

## **Special Session Proposal**

## Sustainable Competitiveness Index: A Catalyst for Regional Peace and Development

Lívia Madureira and Zeeshan Fareed

Centre for Transdisciplinary Development Studies (CETRAD), University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD), Quinta de Prados, Vila Real, Portugal.

## **Abstract**

In response to the escalating global need for sustainable development solutions, our contribution introduces the Sustainable Competitiveness Index (SCI). This innovative index is designed to address the pressing challenges within regional contexts, where the complexities of sustainable development extend beyond conventional economic considerations.

The urgency of this topic is underscored by the critical need for comprehensive frameworks that go beyond traditional economic indicators. Environmental degradation, social inequality, and governance inefficiencies pose significant obstacles to sustainable development. The SCI, with its integrated approach, emerges as a necessary tool to assess and enhance regional sustainability, providing a holistic view of a region's competitive standing.

The relevance of this research topic lies in its potential to revolutionize how regions approach development. By offering a nuanced understanding of a region's competitive position with a focus on sustainability, the SCI becomes an essential instrument for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders. The proposed policy implications highlight the transformative impact of the SCI in informing targeted regional policies, aligning with the imperative to prioritize environmentally sound practices, social equity, and effective governance structures.

This proposal initiates an exploration into the significance and potential impact of the Sustainable Competitiveness Index in regional contexts. The necessity of this research stems from the need for practical, actionable tools that can guide policymakers in fostering sustainable development, addressing contemporary challenges, and contributing to lasting peace.

Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Global focus on addressing sustainable development challenges
- Urgency for holistic solutions in environmental, social, and governance dimensions
- SCI as a versatile tool for global policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders
- Emphasis on understanding a region's competitive position with sustainability
- Proposed policy implications for shaping sustainable development strategies
- Research necessity for contributing to lasting global impact