

Submission Guidelines

Call for sessions – Submission Guidelines

SUBMISSION PROCESS

- Proposals must be submitted through the official form by completing all required fields. The official online form is available at www.ecca2025.eu
- Submissions must be in English, as the conference will be conducted in this language. Make sure to proof-read the contents submitted. Proposals containing text generated by AI tools may be subject to stricter evaluation.
- Proposals must be complete in all their parts, including the upload of the full proposal text using the official template provided. The proposal should also be summarized in a short abstract (e.g., 1000 characters including spaces) touching upon all the key elements.
- Proposals must align with one of the five ECCA2025 themes:
 - Living with climate extremes
 - Managing cities to be fit for the future
 - Protecting coastal and mountain areas
 - Human and legal dimensions of change
 - Adaptation finance: reducing communities' economic or social vulnerabilities

If the proposal intersects with two themes, a second theme can be indicated in the online form. The second theme will be considered secondary to the primary theme.

Theme description is available at www.ecca2025.eu as well as at the end of this document.

- Each proposal shall specify whether the content of the session derives from the results of a specific project, program, or initiative and provide information on the panelists, their contributions to the session and their background.

Deadline for Submissions: February 24, 2025, 23:59 (CET)

SESSION DESIGN

- Each proposal must clearly indicate whether it has a policy/solution focus or a scientific focus.
- Interactive session formats (e.g., roundtables, polling) are encouraged for all submissions. Interactive session formats are mandatory for policy/solution-focused sessions.
- Each session will be allocated a 90-minute slot. Proposals are expected to design content that utilizes the full duration.
- All sessions must allocate a minimum of 15 minutes for audience Q&A.

SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR SESSION TYPES

SCIENTIFIC-FOCUS SUBMISSIONS

Scientific sessions are focused on presenting and discussing the state of the art, recent research findings, knowledge gaps, methodological approaches, and other advancements methodologies related to the theme. These sessions aim to foster knowledge exchange and provide a platform for the dissemination of scientific discoveries.

- Clearly define the challenge or issue that the session will address.
- Include a list of relevant papers or publications that will be presented, along with an explanation of their significance.
- Use of interactive tools (e.g., Slido, Mentimeter) is encouraged to foster engagement.
- Demonstrations of proposed technologies, methods, or research applications are welcome where relevant.

POLICY/SOLUTION-FOCUS SUBMISSIONS

Policy/Solutions sessions are dedicated to exploring and discussing practical policy measures, strategies, or solutions for addressing the challenges related to the conference themes. These sessions bridge the gap between research and practical application, featuring policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders in dialogue on actionable plans, implementation experiences, and new and existing policy. We encourage and welcome the participation of stakeholders from the private/business sector.

- Clearly define the challenge or policy issue that the session will address.
- Include a list of relevant policies or documents that will be presented, along with an explanation of their significance.
- Policy/solution sessions must use a roundtable format to encourage dialogue and open discussion.
- Panels should include representatives from diverse sectors such as public authorities, regulatory bodies, certification bodies, private/business sectors, consumer associations, or similar organizations.

IMPORTANT FOR APPLICANTS

- By submitting a proposal, the applicant confirms that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of the applicant's knowledge and belief.
- By submitting a proposal, the applicant confirms that contributors to the session would be available on 17 and 18 June 2025. Requests for specific timeslots cannot unfortunately be accommodated.
- Applicants are responsible for their own in-person conference registration; acceptance of a proposal does not include automatic registration to ECCA2025.
- All participants, including speakers and session organizers, are required to pay the registration fee. Travel and accommodation are not covered.
- If a visa is needed to travel to Italy, an invitation letter will be provided upon request.
- The conference will take place in person, with limited online broadcasting of select parallel sessions.
- Web streaming for your session cannot be guaranteed under any circumstances.
- The allocation of broadcasted sessions will be finalized at a later stage based on organizational and conference needs.
- The participation of remote speakers should be kept to a maximum of 2 per session.

Call for Sessions – Selection Process

The ECCA2025 Programme Committee will be responsible for the evaluation and selection of the proposals received.

The evaluation will take place following the end of the call for sessions and its duration will depend on the number of applications received. Decisions will be provided at the earliest convenience to facilitate the session organization.

The evaluation process will prioritize proposals that promote a diversity of perspectives by bringing together stakeholders from different groups and sectors. Proposals that introduce innovative ideas, new scientific knowledge, policy or technological solutions and insights will be highly valued.

If your application is selected, the Organizing Committee will contact the applicant, using the contact details provided at the time of submission.

ECCA2025 Themes

THEME 1: LIVING WITH CLIMATE EXTREMES

Communities, organizations, and individuals are facing escalating impacts from climate extremes such as floods, heatwaves, droughts, and storms, which call for urgent adaptation across homes, workplaces, and the environment. There is a need to support local solutions that can strengthen our systems to be prepared for a future marked by extreme weather events. We also need to understand the changing nature of climate threats, as well as the concurrency of multiple catastrophes. Sessions under this theme will explore both successful and challenging examples of adaptation in different settings (e.g., coastal, rural, and urban areas), encouraging discussions on equitable solutions, representation of underrepresented groups, and case studies on resilience and interactions between communities, policymakers, and practitioners. Topics exploring technological advancements, such as early warning systems, progress metrics, and the role of cross-sector cooperation in building resilience to climate extremes, are also welcome.

