NETWORKS
MARKETS
PEOPLE

International Symposium
Mediterranea University, Reggio Calabria (Italy)
May 26th-29th 2026

Call for Sessions and Papers

Networks, Markets & People for transitioning settlement systems.
Metropolitan Cities and Inner Areas in a Hyperconnected, Transitional World: Advancing Fairness, Cohesion and Equal Opportunities for Lagging and Demographically Declining Territories

European Cultural Heritage Enhancement LAB
Byzantine Route International Association
ASTRI Associazione Scientifica Territorio e Ricerca Interdisciplinare
ICOMOS Consiglio Internazionale dei Monumenti e dei Siti Comitato Nazionale Italiano
SIRA Società Italiana per il Restauro dell'Architettura

May 26th-29th 2026

RATIONALE

The event is organized with the aim to receive contributions from national and international scientific community on urban/rural dialogue within agendas of sustainability, transition and cohesion, according to the directions of the European policies and Agenda2030.

The 2026 edition of the International Symposium “Networks, Markets & People” (#NMP2026) aims to promote the scientific debate about the effects that the contemporary ecological, technological, social and economic global challenges produce on settlement systems, especially in Inner Areas and metropolitan cities of the less developed territories.

Contemporary settlements express the distance between the built-up environment inertia and the “liquid” society flowing underneath. Blurred lines substituted the neat dualities such as culture-nature, urban-rural, central-marginal, affluent-deprived, enacting perpetual changes between polarities.

Mobility (of people, goods, information, capital) can be considered the most characteristic feature of the “liquid” society: just think of production settlements, for example, which in a few decades have moved from the push towards delocalization to the opposite one of reshoring, or the growing tourist flows or, again, digital hyperconnections.

The new frontier of adaptive and flexible production, supported by the ongoing digital revolution, encourages a rethinking of the concepts of proximity and interdependence within human settlements, with a paradigm shift also in the center-periphery dualism.

The increase of population in some geographical areas of the planet raises new issues related to the availability of sufficient resources to satisfy everyone’s needs, starting with food, and the ecological footprint of human activity. In other areas, such as Europe, the progressive ageing of population poses unprecedented problems in relation to the availability of human resources necessary for production activities and the management of the territory, as well as in relation to the maintenance of welfare systems.

In many cities, especially metropolitan cities, access to housing remains a challenge due to limited supply and population growth. In some contexts, the rapid proliferation of tourist accommodations, which further reduces housing availability, creates severe market tensions, resulting in rising prices. Furthermore, much of the existing housing stock was built between 1950 and 1980 and is characterized by low-quality construction, poor energy performance, and a lack of basic services.

RATIONALE

That challenges that come with climate change and others environmental issues reinforced the understanding that humans are entangled with their environment: a post-humanist epistemology requires that humans are dependent on the environment, and part of a larger evolving ecosystem; consequently, the approach to social reproduction has changed, focusing itself mainly towards spatial justice, reuse, regeneration and environmental care.

The theme of ecological transition requires multi-, inter- and trans-disciplinary points of view, touching on very different issues, such as infrastructures and mobility systems, green buildings and energy communities, ecosystem services and land consumption, with constant attention to the limits imposed by the planet's carrying capacity.
Digital technologies and artificial intelligence bring extraordinary potential to institutions, companies and social organizations, but also carry the risk of the negative impacts of unmanaged innovation.

Artificial Intelligence, that challenges the labor market, has been seen lately as both a form of exploitation and destruction of the human being as known until now. The progressive replacement of the human workforce with machines doesn't concern only the traditional industries anymore, but it affects also the intellectual and creative productions.
The side effects of this transition need to be studied in order to share benefits and tradeoffs equitably on the one hand between technology and service developers, and on the other individuals and communities.
Accessibility rights to services and goods, social inclusion, equal opportunities, commoning and sharing economies, as well as informalities and self-organization permeate the incoming social organization associated with the digital transition, towards inclusive concepts of citizenship.
Social innovation practices, collaborative governance models, open innovation frontiers, human and non-human entanglements, all concur to chart the route for the next generation settlements, notably: the built-up environment, the social system and the complexity and challenges of everyday life.
These phenomena are even more significant for marginalized areas, which are compelled to face the risk of widening the socio-economic gap with advanced regions, as happens e.g. in less developed territories of South and East Europe countries and, more generally, of the Mediterranean bordering countries.

May 26th-29th 2026

RATIONALE

The National Strategic Plan for Inner Areas, that was recently adopted by the Italian government, for example, considers for the first time the decline of some areas to be unstoppable, for which it provides for an “Accompaniment in a path of irreversible depopulation” (Objective 4).

