

ORGANIZED SESSION – AISRE 2026

International trade, environmental change and COVID-19

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Description

Growing awareness of climate change has placed sustainability at the center of policy agendas for governments and international organizations. As part of a long-term push toward a green transition, public policies increasingly regulate pollutant use, hazardous-waste generation, emissions, deforestation, and the protection of animal species. Initiatives under the EU Green New Deal illustrate how European and national authorities combine incentives with regulatory constraints to promote sustainability in production processes.

A major obstacle to this transformation is the perceived trade-off between economic growth and environmental goals. Compliance with environmental standards imposes costs on domestic firms, prompting adjustments in sourcing strategies and the adoption of cleaner technologies. When these restructuring costs become excessive, they risk offsetting the expected benefits. Moreover, uneven environmental regulations across countries may encourage firms to relocate production to regions with laxer standards—creating so-called “pollution havens.”

These challenges are further compounded by the rising frequency of shocks affecting firms integrated into global value chains. Since the 2008 global financial crisis, repeated disruptions have reshaped these chains and eroded the resource buffers firms need to undertake substantial sustainability-oriented investments. The COVID-19 pandemic amplified these vulnerabilities, triggering severe supply chain breakdowns, labor shortages, and financial pressures. These disruptions not only slowed sustainability investments but also exposed the fragility of global production systems when confronted with systemic crises.

These trends carry significant implications for regional economies, shaping their capacity to contribute to the green transition and to remain resilient in an increasingly volatile global environment.

This organized session aims to bring together scholars studying the relationship between participation in global value chains, green technology adoption, public policies, and global shocks. We welcome theoretical and empirical contributions in environmental, regional, and international economics.

Keywords: sustainability, green economy, shocks, global value chains, COVID-19

To get more information on the AISRe 2026 conference please consult the following website <https://www.aisre.it/proponi-un-contributo/>. To submit a proposal, follow the instructions available there. You will have to:

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- Fill the form. Please choose "International trade, environmental change and Covid 19" in the menu, to fill the field "organized session".

The deadline for submitting an abstract is 15/01/2026