

Regional Science Dialogues for Peace
and Sustainable Development
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Special Session Proposal

The role of young people in building up sustainable development practices for inner and rural areas

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Abstract

The European society is aging and the current demographic situation has an influence on the economic growth and the solidarity between different generations (EU Parliament 2020). In the last 50 years, the technical, economical and social challenges have influenced both urban and rural areas. However, while rural areas in proximity of large urban centres benefitted from a rapid metropolitan development (e.g. job opportunities, infrastructures, presence of essential services), the countryside falls behind. Areas that are far away from cities are suffering from a substantial unemployment rate, the lack of basic services, and the systematic tendency of young people to leave. This special session is devoted to bring together experts to discuss current and future theories and methodological approaches, as well as examples and case studies. The goal is to contextualise the opportunities and potential solutions (both institutional and not) to help and support the young population of rural areas, also to overcome the dramatic impact of the covid-19.

Within this special session, we welcome works in those following issues:

- Social and cultural innovation from bottom-up perspectives
- Territorial cohesion
- Place branding approaches
- Gaming and technology for social and territorial development
- Economic and social sustainability