



Special Session Proposal

Regional Integration and EU Macro Regional Strategies

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Abstract

The increasing complexity of global economic and geopolitical dynamics has reinforced the need for effective frameworks of regional integration that promote cohesion, sustainability, and competitiveness. EU Macro-Regional Strategies (MRS) have emerged as innovative governance frameworks that address transnational challenges and harness opportunities by fostering collaboration across countries, regions, and stakeholders. These strategies embody multi-level governance, addressing territorial disparities while advancing common policy objectives such as environmental sustainability, digital transition, and economic growth.

This special session seeks to illuminate the contemporary landscape of the EU Macro Regions, evaluating their socio-economic, political, and environmental dimensions. Through insightful analyses and case studies, participants will explore the efficacy of existing policies, identify emerging trends, and propose innovative strategies for sustainable development within regional integration frameworks. The special session invites academic and policy-focused contributions that explore key themes such as: i) The alignment of MRS with EU cohesion policy and regional integration goals. ii) The role of MRS and regional exchanges in fostering cross-border collaboration and innovation. iii) Evaluations of governance structures within macro-regions, highlighting successes and challenges.

This session invites contributions from scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to foster a nuanced dialogue and address the literature gaps and shortage of research on the topic.