

Green Finance and Regional Sustainability Indicators: Emerging Perspectives on Green Dedicated Investments (GDI)

The green transition increasingly depends on our ability to understand how sustainability-oriented investments flow across regions and how these financial streams shape economic transformation, resilience, and social outcomes. Green finance has moved beyond isolated funding mechanisms and now plays a structural role in regional development, influencing competitiveness, adaptation capacity, labour markets, and long-term ecological stability. In this evolving context, measurement frameworks capable of capturing the scale, intensity, and effectiveness of green investment are becoming indispensable. The Green Dedicated Investments (GDI) indicator – and its firm-level extension, the eGDI – represent innovative attempts to quantify sustainability-related investment patterns in a comparable, analytically robust manner. These indicators not only measure the level of green investments but also reflect their integration into regional economic structures and their contribution to long-term development pathways.

This session aims to bring together empirical and conceptual research that advances our understanding of the geography of green finance and the indicators used to analyse it. Particular attention is given to studies that explore how green investments interact with regional disparities, institutional conditions, innovation ecosystems, and the broader dynamics of convergence and divergence within Europe. Contributions linking sustainability finance with social vulnerability, energy transition, skilled labour availability, or adaptation challenges are especially welcome. The session also aims to explore the interplay between green and digital transitions – the “twin transition” – offering space for papers that integrate GDI/eGDI frameworks with digitalisation metrics, AI-based tools, or large-scale text and data analytics. Such approaches may reveal new insights into how the green transition unfolds at multiple territorial scales and how measurement tools can support evidence-based regional policy.

By fostering dialogue between researchers working on green finance, regional development, sustainability measurement, and digital transformation, the session seeks to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of how green investments shape Europe’s future development trajectories.