

REGIONS & COHESIONS

# SUSTAINABILITY, CLIMATE ACTION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE AMIDST CRISES OF MULTILATERALISM AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

RISC - RISE CONSORTIUM

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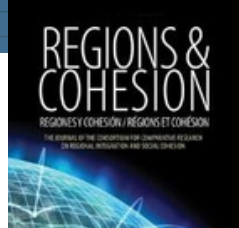
**PROPOSED 2026 DOUBLE SPECIAL  
ISSUE OF REGIONS & COHESION**



## CALL FOR PAPERS

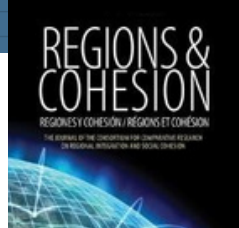
This double special issue aims to engage sustainability and climate action amidst a global system that seems to be in crisis (for example, geopolitical fragmentation, climate insecurity and economic inequality). When *Regions & Cohesion* was launched in 2010, regional entities and multilateral organizations in general remained prominent in sustainability debates. The United Nations system was already active in the establishment of the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the World We Want Campaign. Regional organizations such as the African Union, the Andean Community, the Pacific Island Forum and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations were highlighting new sustainability initiatives.

The European Union was moving forward toward the passage of the European Green Deal. Since that time, regional integration has markedly turned toward free trade, at the expense of sustainability strategies in many places. At the same time, the rise of populism in different world regions has undermined multilateral cooperation in the fields of sustainability and climate action. As we have entered the final five years of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and look forward toward potential avenues for cooperation, this double special issue reflects on strategies for the post-2030 Agenda world.

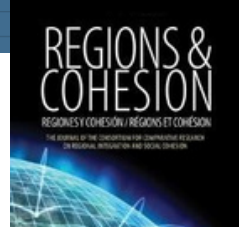


**This call for papers responds to the following potential questions:**

- What future can be envisaged for the SDGs?
- Can regional organizations still act as vehicles for sustainability and climate action?
- Within this crisis of multilateralism, can civil society organizations emerge as more prominent promoters of sustainability and climate action?
- Can alternative forms of cooperation, such as water basin councils, shared forest governance, etc. provide innovative ideas for the promotion of sustainability and climate action?
- How can transnational extractive industries be governed to assure sustainable practices in the post-2030 world?
- What roles will social justice, gender equality and human rights play in sustainability and climate action discussions associated with the post-2030 agenda?
- Can “green economies” emerge as effective sustainability vehicles?
- Do sustainable development and climate action still retain importance as global norms or have they been weakened with the tension surrounding multilateral organizations?
- Are there emerging opportunities, such as technological innovation, youth movements, indigenous governance models, or climate finance frameworks to balance the narrative?



This is not an exhaustive list of questions. Potential authors are encouraged to submit their own research questions in relation to the theme of the double special issue. We also encourage submissions that offer innovative and collaborative pathways for shaping sustainability governance in the decades ahead. Proposals should highlight both the importance of the questions and their relevance to the call for papers. Both case studies and comparative research are welcome. Contributions should be between 6000 and 9000 words.



## CALENDAR

**6 April 2026:** Circulation of call for papers

**15 June 2026:** Deadline for submission of 1 page abstract including:

- 1) proposed title,
- 2) proposed author(s) with affiliations,
- 3) 200-300 word summary,
- 4) short declaration of relevance for double special issue

**15 September 2026:** draft manuscripts are due

**30 September 2026:** review by editors and revisions

Authors should send state of interest and article abstracts to [Harlan.koff@uni.lu](mailto:Harlan.koff@uni.lu). All queries should be sent to the same email address.