



Urban-Rural Cooperation for a Better Future

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Abstract

The cooperation between rural and urban areas is essential for addressing contemporary challenges such as spatial inequalities, demographic change, environmental sustainability, climate change and economic resilience. While cities in their rôle of metropolitan cores often drive innovation and economic growth, their success is deeply connected to the vitality of the differentiated surrounding areas. From food production, renewable energy provision and natural resource management to housing and recreation, rural and urban areas rely on each other in ways that are often overlooked. This session will explore how these connections can be strengthened in order to create more balanced, resilient, and sustainable regions.

The session intends to explore the practical strategies and case studies that show how rural-urban cooperation can address shared challenges. The contributions shall focus on governance, spatial planning and innovative partnerships which aim to contribute to unlock synergies that benefit both sides and create a better future for the whole region.

Special focus will be given to following themes:

- Infrastructure and mobility solutions to better connect urban, suburban and rural areas
- Spatial planning strategies for sustainable metropolitan and rural communities
- Development and management of recreation areas to benefit metropolitan regions and avoid conflicts
- Ensuring equitable access to social infrastructure
- Building governance models that bring together urban, suburban and rural stakeholders
- Collaborative approaches to environmental challenges
- Reducing socio-economic inequalities through integrated and inclusive regional policies