



Empirical evidence and policies for sustainable and resilient cities and territories.

Special Sessions based on Research Project GRINS

(www.grins.it)

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Abstract

Sustainability and resilience are interconnected challenges that regions, cities, businesses, and economic actors are increasingly required to address. Climate change, characterized by extreme weather events, coupled with increasing concentration of population in cities and depopulation in remote regions and villages, migration, economic disparities, and unsustainable resource use, demands urgent and targeted interventions by policymakers.

This special session will explore the interplay between “hard and tangible” factors, such as infrastructure and infostructure, and “soft and intangible” elements, including social cohesion, social inclusion, environmental quality, mobility conditions, safety, and cultural aspects, in fostering territorial resilience and sustainability of cities and territories.

A key focus will be on empirical evidence and innovative tools that can inform the design of policies to enhance accessibility and attractiveness of territories for residents, migrants, visitors, and economic activities across various geographical contexts—ranging from large cities to marginal areas, islands, and regions such as the Mezzogiorno. Additionally, the session will examine strategies to reduce inter- and intra-territorial gaps across at different scales.

The role of data-driven policymaking in shaping the performance of local contexts and its impacts on diverse sectors is particularly relevant to this discussion. Contributions that highlight effective policies promoting environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and economic resilience are encouraged. Specific themes of interest include, but are not limited to:

- The role of territorial infrastructure in sustainable development
- Strategies for enhancing territorial attractiveness

- Policy evaluation, its implications for regional development and governance
- Regional studies on marginal and disadvantaged areas
- Community-based initiatives fostering social inclusion and cohesion
- Empirical insights on bridging economic and social disparities
- Urban planning and mobility and its contributions to resilient cities
- Data-driven approaches to policymaking and their outcomes

This session seeks to promote the understanding of integrated approaches and policy solutions and foster interdisciplinary discussions addressing the multifaceted challenges facing cities and territories in building sustainable and resilient futures.

This session is part of the GRINS—Growing Resilient, Inclusive, and Sustainable—project activities, particularly “Spoke 7”, which focuses on “Territorial Sustainability”.