Track: Entrepreneurial, innovative and sustainable ecosystems

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Track Chairs
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Description of the track

The concept of entrepreneurial ecosystems has been attracting considerable attention in the fields of entrepreneurship studies, regional studies and economic geography as well as in policy consulting, seeking to foster firms’ births as a driver of regional development (Alvedalen and Boschma 2017). However, until now, there has been a lack of knowledge in terms of the best practices and drivers of regional dynamics and change associated with this type of complex development platform.

Despite its growing relevance for regional policy (Start-up Commons 2017), the concept so far has been applied almost exclusively in (successful) cases and empirical findings have not been used to advance the ecosystem concept theoretically. Not surprisingly, it has been criticized as being ‘underdeveloped’ (Stam and Spigel 2016) and ‘undertheorized’ (Spigel 2017).

The holistic construct of an (E)ntrepreneurial, (I)nnovative and (S)ustainable ecosystem presented by Leitão et al. (2018) refers to the collective and transversal nature of entrepreneurship, innovation and sustainability. New firms emerge and grow not only because there are entrepreneurs that created and developed them. New ventures emerge also because they are located in an ecosystem made up of private and public stakeholders, which nurture and sustain them, supporting the inventive and innovative action of entrepreneurs.

Despite the importance of the institutional and network approaches explored in the literature, much remains unknown regarding the role played by the referred different types of enterprises in determining innovative and economic performance. Another gap found in the literature is concerning entrepreneurial and open innovative ecosystems. There is an increasing body of literature suggesting reasons behind ecosystems emergence, but it fails to examine in detail the exact mechanisms behind it, namely, the role played by endogenous production factors (for example, human capital, social or...
relational capital, organizational capital and knowledge), using an organizational economics approach. This gap may be addressed by linking, for example, coopetition, innovative behaviour, clusters or industrial districts. If agglomeration improves the quality of the match between government, firms, higher education institutions, and citizens, then clusters will ensure enduring productivity and sustainable competitive advantages.

**Key topics and research questions of the track**

- Entrepreneurial, innovative and sustainable ecosystems (EIS)
- Drivers of innovation, entrepreneurship and change at the regional level
- Innovative milieu, co-creation and entrepreneurship
- Intellectual capital, regional development and growth
- Eco-innovation ecosystems
- Open Innovation ecosystems and regional development
- Open innovation and sustainable ecosystems
- Determinants of entrepreneurial activity and innovation capacity at the regional level
- Urban entrepreneurship versus rural entrepreneurship
- Higher education institutions and regional knowledge spillovers
- Institutions and cities’ performance
- Smart cities and open data
- Smart specialization strategies and learning regions
- New public policies for creative, innovative and sustainable spatial units

We encourage contributions that address one or more of the listed topics above, using qualitative analyses and case studies, empirical analyses and developing theoretical frameworks. The track is also open to research addressing other adjacent and related topics. For this track, we also welcome the submission of author(s) and working groups that are willing to discuss their work-in-progress (short papers).

This track also opens the possibility of submitting papers to the special issue: "Entrepreneurship and Eco-Innovation"; in the journal Sustainability.

**Special Issue Editors**
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Find more information about the special issue [here](#).

Full papers will be expected by December 31, 2020.
References


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The deadline for submissions is June 1st, 2020. All submissions must use the submission template and use the submission procedure on the webpage otherwise they will not be considered for review.

Download the submission template here

Submit your paper here

The registration for the conference is open until July 31st, 2020. Register here