The involvement of local communities and the development of Cultural and Creative Industries, however, can help to restrain the devitalization of these territories: in fact, by exploring the relationships between artistic expressions, cultural heritage, social inclusion and well-being, they can stimulate innovations that promote inclusive and sustainable growth and a human-centered approach to the digital transition.

Green and digital transition and a more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic society are the three pillars on which European policies are based for the period 2021-27.
We need to regulated and manage the transitions to ensure they are not destroyed, in particular due potential tradeoffs between a digital-tech-competitive and an ecological sustainable, inclusive and democratic society.

For this reason, the substantial investments planned by the EU to support these policies in the coming years require multidimensional evaluation systems, capable of supporting decision-makers in selecting feasible interventions and most effective in pursuing the objectives, also considering that the financial resources used for the Policy implementation are borrowed from future generations, who will be held accountable for our work.

We must face these global challenges while the global geopolitical order is changing and local conflicts are increasingly widespread, with growing risks of escalation on a larger scale and ever more likely catastrophic consequences: this Call for Papers also wants to be a signal that the scientific community does not surrender to pessimism and continues in its commitment to society, and above all, to future generations.

May 26th-29th 2026

CALL FOR SESSIONS

SESSIONS Networks Markets & People
offers the opportunity to organize sessions dedicated to the in-depth analysis of specific topics. Sessions may be theoretical, methodological, thematic, interdisciplinary and have broadly conceived or more narrowly focused subjects.

Session proposals must be submitted by **11:59 p.m. CST, November 21th, 2025**. Please send the proposal form to nmp@unirc.it and indicate the corresponding author if there is more than one organizer. Remember, the official language of the conference is English and all submissions should be in English. The Session will be approved if it will receive at least 6 contributions.

After the manuscript reviewing process, the thematic sessions that will not maintain at least 6 contributions, will be merged according to the related topics.
Please bear in mind that each participant cannot be author, alone or with others, of more than two papers for each session. The sessions' chairs are entitled to 1 free publication and have the task of identifying two referees for each paper with the support of the Scientific Organizing Committee; they will also receive a certificate for their work.

Download the session proposal form HERE

May 26th-29th 2026

CALL FOR SESSIONS

Main topics for thematic sessions

Horizon Europe, the European framework programme for research and innovation for the 2021-27 period, consistent with SDGs, is taken as general framework for the symposium scientific debate. Sessions that embrace cross-cultural, transnational and Euro Mediterranean based issues are particularly welcome.
The Symposium aims to give a preferential focus to the “Global South”, a metaphorical concept to indicate the most disadvantaged regions.
Key themes of the Symposium are:
– Refounding cities, reimaginating Inner Areas, reconstituting communities
– Identities
– Mobilities
– Demographic decline
– Hyperconnected World
– Ecological challenge

These key themes can be declined to form a collective research agenda, capable of accommodating the interests and sensibilities of the broad and diverse academic community involved.
By way of example, the proposals for thematic sessions may concern the following topics:

- Urban and Territorial Planning to fight territorial marginalization, reducing inequalities
- Evolving ecosystems and post-humanisms in planning and project
- Regeneration of abandoned areas
- Housing, areas under pressure and living comfort
- Affordable housing and financialization of assets
- Urban Sprawl
- Intercultural Dialogue, Community Led Practices and Collaborative Governance for Social Integration and Inclusion and for a Multicultural Society
- Safeguarding cultural heritage, exploring the potential of cultural and creative sectors, and promoting socio-economic transformations
- Multidimensional evaluation of cultural heritage enhancement projects
- Tourism sustainability: carrying capacity, impacts assessment and measures for their mitigation
- Tourism sustainability transitions and challenges of AI and digitalization
- Gentrification and tourist real estate market
- Cultural Tourism, Landscapes and Destination Management Organizations
- Accessibility and design for all
- Gender perspectives in planning
- - Urban and regional geographical analysis
- Global value chains, reshape of business models, job creation and labour markets
- Strategic planning, complex decision-making processes and integrated decision-aid evaluations
- Regeneration of urban marginalized areas and public-private partnerships
- Settlements systems and real estate markets dynamics
- Economic feasibility and sustainability of building rehabilitation projects

- Key and emerging enabling technologies for digitization and production
- Machine learning, neural networks, computational and artificial intelligence, robotics
- Next generation internet
- Advanced computing and Big Data
- Green and Blue Growth and competitive, clean, digital and low-carbon industry
- Resilient and effective alternatives to fossil-based economy
- Manufacturing technologies and advanced materials
- Life Cycle Assessment, Life Cycle Cost

- Management of multi-risk scenarios, mitigation strategies and adaptation to climate change
- Reducing urban and buildings vulnerability in critical urban contexts for risk mitigation
- Energy sector and: production; supply; systems and grids; storage
- Renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, adapting social behaviour in view of the SDGs: buildings and industrial facilities in energy transition; energies communities and smart cities
- Transport sector more climate and environment-friendly, more efficient, competitive and accessible, smarter, safer and more resilient

