



Special Session Proposal

Territorial disparities and the achievement of the SDGs?

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Abstract

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, provide a comprehensive framework for addressing global issues such as climate change, social exclusion, inequality, work opportunities, and more sustainable cities and communities. However, achieving these goals is a complex task. It requires coordinated and coherent actions at different levels of governance, from the national to the local. It also requires considering the diversity and specificity of each territory, as the SDGs are only equally relevant or attainable in some contexts. Therefore, a territorial approach to the SDGs is needed, one that recognizes the potential of the SDGs as a policy instrument to improve the quality of life and well-being of people in different places. As a local development issue in rural areas, the territorial approach to the SDGs could involve promoting sustainable agriculture practices, investing in rural infrastructure, and supporting the development of local value chains. A territorial system would help create jobs and improve rural communities' economic and social well-being. A territorial approach to the SDGs could involve improving access to affordable housing, developing sustainable transport systems, and promoting green spaces in urban areas. Despite regions and cities being critical actors, they face significant challenges and disparities in their progress toward the SDGs within and across countries. This session aims to facilitate dialogue and exchange of perspectives among participants on the SDGs' opportunities, challenges, and potential failures. The session welcomes multidisciplinary contributions to the topic.