

Regional Science Dialogues for Peace
and Sustainable Development
Terceira Island, Azores, Portugal & Virtual Event
26-30 August 2024



Special Session Proposal

Spatial Effects of the Green Deal

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Abstract

In the European Union, the Green Deal aims to decouple economic growth from greenhouse gas emissions and the use of resources while ensuring that no people or places are left behind. Moreover, such a transition should lead to reducing economic, social and territorial disparities, as a strategic goal and principle of European integration, but also as a compulsory condition for the macroeconomic stability and the optimal functioning of both the internal market and monetary union.

Nevertheless, in these processes, some regions/places and some people have a reduced capacity to adapt and even less capacity to implement suitable policy responses. This can be determined by the quality of the institutions, by the natural capital, the social capital, the territorial capital endowment, the human capital and the individual adaptive performance, the resilience capacity, the governance systems, the public policies effectiveness, and many other conditions that may create a real deep structural problem in the European geography of people and places.

There are also positive effects of the green transition (GT), which are related to spatial spillover effects of Green Deal financing, the diffusion of green innovations, the creation of new skills and capabilities by green investments and the promotion of environmental responsibility and a cleaner environment for future generations.

However, the challenges of the GT impact do not only concern the European Union. The risks associated with such a transformation, beyond the certainty of some positive effects, will be reflected in economic and social dynamics, as well as in policies in all countries of the world and will also influence the evolution of some UN' Sustainable Development Goals objectives as Zero Poverty or Reduced Inequalities, the sustainable development patterns as a whole, the ideological and political landscape, and of the institutional framework at the global level.

Related major concerns are already included in strategies and policies at various levels, and numerous papers& reports highlight the risks associated with the GT. Concepts such as "new green divides", "green transition vulnerability", "segregation-based environmental inequalities", "green justice", or "levelling up left behind..." policies have proliferated in recent years both in scientific publications and in public policy files.

This special session aims to address some of these key issues, looking for theoretical and empirical studies focused on the green transition as a disruptive process in time and space. Potential topics (but not limited to) related to this special session could be:

- The GT and the inequalities impact: Are the inequalities an inevitable consequence of a greener world, or can a more inclusive society be built with better responsive policies?
- Place specific contexts and the integration of the geography of discontent in policies;
- Resilience studies on places and people; the relevance of the resilience-based policies;
- Green transition as opportunities and threats for sustainable development;
- Spatial disparities in green transition performance;
- Green innovation and its spatial diffusion;
- Green Deal in peripheral areas;
- The impact on the UN's SDGs and the "Nord-South" and " West-East" divide;
- Place-sensitive and decentralized policy making solutions and cases for reviving deprived people and places.

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