- Rural Development, spatial justice and environment safeguarding
- Social Innovation and increase of social capital for Inner Areas
- Territorially innovative solutions for sociodemographic shrinking
- Innovative solutions for ageing society, communities and individuals
- Young generations: mobilities trends, territorial identity and sense of belonging with settlements
- Agriculture, food systems and nutrition security for al
- Socio-demographic dynamics in rural areas, rural wellbeing and digital transition
- Inclusive territorial socio-ecological policies, climate change adaption strategies, and smart rural development approaches
- Transition to a resource efficient and circular economy and sustainable bioeconomy, nature-based solutions and bio-based innovation systems in the bioeconomy
- Restoring, sustainably managing and using forestry and others natural and biological resources from land, inland waters and sea, to stop biodiversity erosion.

May 26th-29th 2026

ICOMOS DAYS

ICOMOS Days on Cultural Tourism

In the context of the #NMP2026 International Symposium, the Italian ICOMOS Committee encourages to submit scientific contributions and session proposals for the ICOMOS Days on Cultural Tourism.

The Italian Cultural Heritage with its landscapes, cities and intangible resources is a unique tourist offer and increases competitiveness and attractiveness of our country, as highlighted by the Italian Strategic Plan of Tourism 2023-2027.

The main objective of the ICOMOS Days is to host a cultural debate aimed at involving all those who work in this field. The hope is to get by scientific debate useful directions to plan and implement actions able to maximize the contribution of Cultural Heritage as social and economic driver, taking care to ensure, at the same time, its protection for the purpose of transmission to future generations.

The main topics of the ICOMOS Days are:

- Site management plans and governance forms
- Tools to counteract the depopulation of small historic centers and Inner Areas
- Authenticity and integrity of heritage: protecting local identities, integrating the tangible and intangible dimensions of heritage
- Prevention of overtourism: carrying capacity and tools for managing touristic flows and real estate dynamics
- Local communities and processes for enhancing cultural and touristic heritage.

Session proposals are encouraged to target these concepts and focus on significant subjects according to the Symposium main theme. Session and paper proposals are aimed at the all experts on these issues and must observe the scientific methodology according to the Call for Sessions (#CfS2026) and the Call for Papers (#CfP2026).

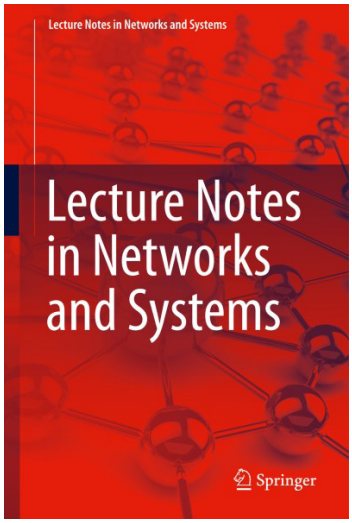
Consiglio Internazionale
dei Monumenti e dei Siti
Comitato Nazionale Italiano

May 26th-29th 2026

PROCEEDINGS

Springer

Submitted papers will be carefully peerreviewed by at least two experts, chosen by subject/ area, and evaluated on originality, significance, technical accuracy and clarity of exposition.
Accepted papers will be published in **Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems** (2367-3370) by SPRINGER. LNNS volumes are indexed in the Conference Proceedings Citation Index (CPCI), part of Clarivate Analytics' Web of Science; Scopus; etc.
Where required, the publication in open access should be specifically requested and has additional costs, to be verified.



May 26th-29th 2026

PAPERS SUBMISSION AND FEES

As the session proposals are received, they will be communicated via e-mail and through the symposium website. Follow the Symposium updates www.nmp.unirc.it.
Starting **from November 21th** and **until December 19th 2025** it will be possible to send the papers through the procedure illustrated below.

Steps:

1 Register

Authors must firstly be registered to the symposium web-platform.
Registration:

- Click on “Account” button on the top left side of the page
- Follow the instruction to finalize the registration
- Fill in the registration form
- Please note! As last step of the registration form, specify “create account as” “Author: Able to submit items to the conference”
- Press the “Create” button at the end of the registration

2 Prepare your paper proposal

1. Before submitting your papers, please remember to download the Template Packet via nmp.unirc.it
2. At least one author for each accepted final paper must be registered.
3. Please remind that preliminary abstract submission is not needed.
4. All experimental or theoretical papers must be written in UK English and report original, previously unpublished research results.
5. The total length of the submitted paper should be between 6- and 10-pages including Title, abstract, figure, legends, tables and references. Papers with less than 6 pages will be automatically rejected.
6. Authors may submit more than one paper, multiple authors either. For each additional paper by the same author, there is a charge of 320 € per additional paper. Each author can propose a maximum of 2 papers per session, and present just one paper during the same session.
7. Please, make sure your paper has a “.docm” extension before submission.

