



International Scientific Conference

# INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND GEOPOLITICS: THE FUTURE OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

University of Niš, Faculty of Economics  
15 October 2026

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## CALL FOR PAPERS

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The Faculty of Economics, University of Niš, cordially invites researchers, academics, policymakers, and professionals to submit original research papers for the international scientific conference *Innovation, Sustainability and Geopolitics: The Future of the Global Economy*.

In an era marked by profound technological change, climate challenges, geopolitical tensions, and structural transformations of the global economic system, this conference aims to provide a multidisciplinary platform for discussing the key forces shaping the future of economies, societies, and institutions worldwide.

The conference is structured around three main thematic tracks:

### **1. Innovation, Digital Transformation and New Growth Models**

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This thematic area examines how innovation is generated, diffused, and governed across firms, industries, and regions. Particular attention is given to innovation systems, entrepreneurial ecosystems, business model change, and the managerial and workforce implications of digitalisation and artificial intelligence. Contributions addressing Industry 4.0 and the role of industrial and innovation policies in shaping regional development are especially welcome.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Innovation systems, knowledge creation, and technology transfer mechanisms
- Entrepreneurial ecosystems, startups, and scale-up dynamics
- Business model innovation in platform-based and data-driven economies
- Managerial implications of digitalisation and artificial intelligence
- Leadership and workforce transformation in innovation-driven economies
- Impacts of Industry 4.0 and smart technologies in manufacturing and services
- Innovation and industrial policy for regional development.

## **2. Sustainability, Green Transition and Inclusive Development**

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This track focuses on the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It addresses the challenges of climate change, energy transition, circular and regenerative economic models, and the need for inclusive and resilient growth pathways.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Climate change mitigation and adaptation mechanisms in green economies
- Systemic and organizational impacts of circular and regenerative economic models
- Sustainable finance, ESG, and sustainability impacts assessment
- Social inequality, inclusion, and cohesion in sustainability transitions
- Sustainable cities and regional resilience under environmental and economic pressures
- Energy transition pathways and resource efficiency

## **3. Geopolitical Shifts and the Reconfiguration of the Global Economy**

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This track examines how geopolitical transformations reshape global markets, trade relations, value chains, and development strategies. It aims to analyse the economic implications of a multipolar world, geopolitical conflicts, strategic competition, and new forms of global governance.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- De-globalization, fragmentation, and new trade blocs
- Geopolitics of energy, resources, and supply chains
- Global value chains under geopolitical pressure
- Economic sanctions, trade wars, and strategic autonomy
- Emerging economies and the multipolar world
- Global governance and institutional change

## **Submission Guidelines**

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Researchers are invited to submit original, unpublished papers that contribute to theoretical, empirical, or policy-oriented debates related to the conference themes. All submissions will undergo a double-blind peer review process.

Accepted papers will be published in the official conference proceedings, with selected papers considered for publication in partner journals.

The papers should be written in English or Serbian. Full papers, prepared in accordance with Template, should be sent by e-mail to: [ns2026@eknfak.ni.ac.rs](mailto:ns2026@eknfak.ni.ac.rs).

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- 20 August 2026 - Full paper submission deadline
- 20 September 2026 - Full paper acceptance notification

Registration fee: 30 € per author

Registration fee covers: Conference proceedings and conference material, refreshments during the Conference, lunch after the Conference

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