



Special Session

S02: Industry 4.0 in clusters & industrial districts

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<https://ersa.eventsair.com/60th-ersa-congress-bolzano-italy/special-session-themes>



Abstract

Generally, **Industry 4.0** encompasses the digitization of manufacturing, constituting the manufacturing-dedicated digitization of business and industries. Industry 4.0 is also known as the *Industrial Internet of Things* and refers to a new paradigm of digital-based manufacturing and industrial inter-firm connected value (e.g., Kagermann et al., 2013). The concept includes different digital enabling technologies, such as *the Internet of Things, Additive Manufacturing, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, Augmented and Virtual Reality, and Blockchain*, among others. Industry 4.0 in clusters and regions is nascent. How does Industry 4.0 shape industrial clusters and districts? What are the fundamental policy initiatives developed to fit Industry 4.0 to clusters, regional development and firm competitiveness?

This Special Issue attempts to provide a cross-fertilization of different literatures and perspectives, integrating firm innovation, competitiveness and clusters/regional literature.

The papers presented can be considered for publication in a **SPECIAL ISSUE** in the *Journal of Regional Research (Investigaciones Regionales*, in Spanish), listed in Clarivate (Emerging Sourcing Citation Index) and SCOPUS (Q2).

Potential topics and research questions for the special issue may include, but are not limited to:

- How does Industry 4.0 shape industrial clusters' and regions' competitiveness?
- Industry 4.0 in cluster firms: individual and collective strategies
- How does Industry 4.0 promote collective actions for cluster firms transition into digitization?
- How are policymakers and policy initiatives responding to this challenge? What are the innovation policies promoting Industry 4.0 and digitization in general?

- What are potential barriers constraining clusters adaptation to Industry 4.0?
- How does Industry 4.0 shape collaboration for innovation in clusters and regions?

Papers presented in this Special Session will be offered to become candidates for a Special Issue in Journal of Regional Research. The Journal of Regional Research – Investigaciones Regionales is the flagship journal of the Spanish Regional Science Association (<https://investigacionesregionales.org/en/>).

While being specialized in regional issues, this journal is multidisciplinary and strongly devoted to European and Latin American topics. It is an academic journal, where all papers are subject to a double and blind review process. The journal is full Open Access, free for authors and readers. It is indexed in Clarivate's Analytics Emerging Sources Citation Index and in Scopus.