



Alicante, Spain & Virtual event

Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution

Special Session Proposal

Building resilient communities future: opportunities and challenges addressing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Organizers:

Ileana Luminița BĂLĂLĂU, Department of Sustainable Development, Government of Romania, luminita.balalau@gov.ro

Ștefania Elena DEAK, Department of Sustainable Development, Government of Romania, stefania.deak@gov.ro

Stelian MATEI, Department of Sustainable Development, Government of Romania, stelian.matei@gov.ro

Mihăiță TOADER, Department of Sustainable Development, Government of Romania, mihaita.toader@gov.ro

Gabriela CIULACU BIȚAN, Department of Sustainable Development, Government of Romania, gabriela.ciulacu@gov.ro

Elena PREDA, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Romania elena.preda@eam.ase.ro

Abstract

Building resilient communities are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in the 2030 Agenda. Resilience refers to the ability of individuals, communities, and systems to withstand, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses. The theme of building resilient communities addresses the challenges and opportunities of creating sustainable and equitable societies that can withstand and recover from unexpected events such as natural disasters, economic crises, and pandemics.

One of the critical opportunities for building resilient communities is the ability to create sustainable economic systems that can withstand shocks. This includes investing in green infrastructure, renewable energy, sustainable transportation systems, and implementing circular economy principles. By transitioning to a circular economy, communities can reduce their dependence on finite resources and increase their ability to withstand economic shocks.

Another significant opportunity for building resilient communities is the ability to strengthen social protections and create inclusive societies that leave no one behind. The use of digital

technologies can be a powerful tool to achieve this by providing access to information, services, and resources to the most vulnerable population.

The challenges facing communities address strengthening social cohesion by harnessing cultural diversity and biodiversity, reducing inequality and poverty, addressing climate change, and protecting biodiversity. Climate change is a significant threat to communities worldwide, and we must take action to mitigate its impact. Inequality and poverty can make communities more vulnerable to shocks and stress, and it is necessary to address these issues to build truly resilient communities. Biodiversity loss also poses a significant threat to the ecosystem services it provides and the cultural and spiritual values it holds for many communities.

We aim to demonstrate how this theme will provide value to the conference by highlighting the importance of building resilient communities for achieving the SDGs and creating sustainable and equitable societies. We will also discuss the opportunities and challenges that come with building resilient communities, specifically focusing on the role of circular economy, digitalization and biodiversity protection.

Furthermore, this proposal seeks to address the critical questions that such a theme will address. These include (but are not limited to):

How can we create sustainable economic systems that withstand shocks and promote community resilience?

How can we strengthen social protections and create inclusive societies that leave no one behind, using digital technologies as a tool?

How can we effectively tackle climate change, inequality, and poverty and protect biodiversity by building resilient communities?

What are the best practices, experiences, and lessons learned from different regions and sectors regarding implementing the circular economy, digitization, and biodiversity protection for building resilient communities?

What are the gaps in current policies and actions for building resilient communities for the future, and how can we address them?

How can we engage different actors and stakeholders in building resilient communities and explore potential partnerships and collaborations that can help support these efforts?

Papers that present theoretical, practical, and research-based perspectives on the topic are encouraged to be submitted.