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Table of contents

Editorial Note.....	9
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ARTICLES

1. Cities and Sustainable Urban Planning in Transition. <i>Antonella Romanelli</i>	13
2. Eco-Innovation in SMEs and Internationalization. <i>Valentina Battista, Caterina Nicolais</i>	27
3. Equity Matters. Financing the International Environment Fund (I.E.F.) through G7 SDRs quotas. <i>Gabriele Casano</i>	43

Editorial Note

2022 is in fact still a pandemic year for the GeoProgres Journal and the issues we publish contain only Articles, there are no Documents or other Columns relating to ongoing scientific debates. The pandemic has effectively reduced investigations and relationships outside one's own research center. Therefore, the number of articles proposed for publication has also decreased and even more those approved for publication.

The three articles in this first issue are, however, not only of a good standard in terms of social and scientific interests, but also representative of some of the research topics favored by this journal and by the association that publishes it.

The first, by Antonella Romanelli, considers cities, particularly some of the most urgent sustainability problems of their development (such as pollution, energy waste) and planning progress - a territorial governance tool that Geoprogress intends to promote, consistently with its Statute -. These topics have been the object, especially in recent years, of many scientific contributions from different disciplines, each of which favors some aspects over others. This article highlights that cities are playing a leading role towards sustainable development especially enabling citizens as responsible consumers and producers.

It could contribute to the development of a truly integrated approach to urban studies and planning, unfortunately still often dominated by a vision of the territory, typical of certain planners and geographers, which favors its physical aspects.

The paper of Valentina Battista and Caterina Nicolais also deals with sustainability considering the SMEs and specifically with eco-innovation which is, according to UNEP, «a new business approach which promotes sustainability throughout the entire life cycle of a product, while also boosting a company's performance and competitiveness. It can help small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) access new and expanding markets, increase productivity, attract new investment into the business, increase profitability across the value chain, and help SMEs stay ahead of regulations and standards – notably those related to the environment. »

This paper investigates the effect of eco-innovation on internationalization of European SMEs, a relationship that does not seem to have been sufficiently analyzed. Moreover, using the Ordinary Least Square (OLS) method the research tries to ascertain whether eco-innovation policies have a positive impact on SMEs internationalization.

Development is not sustainable if sustainability is not global: no one, not even the most powerful or the smallest nation, can close its territory under a glass bell, to defend its climate and its natural resources and also its environment society from external changes and pressures. Sustainability is achieved with multiple interventions, especially local ones, which require non-scale policies and last but not least agreements between nations for the construction of a more balanced and equitable international ecological system.

The need for this new order, i.e. international rules and a regulatory tool which make it possible, is recalled in the third paper, by Gabriele Casano. The paper in fact gives a relevant contribution for updating the proposal of building the International Environment Fund (I.E.F.), intended as a

compensation fund and regulator of environmental balance between nations (proposal that I still consider essential, thirty years after the UN conference in Rio de Janeiro, where it received the opposition of the richest and most ecologically indebted countries). In particular the paper of G. Casano defines an important funding channel for the I.E.F., which could « guarantee its operativity in the long term and which - potentially - provides greater financial availability. Following the 2021 IMF's large-scale General Allocation, an almost unrepeatably opportunity has arisen for financing the I.E.F. through portions of SDRs quotas belonging to countries in debt in environmental terms, guaranteeing respect for the principle of equity and international justice. »

Francesco Adamo