Innovation is becoming an imperative for the development of individuals, organizations and territories, especially in the current context in which the concepts of society and knowledge economy have taken a key role. This call for proposals assumes social innovation as widely as possible, as an ongoing process strengthening the skills of local communities, within a perspective of territorial resilience (Alberio 2017; Vicari and Mingione 2017). A significant aspect of social innovation is its territorial dimension. Despite the fact that territory is often mentioned in several studies on social innovations, it is in our opinion often unexplored.

We can look at the concept of social innovation in continuity with some traditional studies on local social movements, having focused on the needs of local actors, on their skills, and on their efforts for resource mobilization within a well-defined space (Côté, Klein, and Proulx, 1995; Alberio and Mbaye, 2015; Moralli, Alberio and Klein 2017). Social innovation can be crucial in several areas, for example in public services, in the private sector or in associations. Independently or in combination with other systems, some local initiatives are potentially able to provide answers to local and global needs.
In order to define a new proposal as innovative, at least three elements are required (Fontan, 2011):

- A purpose designed as a solution to a problem, in order to enable a positive change.
- A mobilization strategy at different levels (local, national, institutional, etc.).
- A proposal, a negotiation or an imposition of a decision affecting new ways of use, likely to become a social innovation.

At the same time, we want to stress the fact that social innovation is not just a product or something new, but rather a process being able to increase the "social rationality" which is useful for local actors to implement positive change and to improve the structural and relational conditions of a local community (Donolo and Fichera, 1988).

In this sense, innovation is embedded in the territory where it takes shape, according to its spatial and social characteristics, following, at least in part, a path dependency process. Individuals and groups take further the innovation. Social relations become therefore very effective tools of mobilization, in order to achieve concrete results (Murray et al., 2010).

This call for proposal insists on the constructive (developing) aspects of social innovation as a territorial process. The place and its role in social innovation will be the core of this session. As we have stated, analysis often neglect this element. It is usually more about case studies and specific examples that do not really provide a precise comprehension of this territorial dimension. Territory as a privileged perspective in reading social innovation practices will therefore be the focus of this session.

We wish to gather researchers exploring this territorial dimension of social innovation from a theoretical, empirical or methodological point of view. Cases studies going deeper into this issue are also welcomed. They can concern different countries (including African and Latin American countries), different fields (social policies and intervention; technology; production; services etc.) involving both public institutions, private sector, NGOs and community groups etc. The types of territories involved can be urban or rural (or in any other in-between category), and may concern already established social innovations as well as developing social innovations.

To understand the meaning of social innovation for local actors and communities we can assume some research questions (without limiting to them) such as:

Which is the relation between social innovation and territory?
How to “territorialize” social innovation?
How can social innovation contribute to territory and community development?
How to understand contemporary society, especially at local level, through the concept of social innovation?
Is it possible and, if so, how, to govern social innovation?

REFERENCES
