



UPhD Green 2026 | Conference of PhD Projects dedicated to Sustainability | IX Edition
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Complex transformations and special programs

The challenges of research between planning, governance, and territorial legacy

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The theme of the IX Edition

Major events, large-scale public works, and extraordinary regeneration programs have always been privileged instruments for urban and territorial transformation. From universal expositions and international sporting events to macro-regional infrastructural projects, and from complex urban redevelopment plans (such as those tied to extraordinary funding streams) to temporary and local activations, these transformations deeply mark development processes. They represent extraordinary opportunities for design experimentation, economic development, social innovation, and the strategic positioning of places on both a national and international scale.

However, the impact of such programs on spatial areas characterized by delicate environmental, social, and institutional balances often generates tensions, contradictions, and asymmetries. While on one hand extraordinary intervention acts as an accelerator of resources and investments, on the other hand managing its medium- and long-term effects introduces highly complex challenges for ordinary planning. Indeed, mega-projects and major events leave permanent, multidimensional legacies (*legacy*): land consumption dynamics, accelerations in tourism phenomena (*overtourism*) and gentrification, but also opportunities for ecological repurposing, energy transition, and the reactivation of marginal or fragile territories.

In this scenario, scientific research plays a central role in the critical analysis of complex transformations, offering methodological, interpretative, and evaluative tools capable of guiding governance and planning toward equitable, resilient, and sustainable development trajectories. The Conference intends to promote an open and transdisciplinary reflection, welcoming original contributions from PhD candidates and researchers addressing the theme through a plurality of scales (metropolitan, urban, local) and methodological approaches.



Proposed contributions must integrate into one or more of the following axes:

- **A. Programming and planning of complex transformations** Integration of extraordinary interventions into ordinary planning. Multi-actor and multi-scale decision-making processes, chrono-urbanism, temporary use of spaces, and involvement of local communities in balancing urgency and strategic visions.
- **B. Management, governance, and eco-justice in large-scale interventions** Institutional, private, or collaborative organizational models (subsidiarity pacts). Flow management, ecological transition of processes, resolution of socio-environmental conflicts in construction sites, monitoring, and *in-itinere* evaluation.
- **C. Legacy, long-term impacts, and just transitions** Evaluation of multidimensional impacts in the medium-to-long term. Ecological conversion of decommissioned spaces and infrastructures, tackling inequalities, and critical reading of gentrification, overtourism, and territorial branding phenomena.

How to participate

The call is open to PhD candidates enrolled in PhD programs in Italy or abroad who have not yet obtained their degree. To apply, candidates must fill out the form available at the following link: <https://forms.gle/wYiDHfEfPMnFaohJA> by entering their details and submitting an abstract in both Italian and English (approximately 300 words) by **September 13, 2026**.

Evaluation and selection

Abstracts will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee based on the following criteria:

- **Relevance** to the themes proposed by the call.
- **Innovativeness** of the approach, the methodologies adopted, and the conclusions reached.
- **Scientific rigor** of the research methodology followed.
- **Impact of the research** on society and on real processes of planning, design, and territorial governance.

The selection results will be communicated by **October 3, 2026**. The non-acceptance of an abstract does not preclude the possibility of attending the conference: indeed, all call participants are invited to take part in the event and actively contribute to the discussion.



Participation costs

By **October 12, 2026**, selected authors must send their proof of payment for the participation fee, which amounts to **€100** (reduced to **€80** for INU and/or SIEV members, subject to verification via membership card), to the following email addresses: urbanpromo.uphd@gmail.com and tesoreria@urbit.it.

Bank Transfer Details:

- **Payment Reason (Causale):** First Name Last Name - UPhD Green 2026
- **Beneficiary:** Urbit - Urbanistica Italiana Srl, Via Castro dei Volsci 14, Roma
- **Bank:** Banca Intesa
- **IBAN:** IT72 F 03069 09606 100000155381

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