

Russian Sociological Congress titled "Sociology and Society: Traditions and Innovations for Regional Social Development"

Note by the President of the ESA

It is with pleasure that I write this note to the opening of the Congress of the Russian Sociological Association to be held online-only due to the pandemic restrictions. Unfortunately, the pandemic continues to impose more or less restrictions to face to face meetings in distinct latitudes of the globe. There is a consensus in the scientific community that face to face work can be more productive, however the possibilities of working online opened up by technology are a good alternative to continue to give our contribution to the development of science and the society. Regrettably, I cannot participate in real time due to other work commitments, but I would like to leave my words to all the colleagues participating in this congress.

We are living in a world of social challenges due to several problems such as climate change, health emergencies as the global pandemic, wars and forced migration, the rise of authoritarian forces, conflicts and identity disputes based on gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation and other variables, the contradictions of the digitalization of society and the technologies' multiple uses, threats to the freedom of speech, among others. Discussing the complex relations between traditions and innovation is one of the main goals of the congress of the Russian Sociological Association. This is a wonderful starting point to (re)framing those challenges by giving a specific contribution from sociology. Tackling social inequalities and transforming the society for better is a sustainable objective for sociology and the sociologists.

The Russian sociological community has been dynamic showing how sociology can contribute to improve the society both at the national and international levels. It has been also active at the European Sociological Association both through collective and individual membership. I hope that the scientific sociological community can envision brighter futures for the society at this important scientific meeting by starting from solid scientific knowledge which can shed light into the multiple mechanisms and phenomena creating and reproducing exclusions and social inequalities.

I send my greetings to the colleagues and conference participants and wish you a very fruitful meeting!

With all my best wishes,

Lígia Ferro

President of the European Sociological Association