



Alicante, Spain & Virtual event

Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution



Special Session Proposal

Outside the frame: creative, cultural and innovative dynamics in non-urban regions

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Abstract

The prevailing understanding of how innovative and creative dynamics occur is primarily based on observations from large urban areas. At the same time, a small but growing body of research is pointing out that, while concentrated in cities, innovation is also taking place in peripheries and borderlands. Interestingly, emerging ideas and observations suggest innovation processes occurring in rural areas differ from those in cities. Much of these innovation and creative resources remain undetected because they fall outside the standard theories and indicators commonly used in economic and creative industry studies.

In this special session, we aim to gather recent work, both conceptual and empirical, on innovation and creative and cultural industries (CCIs) in non-urban areas. To this end, we intend to bring together scholars who are working on innovation, creative industries and cultural activities from the perspective of innovation studies, regional science, economic geography or related fields.

The Special Session is inspired by the ongoing work of [*IN SITU - Place-based innovation of cultural and creative industries in non-urban areas*](#) (project funded by European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 101061747).

Topics of Interest

IN SITU combines research and experimental actions to advance the innovation-related practices, capacities, and potential of CCIs based in non-urban areas of the EU countries. Among the specific objectives of IN SITU are:

- To identify and quantify the socioeconomic contributions of CCIs and their social and economic spill-overs in non-urban regions across Europe;
- To elaborate the roles of place-based evolution and related activities in the trajectories and sustainable development of CCIs in peripheral places;
- To assess the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on CCIs in non-urban regions;
- To identify the innovation potential of CCIs based in non-urban areas of the EU and how CCIs act as drivers of innovation in other economic and social sectors;
- To examine the needs and resources of CCI actors in selected non-urban areas;
- To monitor the development of place-based CCI projects that embody creative responses to social, political, and environmental issues.

The topics of interest of this Special Session are highly connected to these objectives and include specifically:

- Studies on the diversity in creative and innovative dynamics of non-urban vs. urban regions;
- New metrics and indicators for capturing innovative and creative performance in non-urban regions;
- Studies on the impact of innovative and creative dynamics on non-urban regional economies;
- Factors explaining the emergence and development of creative industries in non-urban regions;
- Comparative analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in CCIs located in non-urban areas;
- Gender dimensions of CCI innovation in non-urban areas;
- Policy tools for facilitating creative and innovative dynamics outside cities;
- Other topics related with regional development, innovation and CCIs in non-urban areas.

Publication

After the Congress, the organizers intend to launch a call for papers for a Special Issue of a scientific journal inspired by this session. Contributors are invited to develop their communications into publishable manuscripts for peer-review.