



Special Session Proposal

How to link multiple spatial scales in circularity transitions?

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Abstract

There's a world of opportunity to rethink and redesign the way we make, take and dispose of products in a spatial context. Re-thinking production, consumption, and waste processes is fundamental for territorial development and moving towards a circular process. There is an urgent need for a change in perspective on how our economy works and should work in terms of product design, energy use, waste streams, and taxing labour. More than ever, we need collaboration between stakeholders, regions and urban and rural areas. The perspective of a circular economy raises the question as to whether, with creativity and innovation, we can build a restorative economy to foster sustainable development.

The global context of population growth coupled with the decrease in resources and raw materials requires us to think about the transition from a linear economy to a circular economy. With more and more people living in cities, the challenge of circularity is above all urban. Regional planning must contribute to this by limiting silo approaches and acting in an integrated manner so that all the resources of the territory are mobilised with a single objective: to make our territories and our cities sober and resolutely circular spaces.

Numerous feedbacks from territories, companies, and associations open the way to more collaborative, creative, and frugal operating methods. These initiatives propose

to better manage the resources of our territories, whether they are material, human or patrimonial. Nothing is a "waste" anymore, everything is a "resource".

The proposals submitted in this special session will analyze "flows", "economies" and "uses" to address how territorial actors implement the circular economy in cities and regions. It also reinforces the need for a multi-scalar and multi-dimensional approach to territories allowing for exchange and solidarity.

The following questions will be addressed:

- does the circular economy need to be local?
- how to implement circular economy at the territorial level?
- how to measure the territorial impact of circular economy? Econometric measures, social network analysis, complexity approaches...
- how to measure and compare the respective benefits of circular and linear economies?
- what are the spatial impact of the different types of circular economy (recycling, reuse, functionality...)?

The best papers will be included in a joint publication in a journal or a book. Further information will arrive later