



Entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainable development

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Abstract

Entrepreneurship and innovation have long been key drivers of economic growth. Traditional policies in this area have focused mainly on stimulating entrepreneurial activity with a view to competitiveness and economic performance. In a world faced with growing socio-economic, environmental and territorial challenges, this perspective now appears limited.

The emergence of new forms of entrepreneurship, particularly social, green and technological, is evidence of a gradual shift towards broader objectives than economic growth alone. However, this development is still insufficiently studied. We still lack in-depth knowledge of how entrepreneurship and innovation can effectively integrate the principles of sustainable development while meeting specific economic and social needs. Similarly, it remains to be explored how these dynamics can reconcile global sustainability objectives with solutions capable of adapting to local realities, while responding to persistent structural challenges such as industrial decline, economic inequality and demographic exodus, which current approaches are still struggling to address effectively.

This special session aims to explore the mechanisms, practices and policies that can guide entrepreneurship and innovation towards sustainable and transformative trajectories. It aims to identify concrete levers for action to support innovative entrepreneurial initiatives that are capable of responding to global challenges while adapting to the economic and social specificities of local contexts.

The expected contributions may be theoretical and/or empirical, comparative, or present the results of evaluations of entrepreneurial or innovation policies, at regional or national level.

The following indicative questions may guide the work:

- How can entrepreneurship and innovation contribute to sustainable transition while responding to the specific challenges of regions marked by structural difficulties ?
- How can public policies be designed to support regional ecosystems capable of stimulating sustainable innovation and economic resilience. ?
- What entrepreneurial innovation strategies can revitalise regions in decline while promoting balanced economic and social development?
- What are the levers for strengthening the capacity of regions to attract, support and sustain innovative and sustainable entrepreneurial initiatives?