



Call for proposals. Special Sessions/Tracks

OBJECTIVE

Special Sessions aim to give space within the Conference to special tracks¹ that are not among those proposed by the organization, sessions with a unique topic and format, or groups of people that want to present the progress or results of a specific project. We invite special sessions that provide artistic or interactive avenues to learn, debate, and co-create in transdisciplinary manners, such as dancing, futuring, visioning, painting, sculpture, songwriting, theatre, improv, poetry, backcasting, world cafés, board games, yoga and meditation etc.

- **Open Special Sessions:** These are sessions organized around a specific track that is related to degrowth and ecological economics but not clearly fitting with any of the tracks proposed by the conference organizers. These sessions will be open to the participation of any applicant during the “call for abstracts” period that opens in November.
- **Closed Special Sessions:** These sessions are organized within the context of a specific project that aligns with the overall theme of the conference. Participation is by invitation only, as determined by the session proposers and organizers; only pre-approved individuals will be allowed to present - including the session proposers themselves

The selected Special Sessions will be carried out within the parallel session slots².

Applicants both to Open Special Sessions and Closed Special Sessions must indicate in the application form in which session format their proposed sessions³ would be developed (conventional, interactive, or artistic modalities).

¹ **Tracks:** the 13 big blocks of topics proposed by the organizing committee.

Special tracks: topics that are not among the 13 tracks set by the organizing committee, proposed during the Special Sessions/Tracks Call, and that have to be always related to the conference's main theme: *Science, Technology, and Innovation beyond growth: Cultivating collective creativity for a sustainable future.*

² **Time slot:** Period of time during which a plenary session or several parallel sessions will take place. Plenary sessions will have a duration of 1 hour, and parallel sessions will have a duration of 1.5 hours.

³ **Session:** A session is a meeting held during a time slot in a concrete space, where one or several speakers share their work with the public. Each session will count on a person who will act as the chair, being responsible for the correct development of the session. The main groups of sessions are the plenary sessions, which will count on only one presenter, invited by the organizing committee, during the whole time slot, and parallel sessions, which are sessions that will be held in parallel during the same time slot, each one counting on more than one speaker, usually between 3 and 5. Parallel sessions can have different formats: conventional, interactive, or artistic.



SUBMISSION INFORMATION

The Special Session proposals must be submitted through the [submission platform](#) before **October 16, 2023**. To be accepted for evaluation, each proposal must include the following information:

- **Format** of the Special Session: It must be selected among the modalities indicated in the "[session formats](#)" page (except the "plenary session" and the "poster" modalities)
- **Organizers**: there will be a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 organizers for each Special Session. The information provided will include, for each organizer: full name, organization, and e-mail.
- **Title** for the proposed session/track
- **Short abstract** (up to 150 words) about the proposed session
- **Keywords**: a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6.
- **Type** of Special Session (Open Special Session / Closed Special Session)
- **Track(s)**: a selection of up to 2 tracks. If a new track is proposed, the submission must include a brief description of it.
- A clear **description** (up to 1000 words) for the proposed session and how it could contribute to ecological economics and/or degrowth and the dynamic proposed for the session, including a minimum and a maximum number of participants (presenters), the optimum duration (up to 90 minutes), the space requirements, and any other relevant information for the appropriate development of the session. This item is especially relevant for interactive and artistic modalities. For interactive sessions, it will be necessary to include an explanation about what audience participation would consist of.

EVALUATION OF SPECIAL SESSION/TRACKS PROPOSALS

Any person can submit a proposal for organizing an Open or a Closed Special Session. Proposals will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee, with the support of external reviewers, if required, according to the following criteria:

- Thematic relevance and relation to the central theme of the conference
- Quality of the proposal
- Diversity of contributors (geographical, gender, academic rank), possibly including both academic and non-academic contributions
- Clarity of presentation
- Originality and creativity



- o Degree of inter and trans-disciplinarity
- o Coordinators experience

Special Session proposal approval after the evaluation does not guarantee final inclusion in the program. Contributions submitted to special sessions during the “call for proposals” period will undergo review, similar to that for regular sessions. To be held, the session must include at least 3 approved contributions, or the minimum number indicated in the special session submission. In the case of sessions that do not reach the minimum number of approved contributions, or do not cover a full session slot, the conference organizing team may decide whether to cancel the session or merge it with another related session.

ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL SESSIONS

Organizers will be responsible for their sessions, always working in close contact with the conference organizers. Some of their functions will be:

- o Participating in the revision and evaluation of the contributions submitted for their session
- o Chairing the session or naming a chair
- o Giving support to the participants of the session and helping to address any questions or difficulties that may arise
- o Ensuring that participants are aware of how the session works and comply with objectives and rules
- o Any other issue directly related to their session