

Building Resilient Futures: Innovation, Sustainability, and Transformation Across the Euro-Mediterranean

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This issue of the *International Journal of Euro-Mediterranean Studies* brings together six contributions that explore the multifaceted nature of sustainability, innovation, and socio-economic transformation across different levels of analysis. Despite their disciplinary diversity, the articles converge around a shared concern: how contemporary societies respond to structural uncertainty through adaptive, context-sensitive strategies.

The issue opens with the contribution by Anders Kjellman and Magnus Lindberg, who develop a comprehensive theoretical framework for fostering sustainability and innovation within the blue economy. Drawing on empirical insights from EU-funded projects in the Baltic Sea region, the authors emphasize the central role of education, entrepreneurial mindset, and the integration of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into university curricula as key drivers of long-term transformation.

This conceptual foundation is complemented by the applied study of Mustapha Anwar Brahami, Amina Ouhoud, and Ikram Kouider, who examine container storage optimization in Mediterranean ports, focusing on the case of Ghazaouet in Algeria. Through advanced modelling techniques and a simulated annealing algorithm, the authors demonstrate how logistical efficiency can be aligned with environmental objectives, contributing to reduced energy consumption and improved port performance.

The third contribution, by Youcef Messaoudi, shifts the focus to the digital transformation of higher education. Analysing the EL@N Erasmus+ project at the University of Tlemcen, the study highlights both

the opportunities and structural constraints associated with implementing local e-learning platforms. While institutional commitment and international collaboration create favourable conditions, persistent challenges related to infrastructure, digital literacy, and policy continuity remain central to the transformation process.

At the level of governance and security, the article by Luka Juri provides a critical reflection on Slovenia's strategic positioning within NATO. By questioning the sufficiency of alliance-based security guarantees and exploring alternative strategic pathways, the contribution invites broader debate on autonomy, preparedness, and resilience in small-state security policy.

The socio-economic dimension of resilience is further explored by Oualid Benalla and Abderrahman Messaoudi, who analyse how social entrepreneurs build and manage trust in resource-constrained environments. Their work conceptualizes trust as a dynamic and multi-layered process, demonstrating its central role in establishing legitimacy, securing resources, and ensuring the sustainability of social ventures.

Finally, the issue concludes with the contribution by Polona Oblak, which addresses cultural and linguistic sustainability through the case of the Amazigh language. The study highlights the importance of institutional recognition, educational integration, and community engagement in preserving linguistic diversity, positioning cultural continuity as a fundamental pillar of sustainable development.

Taken together, the articles in this issue demonstrate that sustainability must be understood as a multidimensional process encompassing environmental, technological, institutional, social, and cultural domains. From blue economy innovation and maritime logistics to digital education, governance, social trust, and linguistic preservation, the contributions highlight the need for integrated and context-aware approaches.

In an era defined by rapid transformation and global interdependence, this issue offers valuable insights into how resilience can be cultivated across systems and scales. It invites readers to engage with the complex interplay between innovation, policy, and culture in shaping more sustainable and inclusive futures.

