



## Special Session Proposal

### **The role of fragile territories in the frame of national strategies: description, tools and best practices in Italy and Europe**

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### **Abstract**

In recent years, public investments in Europe have been concentrated especially in big metropolitan areas focusing on the construction of high speed train lines and fast connections, improvement of flight connections and big events nourishing a dynamics that make those territories even stronger. As counterparts other territories emerged as marginal, remote, depopulated and low-infrastructure. We will define them: fragile territories.

In Italy, due to historical, morphological and orographic conditions, this process is particularly visible: “fragile territories” in Italy are abandoned territories all along the Apennine, the South and the Islands, rural areas, but also the periphery of the big metropolitan areas that suffer low services and accessibility conditions. These territories experience today processes of demographic change, resources scarcity, loss of the existing social fixed capital (public facilities, sports, cultural and health centres, schools, public parks and playgrounds, social housing) and infrastructures (streets, railways, water systems, digital network), social inequalities, migration and depopulation because of lack of local resources. Strategies are required to respond to new social, economic and environmental needs.

This session welcome proposal on: understanding the role of these territories in the frame of national strategies of development; presenting instruments and methodologies needed to describe those areas and their characteristics; introducing examples of projects and practices, in Italy and Europe, that, may help to develop non-sectorial and multi-scalar strategies for empowering those territories and dealing with territorial vulnerabilities, with particular reference to the concept of shrinking, welfare and accessibility.