

## **Call for papers – ERSA 2019 Special Session on: *Understanding urbanisation at a global scale: definitions and empirical analyses* (OECD and European Commission Special Session)**

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Development policies increasingly recognise that cities can play an important role. The World Bank emphasized that cities are important for development in its World Development Report in 2009. The UN Sustainable Development Goal includes a specific urban goal. During 2016 both the [Urban Agenda for the EU](#) and the [New Global Urban Agenda](#) of Habitat III were adopted. The focus is now on how to implement these agenda and to ensure that cities fully live up to their potential.

Urban economics has highlighted how sorting, matching, sharing and learning make cities more productive. Recent economic trends have also reinforced the role of cities. Since 2000, EU cities created 9 million extra jobs, while the number of jobs in other areas slightly declined ([European Commission/UN-Habitat, State of European Cities Report, 2016](#)).

Urban poverty, however, remains an important concern. Many people living in cities are faced with a combination of low incomes and high housing costs. Foreign-born residents are more likely to live in cities, but those born outside the EU struggle on the labour market. Anti-poverty policies adapted to cities may help to make cities more inclusive. Cities can be a testing ground for new policies.

The European Commission and the OECD, in collaboration with the UN-HABITAT, FAO and the World Bank are developing a global definition of cities and settlements to facilitate comparisons across countries.

The OECD and the European Commission are organising a special session with the purpose of gathering researchers to discuss data, methods and empirical analyses aimed at understanding world and European urbanisation, its evolution over time and the differences in the shape of urban systems, across countries but also across macro-regions. The session will welcome papers on international comparative analyses of urbanisation issues, including on the extent and quality of urbanisation, their causes or possible socio-economic implications. Empirical analyses using a consistent definition of cities and/or urban agglomerations such as those developed by the International Organisations outlined above will be particularly welcome.

Academics, researchers, students and those working in policy and practice are invited to submit their proposals for papers by the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, 2019 in the form of an extended abstract or a draft paper. All presenters are expected to upload a full (draft) paper before the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2019.

[Read more about the ERSA 2019 conference and how to register](#)

For more information on the special session, contact:

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