



## Special Session Proposal

### Inequality and Territorial Cohesion in the Energy Transition: Towards Fair and Inclusive Low-Carbon Pathways

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#### Abstract

The energy transition represents a profound socio-technical transformation whose distributive consequences extend well beyond the energy domain. It interacts with pre-existing social stratification, spatial heterogeneity in the availability of renewable resources, and structural economic differences, generating complex patterns of inequalities across households, labour markets, cities and regions. These dynamics raise fundamental questions concerning the fairness, inclusiveness, and territorial balance of low-carbon pathways. This session aims to stimulate a broad interdisciplinary debate on how social, economic, and territorial inequalities shape, and are shaped by, the transition to low-carbon energy systems. It welcomes conceptual, empirical, and policy-oriented contributions that investigate how to design transitions that enhance fairness, inclusion, and territorial cohesion, rather than reinforcing existing inequalities. Key questions concern how institutional capacities, policy design, governance models, market structures, and socio-technical systems influence the distribution of costs and benefits across places and populations. Equally relevant are analyses of energy vulnerability and justice (including distributive and procedural justice) regional capabilities, and the role of public and private actors in enabling adaptive and socially sustainable pathways. By bringing together diverse analytical perspectives, the session seeks to deepen understanding of the mechanisms that can mitigate or exacerbate uneven development in the energy transition and to identify the conditions under which policies and governance arrangements can enhance territorial cohesion and support fair, inclusive, and transformative low-carbon energy pathways.