



Special Session Proposal

Effects of Digitalization and COVID19 on regional employment

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Abstract

Past recessions had long-lasting impacts on regional employment levels, causing long-term declines in employment in strongly affected regions. We are cordially inviting papers or extended abstracts that investigate how the COVID-19 crisis affects employment across a country's local or regional labour markets in the short to medium run. In particular, we welcome research on the role of digitalisation in affecting the employment responses. Digitalisation effects may appear in two dimensions (or a combination of both): digital competence/skills of the employees, the self-employed and the entrepreneurs on the hand, and digital infrastructure on the other. Of particular interest are studies that consider whether these effects differ between urban and rural regions. Also, simultaneous cross-country and interregional comparisons regarding the effects of COVID19 and/or of ongoing digitalisation are much appreciated. Working-from-home as the most obvious phenomenon of the pandemic's catalytic function for digitalisation, does also belong to the aspects that deserve attention when assessing the impact of COVID19 and digitalisation on sub-national regions.