For example: NMP_MyPaper.docm

3 Submit your paper

1. Click on the “STEP ONE OF THE SUBMISSION PROCESS” button to submit your paper.
2. Fill in the submission form. Note that abstract cannot be longer than 500 words. The upload of a word file of the paper is required to finalize your submission.
3. To accelerate the review process and guarantee the final decision in due time, the paper will be sent to the reviewers few days after the submission. For this reason, authors are warmly invited to upload just papers ready to be referred. The upload of the final version can be done after the review process is terminated.
4. You can check the list of papers for which you are author or co-author once you log-in to the webplatform.

The definitive programme will be available by the end of April 2026 on nmp.unirc.it. Submit your paper via NMP web platform according to the call for papers deadline.

Participation Fees

	Senior in presence/online	Early Career** in presence/online	Accompanying Senior
REGULAR	**320,00 €/240,00 €**	**190,00 €/130,00 €**	**110,00 €**
REDUCED*	**250,00 €/160,00 €**	**140,00 €/110,00 €**	**110,00 €**

* Members of the scientific partnership and invited authors.
** This special rate must be considered benefit for young researchers, therefore it applies to only a contribution drawn exclusively from PhD candidates, Fellows, Graduate students (whose condition is duly attested).

Please note: the fee is intended to cover a contribution of max 10 pages length		
Extra Costs	Addiotional paper's pages (max 4 extra pages)	40,00 €/ extra page
	Additional paper by the same author (max 2 papers per session)	320,00 €/ extra paper

What is included

The registration fee includes:
• In presence presentation: Paper Presentation, Proceedings' file, Attendance to all Sessions and coffee breaks, one paper to be published in LNNS (2367-3370), SPRINGER, ASTRI membership for the event.
• Virtual presentation: Paper Presentation, Proceedings' file, Attendance to all Sessions, one paper to be published in LNNS (2367-3370) - SPRINGER, ASTRI membership for the event.

The length of each camera-ready paper will be limited to 10 pages.
The registration fee includes the publication of one accepted paper of up to 10 pages, in the symposium proceeding. For each additional sheet there is a charge of 40,00 €, with a maximum of total 14 pages lengths.
For each additional paper by the same author, there is a charge of 320,00 €. Each author can present a maximum of 2 papers per session.
Payment instructions for authors and participants will be given by February 2026.
The registration fee for Accompanying Guests is 110,00 €.

May 26th-29th 2026

EDOARDO MOLLICA AWARD

ASTRI Association, in collaboration with the ECHE Lab, is honored to commemorate the figure and work of Edoardo Mollica – full Professor of Real Estate Appraisal and Valuation, pioneer in the research field of Inner Areas and open-eyed scholar of Metropolitan Cities.

The Award is aimed at encouraging the participation of young researchers in the scientific debate. The prize will be awarded to the most innovative and original papers written and presented exclusively by young scholars, in response to the Call for Papers NMP26. Alternatively, the candidate's contribution should be clearly recognizable. For young scholar is meant who has not yet turned 35, at the starting date of the symposium, Ph.D. or Ph.D. candidates, without a permanent university contract.

The research topics should relate to the theme of Inner Areas, intercepting the issues of sustainable development, cultural heritage, identity, metropolitan cities or economic policies.

Those interested are invited to send an email to the NMP24 Secretariat at nmp@unirc.it, communicating the interest in applying for the award by the 19th of December 2025.

May 26th-29th 2026

GENERAL REFERENCES AND COMMITTEES

The Networks, Markets & People International Symposium is promoted by the ECHE Lab of DICEAM – Civil Engineering, Energy, Environment, Materials Department, Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria (Italy), with ASTRI Scientific Association and the National Italian Committee of ICOMOS, in partnership with a qualified international network of academic institutions and scientific societies.
The Symposium is mainly supported by: CETRAD – Centre for Transdisciplinary Development Studies (University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Vila Real, Portugal), Neurolab, DICEAM Department (Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria, Italy), GRUPO ANTE (University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain) and LaborEM - DICEAM Department (Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria, Italy).

IMPORTANT DATES

November 21th, 2025: Session submission deadline
December 19th, 2025: Paper su-bmission deadline
February 6th, 2026: Notification to authors
February 17th, 2026: Author Registration deadline
May 26th-29th, 2026: Symposium

May 26th-29th 2026

SYMPOSIUM LANGUAGES
ENGLISH - ITALIAN

WEB SITE
www.nmp.unirc.it

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BRIA – Byzantine Route International Association

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