

P22 - Organizing for Sustainability: a multilevel challenge

8. SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS

Alessia Zoppelletto¹ (alessia.zoppelletto@unitn.it)

Bob Bastian¹ (bob.bastian@unitn.it), Diletta Pegoraro² (diletta.pegoraro@polimi.it), Erica Santini¹ (erica.santini@unitn.it), Andrea Caputo¹ (andrea.caputo@unitn.it)

¹ Department of Economics and Management, University of Trento, Trento, Italy

² School of Management, Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy

Track summary: The urgency to take action on broad societal challenges is influencing today market scenario. To understand how these challenges are addressed is relevant to investigate sustainability transitions at different levels of analysis: organizational, inter-organizational or ecosystem and societal levels.

In the last decades, external stakeholder pressures boosted companies' awareness and sense of responsibility in solving both societal and planetary challenges. Therefore, some established organizations (firms but also value chains and clusters), pressured by the need to reconsider their established structures, strategies and business models, progressively started to shape their transition.

While organizations alone seem to be less effective when it comes to tackle grand societal challenges, wider stakeholder collaborations around sustainability are contributing to the sustainable transition of established industries and markets. The need of different interests and actors to collaborate for sustainability-oriented purposes may create resilient organizational architectures transcending organizational boundaries, such as sustainable supply chains, sustainable digital platform ecosystems, sustainable business networks, etc.

Therefore, there is the need to investigate sustainability transitions at different levels, thus addressing challenges and opportunities taking place at organizational, inter-organizational or ecosystem, and societal levels. The track welcomes both empirical and theoretical advanced work-in-progress and full research papers based on qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods investigating the multilevel challenge of organizing for sustainability.