



Special Session Proposal

Accessibility and Inequality in the Context of Transport and Urban Form

(Please list here the special session organizer(s) of this proposal including first name, last name, email and affiliation - and specify who is the corresponding convener for ERSA Congress Secretariat)

Louafi Bouzouina, ENTPE/LAET, University of Lyon, louafi.bouzouina@entpe.fr.
Mehmet Guney Celbis, ENTPE/LAET, University of Lyon, mgcelbis@entpe.fr.

Abstract

Please insert here a brief explanation of your special session topic – max one page

Accessibility has become a central concept in both urban and rural contexts as it directly relates to how individuals and households are able to reach and engage with economic and social opportunities. Recent developments such as changing mobility patterns, digitalization, climate change and energy transitions have reinforced attention to proximity-based planning as opposed to more traditional planning approaches centered on, for instance, road capacity and speed. The availability of new forms of data have also increased the relevance of accessibility in both research and policy settings. In this regard, frameworks such as the 15-minute city have further highlighted accessibility as a key organizing instrument linking transport, land use, and mobility. As a result, accessibility now plays a prominent role in spatial planning across diverse contexts thanks to its use for understanding how easily people can reach activities, services, and opportunities over space, while considering the state of transport systems, land-use patterns, and individual and social attributes.

This session welcomes papers that explore how accessibility interacts with everyday mobility behavior and practices, residential and activity location decisions, and the broader form of urban and/or rural areas. Contributions may consider how accessibility varies across space, population groups, and time, and how these variations relate to equality, urban form, and policy implementation. Papers may also examine policy impacts of transport investments,



land-use strategies, personal, spatial or group level subsidies and/or restrictions, and similar themes. Therefore, a wide range of approaches is encouraged, including theoretical and

conceptual discussions, empirical analyses, methodological developments, and policy-oriented contributions. By bringing together perspectives from multiple disciplines under the umbrella of regional science, this proposed session aims to cultivate dialogue on the role of accessibility in understanding and shaping equitable patterns of mobility and urban development, as well as land use, policy approaches, and their evaluation.

The session invites contributions on the following themes, among others, particularly in relation to ongoing societal and spatial transformations:

- Accessibility-based planning and policy approaches, including proximity-focused frameworks.
- Emerging mobility patterns, digitalization, and their implications for accessibility.
- Methods, data, and indicators for accessibility analysis.
- Equity and Accessibility.
- Everyday mobility practices and accessibility constraints.
- Accessibility and location choice.
- Urban, peri-urban, and rural form in relation to accessibility.