



Special Session Proposal

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Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence



EUROPEAN UNION



“Geography of COVID-19 outbreak and policy answers in regions and cities”

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Abstract

In the first months of 2020, COVID-19 has affected many European countries and millions of people around the world. European regions have also been hit but it was soon observed that the regional and local impact of the COVID-19 crisis was and remains highly heterogeneous, with a strong territorial dimension that has important consequences for crisis management and policy responses. The severity of the crisis has led almost all European governments to put in place – more or less strictly – measures to limit economic and social activities. However, local administrations and, when they exist, governments at subnational level are responsible for crucial issues of containment measures, health care, social services, economic development, and public investment, putting them at the frontline of crisis management. The territorial and spatial dimension of this crisis needs thus to be considered. Indeed, the institutional context, particularly social institutions, also shapes the response to the spread of infection of Covid-19 illness. Managing the recent crisis between the different levels of government (local, national and supranational) appears thus to be a central element highlighted by the OECD.

The objective of this special session is to contribute to the understanding of the channels of spread of the epidemic, to emphasize the regional socio-economic dimension and to

compare the different measures and policies adopted at the regional level. We invite authors to propose papers pursuing one of the two following objectives:

1) Understanding the spread of the virus and its determinants at all scales

More than ever, the epidemic of coronavirus infection makes visible through space the social facts that regional science questions at all scales. In this special session we are welcoming papers that address at global, European, national, local and even the finest scales the determinants of COVID-19 and its spread. The analysis of socio-economic determinants and spatial characteristics will be particularly welcome.

2) An overview of policy answers to the COVID-19 at regional/local level

The EU's response to COVID-19 is based on four priorities: (i) limiting the spread of the virus ; (ii) ensuring the supply of medical equipment ; (iii) promote research on treatments and vaccines, (iv) supporting jobs, businesses and the economy. In the same time, local authorities are/were at the first line of the pandemic. Consequently, various territorial responses have been introduced with the aim of limiting the spread COVID-19. In this special session we are welcoming papers that address analyses of policy answers to the COVID-19.