

CALL FOR PAPERS MONOTHEMATIC ISSUE 2026 E & M ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

Sustainable cities

This monothematic issue seeks to create a platform for interdisciplinary research on sustainable cities. Urban areas have become central to the global economy, yet they also face significant social and environmental challenges. Without addressing these issues, cities risk becoming overcrowded, polluted, and increasingly detrimental to the quality of life for their inhabitants. We invite submissions of original papers from diverse academic disciplines, presenting innovative research that can contribute to overcoming the key sustainability challenges facing urban areas worldwide.

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Regional ecosystem environment, entrepreneurship, resilience, policy evaluation

Important dates

Submission open date: June 1, 2025

Manuscript submission deadline: October 31, 2025

The submission of the articles is accepted through the journal's editorial system:

<https://rizeni.ekonomie-management.cz/en/cms/review-process>

After uploading the article, please inform the editorial office that the submitted manuscript is intended for the monothematic issue (journal@tul.cz).

Publishing of articles: September 2026

Background and objectives

Sustainable cities face persistent challenges despite the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) introduced under the UN 2030 Agenda and later integrated into EU policies. Although these goals have been recognized for nearly 10 years, cities continue to struggle with their practical implementation.

Key obstacles include theoretical, technological, and practical gaps in urban sustainability. A major issue is the weak connection between sustainable and smart cities. Many initiatives focus primarily on infrastructure such as energy, transport, and waste, without fully integrating broader urban systems where smart technologies could enhance sustainability. To address these gaps, cities

need innovative approaches, including big data analytics, urban simulation models, and ICT-driven solutions, to improve decision-making and resource efficiency. Additionally, the lack of a standardized framework for evaluating sustainable city models makes it difficult to establish best practices and scalable solutions (Bibri & Krogstie, 2017).

To overcome these challenges, cities should focus on two key areas: i) sustainable urban planning; and ii) public participation & citizen science.

i) Sustainable urban planning. Sustainable urban planning is the process of designing, developing, and managing cities to meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own. It integrates environmental, social, and economic considerations to create livable, resilient, and resource-efficient urban environments (Jabareen et al., 2006; UN-Habitat, 2020).

Several key aspects define sustainable urban planning:

- Environmental sustainability focuses on reducing pollution, conserving resources, and enhancing green spaces to minimize ecological impact (UN-Habitat, 2020).
- Social equity ensures inclusive urban development by providing affordable housing, accessible public services, and equal opportunities for all citizens (European Commission, 2016).
- Economic viability supports sustainable industries, job creation, and the development of smart infrastructure to foster long-term growth (Jabareen, 2006).
- Smart urban solutions integrate ICT, big data, and innovative transport systems to enhance efficiency and connectivity (Batty et al., 2012).
- Resilience and adaptation are crucial for designing cities capable of withstanding climate change and natural disasters, ensuring long-term urban sustainability (IPCC, 2014).

ii) Public participation and citizen science. Public participation and citizen science play a crucial role in sustainable urban development. Engaging citizens in urban planning ensures that diverse perspectives are considered, leading to policies and projects that reflect the actual needs of the community (UN-Habitat, 2020).

Citizen science, where residents actively collect and analyze data, enhances urban sustainability by providing real-time insights into environmental issues such as air quality, waste management, and biodiversity (Haklay et al., 2018). Additionally, digital platforms and smart city technologies empower communities by enabling participatory governance and collaborative problem-solving (European Commission, 2020). By integrating public engagement and citizen-driven data, cities can become more resilient, adaptable, and people-centered, ensuring long-term sustainability (Irwin, 2018).

The role of universities and European University Alliances in sustainable cities

A special focus in this monothematic issue is the role of universities and the European Alliance of Universities in promoting sustainable cities. Universities play a vital role in advancing urban sustainability through research, innovation, and education. Additionally, they shape urban environments that support inclusivity, creativity, and sustainability (Heijer & Curvelo Magdaniel, 2012).

University campuses themselves have the potential to contribute to sustainability through various initiatives. For example, open university campuses, built on the principle of blurring campus boundaries, can support citizen engagement, reduce the environmental impact of universities, and improve urban mobility and citizen well-being (Barratt & Swetnam, 2022).

The latest European initiatives focus on building European University Alliances, which have a significant impact on urban sustainability. By fostering interdisciplinary research, strengthening education networks, and creating new partnerships with local governments and industries, these alliances contribute to climate adaptation, circular economy strategies, and smart urban infrastructure.

Objectives of the monothematic issue

The primary objective of this monothematic issue is to expand the discussion on current challenges in sustainable city development and explore tools and approaches that can help overcome these obstacles. By examining sustainable urban planning, public participation, and the role of universities, this issue aims to contribute to the advancement of innovative, scalable, and inclusive solutions for the sustainable cities of the future.

Aim of the monothematic issue and topics

This monothematic issue explores various aspects of sustainable cities. We invite contributions from researchers across different disciplines who can provide research findings, innovative approaches, case studies, or reviews on supporting sustainable development in urban areas.

We welcome papers addressing, but not limited to, the following topics:

- **Sustainable cities and communities** (sustainable housing; public transport and mobility).
- **Enhancing city resilience to climate change and disasters** (innovation and infrastructure; resilient and sustainable urban infrastructure).
- **Innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems.**
- **The role of universities in sustainable cities** (The European University Alliance's contribution to sustainable cities; university campuses as integral parts of sustainable cities).
- **Sustainable urban planning.**
- **Culture, well-being, social inclusion, and public participation in sustainable cities.**
- **Sustainable policy and governance.**
- **Smart mobility and smart logistics.**
- **Energy transition in urban environment**

We encourage interdisciplinary perspectives and practical insights that contribute to the advancement of sustainable urban development.

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