



Special Session Proposal

The Relevance of Digitalization for Clusters and Entrepreneurship - Empirical Studies of Processes, Relationships and Policy

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Abstract

During last three decades, clusters and entrepreneurship have become central academic fields of interest and a large literature has emerged on these subjects. However, with the rapid development of digitization and the further triggering of new approaches by Covid-19, the subject has gained new dimensions, concerning theoretical, empirical and policy-oriented research. How does digitization affect cluster and entrepreneurship processes? What effects does digitization have on the relationship between entrepreneurial activities and clusters? How does digitization affect communication within clusters, the dissemination of information, the birth of new ventures, and spin-off process? What effects does digitization have on the competitiveness of entrepreneurial firms and clusters? How does digitization affect the location of start-ups, including whether they locate within or outside of clusters?

This special session is meant to bring together researchers working on these topics theoretically, empirically or with a policy focus. In particular, we welcome submissions that deal with, but are not necessarily constrained to, the following:

- The role of digital adoption by entrepreneurs on agglomeration economies
- The effect of digitization on spatial disparities of entrepreneurship
- The impact of digitization on the development and diversification of clusters

- The influence of digitization on small cities or remote areas
- The contribution of digitization to avoiding lock in problem in industrial clusters, specifically remote areas, and to the outside connection of clusters
- The role of digitizing for the location of start-ups.
- Changes in the relevance of the entrepreneurial ecosystem