



Circular Economy

Urban Metabolism and Regional Development

Challenges for a Sustainable Future

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Special Session (SS12) on:

Social Innovation and Regional Development: Conceptualisation, Measurement and Practice

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The aim and scope of the special session:

Social innovation is a complex process aimed to generate new ideas, products or processes to meet social challenges. It involves several steps that include the identification of unmet social needs, the identification of new solutions, the implementation and evaluation at niche level, and scaling up. The interest in this concept, evident in the growing literature on the topic, contrasts with the limited comprehension of social innovation and its linkages with regional dynamics. This special session, inspired by the project EAPA 246/2016 Atlantic-Social-Lab, is dedicated to the debate of social innovation as a means for regional development. Specifically, it intends to contribute to the clarification of concepts, metrics and good practices, connecting social innovation with sustainable transitions, the circular economy, and entrepreneurship. Emphasis is given to the articulation of social innovation with regional innovation policy, particularly smart specialisation strategies, and its importance in the post-2020 period.

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