

TS-07

DECISION SUPPORT IN THE URBAN CONTEXT IN THE DIGITAL AGE: INTERACTIONS AND UNCERTAINTIES (SUITE)

Keywords: Problem Structuring Methods; Multi-Criteria Decision Analyses; Urban Transformations; Project; Digital Innovation.

In a world accelerated by technology and digital innovation, it is important to reflect on the role of decision-support tools in an urban context. This session, which starts from a research project called SUITE funded by the DIST Department of the Politecnico di Torino, specifically discusses two families of methodologies, Problem Structuring Methods (PSMs) and Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA). PSMs were conceived over 40 years ago, so the question of their relevance seems legitimate (Lami and White, 2022).

Defined as participatory and interactive methods focused primarily on structuring problems rather than solving them directly (Rosenhead, 1996), they were developed to address complex and ill-structured problems. MCDA (Figueira et al, 2016; Ishizaka & Nemery, 2013; Munda, 2019), on the other hand, is an umbrella term for quanti-qualitative approaches aimed at supporting the systematic evaluation of alternatives in terms of multiple and often conflicting objectives. MCDAs aim to assist decision-makers in identifying a set of criteria on which to base a decision, to confirm that relevant issues have been adequately considered (Belton and Stewart, 2002). This session takes a position in favor of their relevance. In particular, the session would like to discuss how complex contextual conditions may have changed the way decision-support tools are used and the purpose for which they are applied, in relation to digital tools.

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