

RSPP Call for Papers

Special Issue on:

Civic Universities, Ecosystems and Regional Development in Low-Industrial-Density Regions

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) play a highly significant role in developing their influence regions, due to its contribution both for intellectual and civic progress. HEIs have the responsibility to become deeply engaged with the societal challenges (Boyer, 2016), since they should be positioned as open institutions, with a proactive role in promoting a sustainable development of regions and people. From here, it results a need to better understand, and define the Civic Universities (CivUs), which play a significant role in fostering the regional development of Low-Industrial-Density Regions.

The idea of civic engagement of the Universities was originally described by Boyer (1996), in what he named as scholarship of engagement, that is, a construct based on four pillars, namely: (I) the scholarship of discovery, pushing back the frontiers of human knowledge; (II) the scholarship of integration, creating more interdisciplinary conversations; (III) the scholarship of sharing knowledge, being a communal act; and (IV) the application of knowledge, moving from theory to practice back to theory.

In this line of reasoning, the CivUs should be deeply integrated in their communities. As such, CivUs should organize their teaching and researching activities, in order to train future citizens with the focus of entrepreneurship for societal innovation (Goddard and Vallance, 2011). CivUs have the potential for providing viable solutions for several societal problems, such as ageing, degenerative diseases, sustainability, smart mobility solutions, urban living, food security, water management, clean manufacturing, and environmental innovation (Goddard and Vallance, 2012; Unger et al., 2020).

The aim of this special issue is thus to bring together scientific contributions from interconnected research fields, helping to unveil and better understand the role played the CivUs in addressing the societal challenges and the prosecution of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), targeted to a sustainable regional development. Following this rationale, we are welcoming both theoretical and empirical contributions, focused on responding to the guiding research question, that is: What is the role played by the CivUs in fostering sustainable regional development, especially, in low-industrial-density regions?

Examples of research topics that are considered relevant for this special issue, are as follows:

Benchmarks and Good-Practices of Civic Universities

Clusters, Industrial Districts and Productivity of Low-Industrial-Density Regions

Cross-border Relationships and Sustainable Development

Demography and Regional Development of Low-Density Regions

Determinants of Performance of Low-Density Regions

Efficiency of Higher Education Institutions

Geography and Space Determinants of the Performance of Low-Density Regions

Higher Education Institutions and Sustainable Regional Development

History, Culture and Development Pathway of Low-Density Regions

Intellectual Capital of Higher Education Institutions and Sustainable Regional Development

Knowledge and Technology Transfer of Higher Education Institutions and SDGs

Natural Resources and Sustainable Regional Development

New Public Policies for Intelligent Smart Specialization Strategies

Territorial Competitiveness and Inclusiveness of Low-density-industrial Regions

Planning

There are three alternative ways to select papers for this special issue:

- A selection of extended abstracts submitted to the [26th APDR Workshop](#) will be invited to deliver a full paper.
- Authors not attending the conferences above mentioned may send an extended abstract (1,200-2,000 words) to the editors until October 30, 2021

Please note that the full paper must be submitted to RSPP by January 31, 2022.

Editors

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References

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