



Special Session Proposal

Challenges and Opportunities of Rural Regions

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Abstract

Rural regions typically do not benefit directly from agglomeration economies and urbanization externalities. Instead, they are usually seen as less attractive regions associated with lower productivity, population loss, out-migration, and little labour market opportunities. Particularly recent election outcomes in different countries fuelled public debates on rural areas lagging behind and increasing regional disparities. This special session is devoted to bringing together colleagues considering all aspects of rural regions to develop a better understanding of their function, growth perspectives and requirements for the future.

Submissions are welcome that consider e.g.

- (Economic) growth and development
- Structural change, industrial or occupational diversity
- Spatial distribution of activities or regional disparities
- Labour market aspects
- Population development, migration or commuting
- Comparative advantages and the potential of rural regions
- Local public good provision or issues of transportation
- Regional policy programmes and their evaluation
- Extreme voting behaviour in elections
- Effects of Covid-19 pandemic: resilience and recovery

We are looking forward for a successful congress hopefully in presence in Bozen!