

Urban Challenges
and Sustainable Technological Revolution



Special Session Proposal

Territorial Inequalities in Europe

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Abstract

Territorial inequalities have always existed in Europe and seem to be increasing at national, regional and local levels. While the emphasis in recent decades has been on achieving territorial cohesion, mainly in terms of regional GDP per capita, new and combined indicators proving the existence of territorial inequalities in many other socioeconomic areas are gaining momentum. Analyses on the levels of education, health, well-being, mobility or opportunity, among others, confirm the existence of territorial inequalities beyond any figure that might be expressed in monetary terms.

Several European policies have attempted to address the drivers and/or consequences of territorial inequalities, focusing basically on those regions characterised as 'left-behind'. At present, the emphasis is changing towards *areas* (as opposed to regions), or towards inhabitant's *perceptions* (as opposed to official data), and even to the 'faster sprinters' (as opposed to the 'left-behind' regions). It seems as if there is a need for an alternative concept of territorial cohesion.

This Special Session welcomes research on territorial inequalities that embraces new ways of thinking about territorial cohesion, uses local data, applies novel methodologies, analyzes new indicators/angles of territorial inequalities, or provides novel policy recommendations.