



6TH WORLD PLANNING SCHOOLS CONGRESS
FINLAND : HELSINKI / ESPOO / TAMPERE

World Planning Schools Congress 2026

PERIPHERAL VISIONS - RETHINKING PLANNING

Book of Abstracts

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2753 | Sabrina Lai, Federica Isola, Federica Leone, Francesca Leccis

A methodological approach for ecosystem-service hotspot identification at the regional scale: Evidence from Basilicata and Campania, Italy.

Evaluating ecosystem services (ESs), the material goods and non-material benefits essential for sustaining human existence and improving quality of life, are a critical component of spatial planning. By regulating modifications in land use, spatial planning can substantially transform the ecological composition and functioning, both in urban areas and in natural or seminatural landscapes. Such transformations influence the availability of ESs and, in turn, affect environmental conditions and societal well-being. In this perspective, this work advances a methodological procedure aimed at delineating ES hotspots, conceived as spatially distinct zones that deliver exceptionally high levels of ES provision, in order to promote more environmentally responsible planning strategies.

The methodological approach comprises two main steps, of which the first consists of a biophysical analysis of three essential regulating ESs: habitat quality, which reflects the capacity of ecological systems to maintain diverse biological communities; carbon storage and sequestration, which captures ecosystems' role in mitigating climate change through the removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere; and land surface temperature, which serves as a diagnostic measure of the thermal regulation provided by vegetated landscapes. In the second stage, hotspots of ES supply are identified based on a combination of spatial statistical techniques, which makes the identification method robust and less prone to the inherent sensitivity associated with each specific technique.

When applied to the southern Italian regions of Campania and Basilicata, this approach facilitates a comparative assessment of the magnitude, configuration, and distribution of ES hotspots across the two areas. Because the framework can be readily adapted to any location where biophysical ES data are available, it provides planners and policymakers with robust, evidence-based guidance to support more sustainable and context-sensitive planning decisions.

2922 | Ana Ruiz-Varona, Enrique Cano-Suñén, Federico Bellisardi, Jose Javier Ramasco
Towards Ecological Planning Based on Territorial Energy and Human Mobility Patterns

Cities are energetic and ecological systems shaped by the continuous interaction between environmental gradients, biophysical processes, and human mobility. This contribution develops a conceptual and methodological framework for ecological planning grounded in the energetic structure of the territory, extending the idea that “nature performs work for man” and that planning must align with natural forces to avoid ecological, social, and energetic costs. Using GIS-based environmental layers, mobility data and physiographic analysis, we argue that the territory should be understood not as a passive surface but as an energy field that channels, constrains and enables urban form. Daily mobility, commonly examined through infrastructure or accessibility lenses, can instead be interpreted as an adaptive energetic process, where individuals and urban systems seek to reduce unnecessary work and stabilize movement within favorable environmental conditions. The proposed approach identifies territorial energy costs (slopes, ecological resistances, natural flows, and environmental fragilities) and integrates them with mobility patterns to reveal where urban development contradicts natural dynamics, generating high environmental burdens, exposure to hazards, or reduced habitability. Conversely, it