



Call for paper - Special Session on *Are cities more productive, but less inclusive?*

The Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy of the European Commission is organising a special session on '**Are cities more productive, but less inclusive?**' during the 57th European Regional Science Association (ERSA) Congress on Social Progress for Resilient Regions, in Groningen, The Netherlands, 29 August-1 September 2017.

Development policies increasingly recognise that cities can play an important role. The World Bank emphasized that cities are important for development in its World Development Report in 2009. The UN Sustainable Development Goal includes a specific urban goal. During 2016 both the [Urban Agenda for the EU](#) and the [New Global Urban Agenda of Habitat III](#) were adopted. The focus is now on how to implement these agenda and to ensure that cities fully live up to their potential.

Urban economics has highlighted how sorting, matching, sharing and learning make cities more productive. Recent economic trends have also reinforced the role of cities. Since 2000, EU cities created 9 million extra jobs, while the number of jobs in other areas slightly declined ([European Commission/UN-Habitat, 2016](#)). But cities struggle to move into higher value added activity and may face a middle-income trap.

Urban poverty, however, remains an important concern. Many people living in cities are faced with a combination of low incomes and high housing costs. Foreign-born residents are more likely to live in cities, but those born outside the EU struggle on the labour market. Anti-poverty policies adapted to cities may help to make cities more inclusive. Cities can be a testing ground for new policies.

This session aims to gather academic researchers, policy analyst and experts on urban development to discuss and present evidence on how productive or inclusive cities are and the changes over time.

Academics, researchers, students and those working in policy and practice are invited to submit their proposals for papers by the 10th of February, 2017 in the form of an extended abstract (1500 words including contribution, theoretical framework, empirical approach and / or first results) or a draft paper (between 5000 and 10,000 words). All presenters are expected to upload a full (draft) paper before the 9th of June 2017.

[Read more about the conference and how to register](#)

For more information on the special session, contact:

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