIAL COHESION.** Inclusive networks which generate social capital and expand equity increase the range of creative inputs needed for innovation. Cities and regions which pursue inclusive internal collaboration are better able to compete in the global economy. *People matter: how we live together shapes where we live.*

- **LEARNING CITIES and REGIONS.** Internally collaborative cities and regions facilitate lifelong learning and promote knowledge sharing. Learning drives innovation and development. *Learning matters: how we learn shapes where we live and how we live together.*

The name “PASCAL” reflects our deep commitment to PLACE and SOCIAL COHESION and LEARNING. Taken as whole, these elements are essential for creating real impact in the face of present complexity and future uncertainty.
Core Activities

PASCAL bridges knowledge gaps between researchers, practitioners and policy makers. We work to build place management partnerships which generate evidence-based policies and practices. Our core activities include the following.

INVESTIGATION. The PASCAL International Observatory gathers, interprets and shares globally-informed analyses of innovative regional development. We are organized for networking, knowledge creation, and the showcasing of initiatives which reflect our guiding priorities. Our web portal serves as a clearinghouse and networking tool for associates, clients and partners engaged in regional development. PASCAL prepares policy briefings, publishes books, proposes action for constructive change and hosts annual conferences.

ACTION. PASCAL helps decision-makers narrow the gap between their region’s untapped potential and its aspirational goals. Expert associates, drawn from over 50 countries, provide services designed for particular contexts: regional assessment, benchmarking, applied research, community engagement and change programs, strategic planning, research monitoring and evaluation, and training and facilitation. PASCAL associates have senior-level policy and implementation experience in government, higher education, NGOs or the private sector.

POLICY. Our approach to policy analysis shows decision-makers where to concentrate their strategic regional development efforts. PASCAL tracks global trends, identifies practices which support regional development objectives, fosters measurement and accountability, and scans the knowledge horizon to anticipate the future.

Learn More

PASCAL International Observatory operates globally from centres in Africa, Australia, Europe and North America. As a networked organization, PASCAL draws on the best resources from around the world to respond to challenges that are locally focused and time sensitive. The Chair is Josef Konvitz, recently retired from the OECD (josef@konvitz.com). To discuss how PASCAL can work with you, individually or as part of a consortium, contact Executive Secretary Alan Foster, at the University of Glasgow (alan.foster@glasgow.ac.uk) or one of our International Directors.

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