

Call for Papers

Pathways to Future Regional Development

The Institute for Economic Research of the Chamber of commerce of Bolzano/Bozen (WIFO), the Regional Studies Association (RSA), Eurac Research, the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO), and the research network on Smart Policies for Regional Innovation, Sustainability and Transitions (SPRINT) are pleased to announce a two-day workshop on Pathways to Future Regional Development on June 11-12, 2026, focusing on the themes of regional development, innovation, sustainability, and inequality.

The first day, participants will gather at the Chamber of Commerce of Bolzano for an intensive day of presentations and discussion, bringing together approximately 50 researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to exchange insights on shared challenges in regional development. The second day will feature a visit to NOI Techpark South Tyrol, where attendees will participate in a policy panel titled "Bridging Worlds: Connecting Research, Policy, and Innovation Ecosystems", offering a unique opportunity to see theory meet practice in an innovation hub.

Keynote speakers



FRANK NEFFKE
Complexity Science Hub



SANDRO MONTRESOR
University of Trento



CARLO MENON
OECD



VINCENT MAUROI
NOI Techpark

Policy Panel speakers

Submission Guidelines

We invite the submission of papers addressing emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities in fostering sustainable and innovative regional development. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to

- *Sustainable regional development strategies*
- *Innovation in green technologies & transitions*
- *Unequal local economic development & inequality*
- *Tourism*
- *The role of global value chains in local development*
- *Policy interventions for sustainability & innovation*
- *Skill transfer, labour markets & gender inequalities*

We welcome both theoretical and applied research submissions, particularly those employing innovative methods or data. Submissions can take the form of extended abstracts or full papers.

Deadline for Submissions: March 15th, 2026

Submission Format: Extended abstracts (up to 2000 words) or full papers (approximately 7000 words)

Submission Process: Please submit via e-mail to wifo@handelskammer.bz.it

Please make sure to include the names of all co-authors and specify who will be the presenter. Papers will be selected based on originality, relevance, and contribution to the session's theme. Travel funds up to £250 are available for RSA members. Please indicate your interest with your submission.

Organisers: GEORG LUN, Institute for Economic Research of the Chamber of Commerce of Bolzano/Bozen; DENISE FRÖTSCHER, Institute for Economic Research of the Chamber of Commerce of Bolzano/Bozen; THOMAS STREIFENEDER, Eurac Research; ANNA BURTON, Austrian Institute of Economic Research; BENJAMIN CORNEJO COSTAS, Utrecht University; MARTINA PARDY, University of Liverpool; DIMA YANKOVA, ANETI Lab, Corvinus University of Budapest; EDUARDO HERNÁNDEZ RODRÍGUEZ, University of Seville