

Call for Papers for the 17th European Sociological Association (ESA) Conference

Economic Sociology for Strengthening Democracies: Markets, Solidarity, Sustainable Futures

Warsaw (Poland), 25–28 August 2026



RN09 - Economic Sociology

In dialogue with the ESA 2026 conference theme—Strengthening Democracies: Social Action, Solidarity, and Sustainable Futures—RN09 invites contributions that analyze how economies, markets, organizations, and technologies shape democratic life and collective capacities for inclusion, equality, and ecological sustainability. We seek work that clarifies mechanisms, identifies institutional designs, and assesses policy options that sustain democratic practices. Relevant contexts include digital transformation, widening inequalities, geopolitical conflict, ecological transition, and contested knowledge.

Building on RN09's recent mid-term conference (Berlin, 3–5 Sept 2025), which called for a solution-oriented “positive turn” in economic sociology, we particularly welcome research that couples rigorous explanation with proposals for institutional, organizational, and policy innovation—work that can inform public debate and practice through clear conceptualization, careful evidence, and comparative insight.

Topics of interest (not exhaustive)

- Solidarity, commons, and alternative economies: cooperatives, mutuals, community wealth building, platform cooperativism; procurement and mission-oriented policies.
- Sustainability and the just transition: energy markets and green industrial policy; carbon pricing and climate finance; circular and bio-based economies; agri-food systems; metrics beyond GDP for welfare and planetary boundaries.
- Knowledge, expertise, and public sociology: standards, indicators, and impact evaluation; evidence use in policy and organizations; participatory and comparative methods; open and reproducible research.

- Democratic political economy: market organization and democratic quality; varieties of capitalism and democratic resilience; corporate political power, lobbying, and regulation; taxation, budgeting, central banking, and distributional consequences.
- Work, inequality, and social protection: labor market segmentation and precarity; skills, care and reproductive economies; collective representation and workplace democracy; intersections of class, gender, migration status, and race/ethnicity.
- Finance, money, and governance: financialization of welfare and infrastructure; fintech, crypto and payment systems; public banking, CBDCs/digital euro; accountability and risk.
- Digitalization and AI: platform economies, algorithmic management, data governance and standards; misinformation economies and media infrastructures; digital public goods and infrastructures; automation and employment.
- War, displacement, and securitization: sanctions, supply chains, and dual-use industries; humanitarian markets; refugee reception and integration economies; security, surveillance, and civil liberties.
- European perspectives and peripheries: regional divergence and cohesion; post-socialist transformations; border economies; rural and small-town dynamics; multilevel governance in the EU.
- Conceptual advances in economic sociology: rethinking embeddedness and relational work; new institutionalism and field theory; moral economies and valuation studies; cultural political economy; interdisciplinary approaches at the intersections of sociology, economics, and political science.

Submission scope and formats

The Economic Sociology Research Network RN09 warmly welcomes theoretical, empirical, and methodological contributions across qualitative, quantitative, historical, and computational approaches. We encourage comparative designs and studies engaging with policy, organizational practice, or civil society.

RN09 - Economic Sociology

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Abstract submission for RN09 - Economic Sociology

Abstracts: maximum 250 words, including up to 5 keywords.

Submission via ConfTool: <https://www.confotool.com/esa2026/>

Deadlines 2026

30 January	Abstract submission deadline
Mid-March	Notification of acceptance (sent to abstract submitters via ConfTool)
March/April	Opening of Participant Registration in ConfTool
25-28 August	17th ESA Conference in Warsaw, Poland

ESA 2026 conference website

<https://www.europeansociology.org/conference/2026>

The 17th ESA Conference will take place in an on-site format only.