Urban spatial structures result from the location choices of firms and households as being explained by urban microeconomic theory or economic geography models. Labor markets and real estate markets fit to spatial conditions in order that transportation costs balance with location benefits. Urban economics of spatial structures aim to answer at least to three types of questions. Where and which type of firms concentrate? Do rich or poor households live in core or periphery? Do urbanisation go on sprawl or do city become denser? Nowadays, the energy transition period and local environmental concerns impact labour and real estate markets and means of transportation. They all together address new challenges to urban economics to analyze the new spatial patterns of firms and households.

The special session on urban economics of new spatial structures welcomes papers aiming to explain major changes introduced by energy transition and environmental concerns in location choices patterns. Papers may focus on the spatial sorting of households or/and firms as they may focus as well on the future of cities and how they can accommodate urban sprawl and short distances.

The submission of proposals must take place through the AFSE website. Please note that if proposals may be submitted in English or in French, the conference language is English only. In case of acceptance by the Scientific Committee, the proposals should indicate that they apply to the special session on Regional science (the ASRDLF session).
Economic literature largely admits that the regional disparities of per capita income mainly depend upon a series of structural economic trends characterizing each region, concerning public infrastructures, human capital, productive specialization and productive local networks. Most studies on regional development either focus on the relation between a country’s macroeconomic performances and the changes in regional inequalities or on the specific characteristics of the regions allowing them to follow differentiated paths of long-term economic growth.

Recent analysis has shown that the regional disparities are no longer just an issue concerning a single country’s economic development features but have become a major concern of supranational and European policies.

The special session on economic development and regional inequalities welcome papers aiming to introduce a regional disparities’ approach in France or in Europe, focusing various topics such as income inequalities, regional migration or regional policies.

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