



51st European Congress of the Regional Science Association International
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Call for papers for Special Session

PROCESSES OF URBANISATION ALONG THE EUROPEAN COASTAL AREAS

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The question of controlling land consumption is one of the most important territorial challenges facing Europe today. The *European Spatial Development Perspective* (1999) made specific reference to the dangers deriving from uncontrolled urban sprawl. Subsequent policy statements and studies coming from both the European Commission (EC) and the European Environment Agency (EEA) have continued to highlight the threats posed by a disperse form of urban development in general and have drawn special attention to the risks to coastal habitats in particular. According to the EEA almost half the population of countries with a sea border is located within coastal regions. The highest densities of population are found in coastal regions of Malta, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Italy and Spain. Coastal zones have witnessed high rates of development in recent years and saw increases in their artificial surfaces of 7.5% in the period 1990-2000 and of 4.9% in the period 2000-2006. Minimising environmental damage along all coastal zones and maximising energy efficiency, particularly within urban coastal zones, are two priority areas of the sustainability agenda which need to be balanced against the location pressures resulting from competing economic sectors.

This Special Session seeks to provide a forum for debating and exchanging evidence on the broad area of spatial development in coastal regions, addressing questions relating to the methodological approaches to measuring and monitoring land consumption, and the social, economical and territorial consequences deriving there from, all within Europe's rich and varied spatial contexts. Papers of an evidence based nature are invited from researchers and practitioners from all disciplines with an interest in this theme.

Abstracts for this Special Session (ZZN SS) must be submitted through the conference website:

<http://www.ersa.org/ersa-congress/submissions-speaker-zone/>

with a copy sent directly to the convenors:

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Important dates:

4 March	Deadline for the submission of abstracts
25 March	Notification of the acceptance of abstracts
10 June	Deadline for the submission of full papers to ensure inclusion on USB stick

It is the convenors' intention to select a number of the papers presented in the context of this Special Session for inclusion in a post-conference publication, to be published by the UPC.

The Special Session will be hosted within the framework of two research projects funded by the Spanish Ministries Science and Innovation (MICINN) (*Development of a platform for the prospective modeling of processes of urbanization in coastal areas* – ref. CSO2009-09057) and Development (MFOM) (*Evaluation of the environmental and energetic efficiency of the territorial functionality (transport and activity location), applied to the metropolitan area of Barcelona* – ref. E08/08)

