



Call for Special Session Proposals

7th ICODECON 2026

Mini-Symposium on Social Capital and Right to Stay in Rural Areas

The mini-symposium on “Social Capital and Right to Stay in Rural Areas” aims to be a platform to exchange new ideas, state various perspectives, unfold research aspects in this timely issue. Research and policy implications has to be intensified in this subject as the declining population and the economic situation have to be mitigated the next years in order the situation to be reversible. The continuing various forms of crises, such as socioeconomic crises and crises coming from natural disasters, test the resilience of rural communities and there is a need for a strategy for transformative resilience. To this extent, the social capital has to be enhanced and the right to stay has to be embedded deeply in policy making and practices. Despite the fact that the last European initiatives highlight the pathway towards resilient rural areas, more research, policy tools and recommendations are demanded.

Thus, this mini-symposium aims to discuss and explore subjects such as:

- * Understanding social capital in rural communities
- * The “right to stay” as a dimension of territorial justice
- * Community trust, solidarity and local resilience
- * Rural depopulation, ageing and youth outmigration
- * Access to essential services, housing and infrastructure
- * Local employment, entrepreneurship and economic diversification
- * The role of digital connectivity in reducing rural inequalities
- * Citizen participation and inclusive rural governance
- * Place attachment, cultural identity and sense of belonging
- * EU policies for stronger, sustainable and resilient rural communities