



Special Session Proposal

Structural Change and Resilience in Local Labour Markets

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Abstract

Periods of structural change has always entailed transaction costs for individuals and firms through the pressure to adjust to new ways of work and demand for skills. Workers with obsolete skills in declining industries often face difficulties finding new employment opportunities, whereas growing firms may face difficulties in finding the workers and skills needed to produce new goods and services. Governments often find it difficult to cope with these structural imbalances and matching challenges in the labour market, hence facing increasing costs of unemployment and re-skilling initiatives.

Alongside the unfolding of structural change, regional economies also face sudden crisis events that put pressure on their ability to provide income and opportunities for the locals. Regional economies can be regarded as webs of specialized production units, largely dependent on the technologies, skills and tacit knowledge integrated in the process of value creation. Through these connections regions are more exposed to external shocks due to their increasing openness and interdependencies with the global economy, and they tend to have specific ways in which their internal division of labour is organized, which may open them up to internal disturbances. Indeed, some regions are better able to withstand economic shocks and develop new growth paths than others, the reasons for which are still not fully understood.

With this in mind the ANET Lab of KRTK, CERUM and the Department of Geography of Umeå University, and the interdisciplinary community of the Swedish Labour Mobility Lab are pleased to announce the special session on “*Structural Change and Resilience in Local Labour Markets*” to be held at the 61th ERSA Congress in 2022 in Pécs, Hungary. The special session aims to establish a platform for interdisciplinary discussions focusing on aspects of structural change and resilience unfolding in local labour markets. We intend to bring together scholars who are working in the intersection of economic geography, economic history, labour economics and network science or related fields.

Conceptual or methodological developments in the above domains are both welcome. Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Structural change in regions
- Emerging and declining worker skills
- Automation, remote work and green transition in local labour markets
- Regional economic resilience
- Resilient local economic networks
- Analysis of job advertisements