

S45 New working spaces, innovation and inclusion

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The special session focuses on new and emerging working spaces in cities and regions fostered by the sharing and collaborative economy. These include collaborative spaces such as coworking spaces maker spaces as well as mobile spaces. Direct benefits of new working spaces for freelancers and independent workers relate to knowledge transfer, informal (social) exchange, cooperation and forms of horizontal interaction with others, and business opportunities (Spinuzzi, 2012). These benefits might occur because of geographical, social, organizational, institutional, or cognitive proximity (Boschma, 2005). Additional indirect effects – which are much less understood – might concern the urban context new working spaces are located in, and are associated with how embedded locally they are and whether and how they developed connections to innovation and social inclusion. Particularly, this session seeks to better understand the indirect effects of new and collaborative working spaces spanning from community building, social inclusion/exclusion, and the improvement of surrounding public space, to wider urban revitalization. Besides, an answer to the following questions is advocated: are new working spaces of the collaborative economy enhancing gentrification?; whether and how can they make a contribution to social innovation?