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UNIVERSITÀ DI PAVIA



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI
FEDERICO II

Interdisciplinary Call for Papers

BUILDING THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSITION IN ITALY: RESEARCH, POLICIES AND SOCIETY IN DIALOGUE

Interdisciplinary conference connecting scientific research and public action in building the sustainable transition in Italy

14–16 JANUARY 2026 – UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE

In recent years, the topic of sustainable transition has gained increasing prominence in scientific and political debate in Italy. Numerous studies address the issue from different disciplinary perspectives, while crucial policies and strategies are being implemented at national and European levels. Nonetheless, a dedicated venue where researchers, policy-makers and stakeholders can share knowledge, experiences and develop effective synergies to tackle the complexity of this transition in the Italian context is still lacking.

The conference "*Building the Sustainable Transition in Italy: Research, Policies and Society in Dialogue*" aims to fill this gap by offering an interdisciplinary space for exchange and dialogue among scholars, policy-makers and stakeholders. Its goal is to foster the sharing of scientific findings, facilitate dialogue between research and policy, and define integrated, shared strategies to address one of the most urgent challenges of our time.

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

Parallel thematic sessions

Interdisciplinary sessions on circular economy, territorial governance, sustainable technologies, social participation and other emerging themes. Both theoretical and empirical contributions—quantitative or qualitative—are welcome.

Dialogue with stakeholders and policy-makers

Round-tables and workshops aimed at turning scientific results into operational strategies and policy recommendations. Direct exchange among conference researchers, policy-makers and stakeholders is explicitly envisaged. A national best-practice exchange is also planned.



TOPICS OF INTEREST

The conference welcomes contributions analysing the many dimensions of the sustainable transition in Italy, valuing both theoretical and empirical studies. The following topics represent some of the areas for research and discussion:

Public policies, governance and local development

Analyses of strategies and measures implemented at local, national and European levels, with particular focus on the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (SNSvS). In-depth exploration of the role of institutions and implementation challenges in sustainability policies.

Social and economic impact of the transition

Reflections on future models of society and development. Study of the effects of the transition toward a low-carbon economy on social inequalities, labour markets and production models. Analysis of challenges and opportunities for a just and equitable transition.

Multi-level participation and governance

Examination of active citizenship, co-design and bottom-up strategies, assessing the effectiveness of inclusive approaches and analysing limitations in ongoing experiences. Study of how public, private and civil-society actors engage in strategic planning processes.

Circular economy and new production/consumption models

Theoretical reflections and empirical evidence on circular supply chains, the evolution of sustainable consumption and policies for a regenerative, zero-waste economy.

Sustainable housing and housing policy

Analysis of strategies to make housing more sustainable, from building energy efficiency to urban regeneration, new forms of co-housing and housing policies for the ecological transition. Attention to inequalities in access to sustainable housing and governance tools to address them.



Territorial and social inequalities

Analysis of the transition's impact on different territorial communities, with a focus on vulnerable contexts, including inner areas, urban peripheries and regions with specific socio-economic fragilities.

Sustainability and population ageing

Analysis of the challenges posed by demographic ageing in relation to social, health and housing sustainability. Strategies for inclusion, adaptation of welfare, mobility and infrastructure, and inter-generational dynamics in the sustainable transition.

Everyday practices and social ties

Study of daily practices, with attention to habitual resistances and entrenched behaviours. Exploration of innovative lifestyles and forms of ecologically aware action. Examination of interdependence, conflict and solidarity among involved actors, especially across generations.

Technological and digital innovation for sustainability

Assessment of the role of new technologies in reducing environmental impact and enabling more inclusive and effective decision-making. Critical perspectives on digital solutions, smart cities, artificial intelligence and collaborative platforms for sustainability.

Environmental education, training and communication

Study of how sustainability is integrated into educational systems, from school to university, and analysis of awareness campaigns and communication strategies aimed at behavioural change.

Mobility, urban change and territories in transition

Theoretical contributions and case studies on urban regeneration and mobility system reorganisation aimed at climate neutrality, environmental improvement and social inclusion through multi-level, transdisciplinary approaches.



PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

PARTICIPANTS MAY SUBMIT EITHER AN INDIVIDUAL ABSTRACT OR A COMPLETE SESSION PROPOSAL—SCIENTIFIC OR STAKEHOLDER-ORIENTED—IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING FORMATS:

Abstract (max 300 words)

Abstracts must include: title, objectives, theoretical framework, research methods, and main expected or achieved results.

Scientific sessions

Must include: session title, a brief description with objectives and relevance, names and affiliations of convenors, and titles of the presentations (minimum 3, maximum 4).

Stakeholder sessions

Must include: session title, a brief description with objectives and relevance, names and affiliations of convenors, and titles of the interventions (minimum 3, maximum 6).

Languages accepted

Italian and English.

Submission

Send abstracts to sustainabilityconf@gmail.com

Deadline for abstract submission

30 September 2025

Notification of acceptance

30 October 2025

Registration

Participation fees (includes coffee breaks, light lunches and conference materials):

- Standard rate: €150
- PhD candidates: €50
- Students: Free

Contacts

Email: sustainabilityconf@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.prosocialclima.unifi.it/vp-16-conference.html>

ORGANISERS

Scientific Committee: Giacomo Bazzani, Maria Grazia Pazienza, Maria Carmela Agodi, Francesco Alberti, Rossella Bardazzi, Carlo Carcasci, Flavio Ceravolo, Stefano Clò, Patrizia Lattarulo, Andrea Lippi, Angela Perulli, Ilenia Picardi, Marianna Piccioli, Corrado Pollastri, Gianluca Stefani, Daniele Vignoli, Iacopo Zetti.

Organising bodies:



IDEATES

"IntegrateD Analysis of Economic, Technological and Social factors for Energy efficiency of the housing Stock", nell'ambito del Progetto "GRINS – Growing Resilient, INclusive and Sustainable";



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