



## Special Session Proposal

### Pastoralism as an Agroecological Strategy for Regional Resilience: Transhumance, Commons Governance and Territorial Transitions

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#### Abstract

Across Europe, extensive pastoralism and transhumance remain structurally under-represented in regional development, territorial planning, and transition policy debates—despite their increasing relevance in a transition era shaped by climate volatility, land-use competition, rural depopulation, and socio-spatial inequalities. This Special Session reframes pastoralism as living agroecological infrastructure: a low-input food system and a form of commons-based land stewardship that contributes to biodiversity, landscape maintenance, fire risk mitigation, and climate adaptation, while sustaining livelihoods often located at the margins of dominant agri-food and territorial models.

The session invites papers that bring pastoral systems into the core concerns of regional science: **territorial resilience, multilevel governance, spatial justice, mobility, institutional change, and the political economy of land and resources**. We welcome contributions that analyse the spatial and institutional conditions enabling (or constraining) pastoral livelihoods—across mountain regions, rangelands, and peri-urban areas—where urbanisation, conservation regimes, tourism, and new “green” land claims can intensify conflict and exclusion.

In addition to academic papers, the session encourages policy-facing and practice-based contributions (with an analytical framing), in order to strengthen dialogue between research, governance, and on-the-ground pastoral communities.