



A. I. S. Re.  
Italian Association of Regional Science  
Call for papers  
XXXVIII Annual Scientific Conference

Cagliari (CA), September 20-22, 2017

## **Innovation, urban systems and regional development. New development paths beyond the crisis**

The aim of the XXXVIII Conference is to stimulate scientific debate on the Regional Science issues related to the analysis of both the local and global factors expected to crucially shape the regional development process after the crisis. Such analysis should investigate regions' structural features that are, at the same time, the cause of their vulnerability and the source of their resilience, adaptation and regeneration capabilities. Such features may play a key role in triggering the mechanism that will make it possible not only to recover what has been lost in a ten-year period of economic downturn, but also to identify new paths for a more effective, sustainable and inclusive regional growth.

Local entrepreneurs play a crucial role in the recovery process as agents of change. Territories with high rates of entrepreneurship are characterised by a high degree of innovativeness. Local governments can activate virtuous mechanisms by supporting firms' innovations and smart production processes, in both the industrial and service sector (transport, tourism, culture, health). The effectiveness of such policies – in terms of new jobs, greater productivity, higher investments and enhanced competitive advantage on the global market – will also depend on the renewal efforts that public administrations will be able to transfer to their inner functioning mechanisms.

Finally, in unveiling the new patterns of growth, a role of great responsibility should be played by universities, as the main institutions devoted not only to the provision of increasing levels of both research and higher education, but also to the formation of new professionals and competences, technological transfer to territories and, above all, the promotion of values such as openness, inclusion, tolerance, and the appreciation of diversity in the interest of future generations.

### **Plenary and semi-plenary sessions**

The first plenary session will focus on the main theme of the conference. This session, in the form of a *Lectio Magistralis* organised by *Scienze Regionali – Italian Journal of Regional Science*, will be held by Maryanne Feldman. Previous editions of the *Lectio* involved Martin Andersson (2016), Bernard Fingleton (2015) and Ron Boschma (2014). The second plenary session will deal with the issue of the future of European regional policy in a changing Europe.

Further plenary sessions will be devoted to universities and technology transfer, with the participation of rectors from Mediterranean countries, and to the economics of places, in memory of Giacomo Becattini.

**Venue of the Conference:** Campus Universitario "Mario Aresu", Via San Giorgio 12, 09124 Cagliari (CA).

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