THEME 2: MANAGING CITIES TO BE FIT FOR THE FUTURE

Over the last 10 years, significant scientific, methodological and practical advances have supported urban climate adaptation. Despite progress, many European cities remain vulnerable to complex, interconnected and often compounding climate risks.

There is an urgent need to scale up existing solutions to a wider range of urban environments. Contributions under this theme can address transformative urban planning, scalable climate services and solutions, innovative financing mechanisms, governance strategies, integrating adaptation with mitigation. Emphasis will be put on addressing barriers to scalability and replicability, tools and methodologies that reflect the diverse needs of cities and addressing the lack of data in planning using digitalization, artificial intelligence, and improved data infrastructure.

The aspects of balancing long-term climate strategies with immediate socio-economic needs, while focusing on climate justice and inclusive transitions, will be of paramount importance. Sessions may also explore the acceleration of urban adaptation through innovative multi-level governance approaches, public-private partnerships, as well as place-based approaches to climate risks, and innovative research methodologies (narratives, climate storytelling, implementation of adaptation pathways, etc.).

THEME 3: PROTECTING MOUNTAIN AND COASTAL AREAS

As climate change intensifies, coastal and mountain regions face critical risks that require targeted adaptation strategies. Coastal regions face rising sea levels, severe storms, coastal erosion, inundation, and coastal heat waves all of which threaten ecosystems, infrastructure, and communities. This theme will cover adaptation strategies and measures such as engineered defences and nature-based solutions, including marine restoration and dune reinforcement. CoastPredict's Global Coast initiative can serve as a reference for climate resilience planning. Sessions will explore actionable strategies for coastal resilience, focusing on predictive modelling, digital twin of coastal areas, adaptive land use, and community engagement that integrates ecological and socio-economic needs.

Mountain regions are also particularly affected by climate change with temperatures rising faster in higher altitude, and natural hazards accelerating. By the end of the century, European mountains are predicted to have changed radically: large glaciers will have experienced significant mass loss; changes will also impact the lower, mid-hills, and floodplain environments. Changes are also predicted in socio-economic contexts (e.g. tourism flows changing). Adaptation in mountain areas requires an integrated approach involving water management, spatial planning, agriculture, forestry, and tourism. Sessions will highlight existing challenges, best practices, nature-based solutions, and the latest knowledge and complementarity between local initiatives, national policies, and global frameworks, in increasing the resilience of European mountain regions.

THEME 4: HUMAN AND LEGAL DIMENSIONS OF CHANGE

Climate change is a risk multiplier with socio-economic, environmental and cultural consequences. In line with the European adaptation agenda that endorses the UN “Leave No One Behind” principle, this theme will feature sessions that explore the human, political and legal dimensions of adaptation efforts.

For the human aspect of this theme, sessions should focus on the fair distribution of benefits of adaptation responses, the avoidance of maladaptation, and broader discussions on environmental justice and social vulnerability in adaptation responses. Sessions should also deal with the evolving architecture of climate change politics, at different governance levels as well as the policy challenges of adaptation. More particularly, contributions that explore innovative approaches to climate change, coupling cross-policy and inter-agency collaboration, to advance progressive and pragmatic understandings of adaptation policies, are welcome.

On the legal dimension, sessions should cover litigation as an emerging tool to address adaptation, with attention to its role in managing business risks for the private sector, as well as challenges for public administrations. Emphasis will be placed on its impact on climate governance, its potential to strengthen adaptation efforts in Europe, and the implications of human rights and due diligence obligations in such cases. Finally, sessions on addressing other conference themes through legal and governance lens are welcome.

THEME 5: ADAPTATION FINANCE: REDUCING COMMUNITIES' ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL VULNERABILITIES

Adaptation finance is a continuing challenge for Europe. With impacts accelerating, global adaptation needs are considerably larger than flows, widening the adaptation gap (UNEP, 2024). The World Bank estimates European investment needs as between €15bn and €64bn a year through to 2030 (World Bank, 2024). The Adaptation Mission recognises finance as a key enabling condition to create a climate resilient Europe (European Commission 2023).

Contributions under this theme will explore new and innovative approaches to boost the supply of adaptation finance. These will include estimating and assessing adaptation finance needs and flows of the EU, Member States and Regions, translating adaptation plans into bankable programmes and projects, engaging the private sector, and developing innovative financial instruments and business models. The theme will also address solutions which help close the insurance protection gap and discuss enabling environments for adaptation including in building adaptive capacity, governance arrangements, policies and regulation, legal instruments, and economic valuation methods. By showcasing real-world examples, this theme aims to advance understanding of how finance can support resilient and inclusive adaptation for communities across Europe.