

**51<sup>st</sup> Congress of the European Regional Science Association**  
**Barcelona, 30th August - 3rd September 2011**  
<http://www.ersa.org/ersa-congress/>

**Special session**  
**Territorial Governance, rural areas and local agro food systems**

This session is a long range one. It follows similar sessions held in ERSA Paris (2007), Liverpool (2008), Lodz (2009) and Jonkoping (2010). A collective book issued from this session is to be published on this topic (Torre A, Traversac J.B., 2011, *Territorial Governance*, Springer Verlag, Heidelberg & N. York), as well as a special issue of *European Planning Studies*. The goal is to gather researchers from various fields and various countries around the question of regional development and territorial governance in rural and peri-urban areas. The outcomes will be included in a new publication.

The renewal of rural areas matches their social and economic structures. Bilateral agreements, agricultural markets, local organizations, firms and other local stakeholders (local governments, associations, groups of producers...) are affected and reshaped by the economic and social changes induced by external and internal pressures. The food systems are under constant moves be there in relation with the other rural actors or in their core activities.

We propose to contributors to present theoretical and empirical findings on the new trends of rural and regional development. The following emphases are particularly welcome:

- (1) Local institutions and territorial governance
- (2) Norms and rules frameworks in rural areas
- (3) Tools for Sustainable Development in rural areas
- (4) Land use conflicts and management
- (5) Food market policies at a regional scale
- (6) Agricultural proximities, local foods and food miles challenge
- (7) Local supports for the renewal of agricultural practices
- (8) Innovation process in agro food systems

Organised by André Torre & Jean-Baptiste Traversac (INRA Agroparistech, France)

**For additional information and registration**

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**Deadline for abstracts: March 4 2011**

**Finished papers: June 1 2011**

**Special Session in the framework of the Program  
For and About Regional Development Research**

