

Special Issue

Sustaining Innovation: Regional Dynamics, Policy Frameworks, and Competitiveness

Message from the Guest Editor

Innovation is widely recognized to be a key driver of long-term growth and regional competitiveness. This recognition notwithstanding, the ability to uphold innovation remains overlooked in both the sectoral and the regional perspective. This Special Issue will explore the complex interplay between regional dynamics, innovation ecosystems, institutions, and public policies in fostering persistent innovation to promote competitiveness and regional resilience. By bringing together theoretical, empirical, and policy-oriented contributions, this Special Issue aims to raise our understanding of innovation trajectories, virtuous cycles of innovation, and their place-based determinants such as knowledge spillovers, industrial specialization, human capital, and local governance. This Special Issue seeks contributions that address the persistent problems around regional innovation systems that are adapting to global challenges such as climate change, digital transformation, and demographic shifts while maintaining inclusive and resilient growth. Submissions may encompass, but are not limited to, cross-country comparisons, longitudinal studies, and mixed-method approaches.

Guest Editor

Dr. Joana Costa

Department of Economics, Management and Industrial Engineering and Tourism, University of Aveiro, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal

Deadline for manuscript submissions

30 June 2026



Sustainability

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 7.7



mdpi.com/si/244059

Sustainability
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
sustainability@mdpi.com

[mdpi.com/journal/
sustainability](https://mdpi.com/journal/sustainability)





Sustainability

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.3
CiteScore 7.7



[mdpi.com/journal/
sustainability](https://mdpi.com/journal/sustainability)



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

I encourage you to contribute a research or comprehensive review article for consideration for publication in Sustainability, an international open access journal which provides an advanced forum for research findings in areas related to sustainability and sustainable development. The journal publishes original research articles, reviews, conference proceedings (peer reviewed full articles) and communications. I am confident you will find the journal contributes to enhancing understanding of sustainability and fostering initiatives and applications of sustainability-based measures and activities.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Steve W. Lyon

School of Environment and Natural Resources, Ohio State University,
Columbus, OH 43210, USA

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SCIE and SSCI (Web of Science), GEOBASE, GeoRef, Inspec, RePEc, CAPlus / SciFinder, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Environmental Studies) / CiteScore - Q1 (Geography, Planning and Development)