

## **The IGC (International Geographic Congress)**

will be held in Istanbul 17-21st August 2020. Please consider the possibility to participate on the workshop "Sustainability Processes in the Low-carbon economy: Territories and Renewable Energies".

Your posters or abstracts (or both) are welcome.

The **deadline** for submissions is Monday 13th of January.

The link for submissions is below:

<https://www.igc2020.org/en/ABSTRACT-SUBMISSION.html>

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### **Abstract and main topics:**

This workshop proposal intends to reinforce the commitment of the population to safe, clean and efficient energy through active participation in the implementation of renewable energy at local level. In the context of the present climate crisis and the ongoing global transition to low carbon sources of energy, renewable energy continues to expand worldwide, especially in the power sector (REN21 Renewables Global Status Report 2019). The urgency with which states are pursuing the development of renewable energy means that it is likely that many developments are taking place without adequate planning, with environmental impacts that are not being taken into account. At the same time, taking advantage of economies of scale, the size of individual renewable energy developments is also rapidly increasing. These emerging mega-developments have serious environmental and social impacts, presenting significant problems of social acceptance. Rejection by sectors of society of renewable energy landscapes has previously been explored mainly in the context of wind energy installations, as part of the extensive scientific literature on social acceptance. Yet, given these new challenges, and in the context of the emerging paradigm of social innovation, there is a clear need to move beyond these earlier discourses. Innovative approaches are urgently needed, to address both the sustainability of renewable energy installations generally, and the democratic deficit that has emerged as a result of their widespread deployment, often in the face of citizen opposition. These might include, for instance, evaluating positive changes related to renewable energies within local economies; exploring social responsibility and governance in the context of the low carbon economy; increasing the nature and extent of citizen participation in renewable energy, and last but not least, promoting renewable energy as a key driver of sustainable development and territorial competitiveness.

The aim of this workshop will be open to different approaches or topics, including, but not limited to:

- a) Ecological, geographical and landscape approaches to direct impacts of renewable energy installations, such as erosion processes, habitat fragmentation, loss of ecological connectivity etc.
- b) Ecological, geographical and landscape approaches to indirect impacts of renewable energy installations, such as noise, loss of amenity, loss of landscape character or value.
- c) Land use changes associated with renewable energy landscapes;
- d) Renewable energy siting and spatial planning in urban or rural contexts;
- e) Public-Private-Citizen partnerships and other new mechanisms and relationships to enhance the benefits of renewable energy for local economies/communities;
- f) Renewable energy as a driver of local development.
- g) Energy cooperatives and energy communities.

The geographical and economic dimension of renewable energy installations could justify two possible framings for our session: Globalisation and Climate Change. Though interested participants from other disciplines are warmly welcomed, the workshop is broadly aimed at the trans-national expertise of geographers and other social scientists working on, or interested in the topic area.

<https://www.igc2020.org/en/CLIMATE-CHANGE.html>