

Urban Challenges
and Sustainable Technological Revolution



Special Session Proposal

Institutions, digitalization and territorial transformations

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Abstract

The relation between digitalization, institutions and the territorial transformations represents one of the main topics of interest for the research focused on the new technological revolution (Brynjolfsson and Kahin, 2002; Carlsson, 2004; Jadaan, 2019; Haefner and Sternberg, 2020). Furthermore, recent approaches on the topic focused on the importance of territorial capital, local territorial resources, and the introduction of smart specialization as a core element in the territorial strategies.

Nevertheless, two major related topics subjects require further research:

a) *The role of institutions in mediating the territorial transformations related to digitalization process.* The digitalization could be considered a process of exogenous institutional and territorial disruption, through the conflict between the institutions that block digitalization and those that generate the need for institutional innovation (new laws, new contracts, new behaviors, practices, values).

b) *Assessing the digital disparities.* The way in which the governance structures integrate in the development policies multidimensional aspects adapted to the various contexts in continuous change, will make the difference between territories.

This special session aims to bring together new theoretical approaches and empirical research results, focusing on the challenges of digitalization. We welcome contributions on, but not limited to:

- the role of institutions in digitalization acceleration;
- smart specialization;
- empirical studies on regional and local measures for boosting the digitalization process;
- digital territorial capital;
- the drivers of digitalization;
- the innovative role of organizations, entrepreneurs, employees in digitalization process;
- new approaches to reduce the disruptive effects of digitalization;
- AI, IoT, and the territories of tomorrow.

Accepted papers for this session could be submitted for publication in a special issue of **Eastern Journal of European Studies** (<http://ejes.uaic.ro/>), journal indexed in Clarivate Analytics, Scopus, Index Copernicus, ProQuest, DOAJ databases.