



## Sustainable Urban Planning and Regional Development

Guest Editors:

**Prof. Dr. Massimiliano  
Bencardino**

Department of Political Sciences  
and Communication, University  
of Salerno, PoliCom, 84084  
Fisciano, SA, Italy

**Dr. Angela Cresta**

Department of Law, Economics,  
Management and Quantitative  
Methods (DEMM), University of  
Sannio, Piazza Arechi II, Palazzo  
De Simone, 82100 Benevento,  
Italy

Deadline for manuscript  
submissions:

**31 December 2024**

### Message from the Guest Editors

The purpose of this Special Issue is to collect technical–scientific contributions on the themes of sustainable urbanization and integrated strategic planning oriented towards cooperation between different territorial levels and aimed at reducing the complex conditions of peripherality and marginality experienced by some places, including the urban–rural divide, areas with geographical and demographic specificities, and internal suburbs (ESPON, 2018; 2019).

On a global scale, the rural population is decreasing at a high rate (World Bank), while people in cities will accommodate 60% of the world population by 2030, rising to 68% by 2050 (World Urban Forum, 2020).

Urban areas, in particular, are the engine of the European economy and act as catalysts for creativity and innovation across the European Union. But they are also places where persistent problems, such as unemployment, segregation, and poverty, are most severe. Urban policies, therefore, have a broader cross-border significance, which is why urban development is central to EU regional policy.





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## Editor-in-Chief

### **Prof. Dr. Marc A. Rosen**

Faculty of Engineering and  
Applied Science, University of  
Ontario Institute of Technology,  
Oshawa, ON L1G 0C5, Canada

## Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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**Journal Rank:** JCR - Q2 (*Environmental Studies*) / CiteScore - Q1 (*Geography, Planning and Development*)

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*Sustainability* Editorial Office  
MDPI, St. Alban-Anlage 66  
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
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