



Alicante, Spain & Virtual event

Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution



Special Session Proposal

Digitalisation, global shocks and new inequalities

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Abstract

Workers, firms, regions and cities are increasingly subject to rapidly changing environment and are experiencing a rapid evolution of economic and technological circumstances. The global COVID-19 pandemic and recent surge of energy prices in Europe require ever increasing capability of adaptation, innovation and creativity from people, firms and local policy makers.

The adoption of advanced technologies can boost firms resilience against local and global shocks. At the same time, the emergence and adoption of advanced technologies, from automation to Artificial Intelligence, can also induce disruptive consequences for firms and people. Moreover, local and firm characteristics can determine the impact of global shocks, their adaptability to new circumstances, the ability to adopt new technologies and the impact on spatial productivity.

This special session invites papers that aim to measure and estimate indicators of technology development and adoption and its impact on the performance of firms and other organisations as well as broader social implications, such on inequality, e.g. through varying effects on workers, and the resilience of places and local labour markets.

Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- digitalisation and adoption of advanced technologies by firms and the public sector,
- the consequences of remote working for firms and places,
- the implications of energy intensive sectors and energy efficiency on regional economies and jobs,
- the spatial reorganisation of global value chains and internationalisation strategies of firms facing the global COVID-19 pandemic, energy crisis and green transition,
- the new spatial inequalities emerging from the new technological trends and global upheaval.

For each of these, the session welcomes papers discussing the implications for workers, firms, regional productivity and regional policy.