

Call for Special issue for selected papers from conference MICEB2025 "Shaping sustainable economies: the road to EU membership" in the Journal Regional Science Policy and Practice

Special Issue Title:

"Green Transition and Regional Resilience: Sustainable Development Trajectories in Tourism-Intensive Regions"

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Tourism-intensive regions face unique challenges and opportunities in the context of the green transition and sustainable development. Among these opportunities, the economic contributions of tourists are particularly significant, as they not only support essential public services (Holloway & Humphreys, 2022) but also drive job creation and higher incomes for local businesses. These benefits can help retain young people in tourist destinations, fostering vibrant, resilient communities aligned with sustainable development goals (Robina-Ramírez et al., 2024). This special issue aims to explore the intersection of tourism, regional development, and environmental sustainability by examining how tourism-driven regions can adapt to changing environmental, economic, and social conditions. While tourism remains the focal point, the issue encourages contributions from related fields, including economic geography, business studies, regional science, sustainability studies, and environmental economics.

The integration of circular economy principles in tourism offers a pathway to mitigate these impacts by emphasizing resource efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable consumption and production patterns, aligning with SDG 12 (Pablo-Romero et al., 2023; Strippoli et al., 2024). Regenerative tourism moves beyond sustainability by seeking to restore and enhance ecosystems and local communities. This paradigm underscores the necessity of integrating environmental, economic, and social strategies to achieve long-term regional resilience (Kourtit et al., 2019). For example, circular economy strategies like reducing single-use plastics, repurposing waste for bioenergy, and reusing materials can help tourism-intensive regions reduce their ecological footprint and promote inclusive regional economic growth (Khizar et al., 2023; Zorpas et al., 2023). Furthermore, initiatives such as community-based tourism (CBT) emphasize the empowerment of local populations and equitable sharing of benefits, contributing to poverty alleviation (SDG 1) and community resilience (Khizar et al., 2023). By embedding these regenerative practices within tourism policies and operations, regions can transition

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toward a sustainable future that balances economic imperatives with ecological and social well-being.

The special issue will present innovative research, policies, and models that support sustainable development, particularly emphasizing the green transition in tourism-dependent economies. The central objective is to showcase theoretical, empirical, and policy-oriented work that contributes to regional resilience, socio-economic adaptation, and sustainable spatial development.

Scope and Themes

We invite contributions addressing the following thematic areas:

Sustainable Regional Development in Tourism-Dependent Economies:

- Case studies of policy innovations in green tourism;
- Economic diversification strategies and sustainable business models;

Resilience and Regional Adaptation:

- Strategies for building resilience in tourism-dependent regions facing climate risks;
- Adaptive policy frameworks for sustainable land use and conservation;

Spatial and Econometric Modeling in Tourism and Regional Science:

- Quantitative and spatial models analysing tourism-induced economic impacts;
- Network analyses of tourism clusters and inter-regional connectivity;

Governance, Policy, and Institutional Frameworks:

- Public-private partnerships in tourism for sustainable regional development;
- Cross-border tourism policies and regional cooperation in sustainability projects;

Green Transition and Circular Economy Applications:

- Regional perspective of green skills development in the tourism workforce;
- Circular economy practices, waste management, and eco-certification regional programs;

Social and Cultural Dimensions:

- Community engagement in tourism planning and policy-making;
- Social innovation and entrepreneurship supporting regional sustainability.

Manuscripts will be evaluated based on their relevance to the journal's scope, their alignment with the thematic focus of the Special Issue, and their potential to contribute significantly to the advancement of knowledge and practice in the field. All submissions will be subject to a rigorous peer-review procedure.

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Expected Contributions

We welcome research articles, policy analyses, and review papers employing qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods approaches in the scope of regional science. Comparative studies, international case studies, and research focusing on emerging economies are particularly encouraged. Submissions are not limited to conference participants; we actively encourage high-quality contributions from other researchers and practitioners addressing relevant topics.

Abstract Submission Deadline: March 1, 2025.

Please submit your abstract via email to miceb@ucg.ac.me with the subject line referencing the Special Issue.

Submission of papers available by June 30, 2025.

Full manuscripts should be submitted through the *Regional Science Policy and Practice* online submission system. Detailed submission guidelines are available on the journal's website.

The special issue is planned to be published by December 31, 2025.

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