



Alicante, Spain & Virtual event

## Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution

### Special Session Proposal

#### Global Value Chains and regional development

Roberta Capello – Politecnico di Milano ([roberta.capello@polimi.it](mailto:roberta.capello@polimi.it))

Roberto Dellisanti ([roberto.dellisanti@polimi.it](mailto:roberto.dellisanti@polimi.it))

Giovanni Perucca ([giovanni.perucca@polimi.it](mailto:giovanni.perucca@polimi.it))

#### Abstract

After a strong wave of global integration from the mid-1980s to the end of the first decade of the 21st century, several globalization forces eased. More recently, there is evidence that these trends may even be reversing. The reasons behind this shift are multiple, linked to changes in geopolitics, rising concerns about globalization's impacts on inequality, environmental degradation, and major challenges to the international fragmentation of production. The COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have only heightened these shifts, whose longer-term effects are still far from being clear.

A key factor to understand the evolution of globalization trends is the extent to which global value chains (GVCs) and global production networks (GPNs), which have expanded rapidly in the recent past, endure. After decades characterized by the off-shoring of production activities towards less developed countries, the deep changes in the terms of trade deriving from the mutated international conditions induced the emergence of back- and near-shoring phenomena.

In spite of this evidence, however, very little is known on the sub-national geography of these phenomena and on their impact on regional economies. Our special session aims at contributing to the discussion on these topics. More precisely, contributions focused on the following issues are welcome:

- How did the sub-national geography of GVCs and GPNs change in the recent past? Which factors explained these changes?
- Which regional characteristics favored processes of back- or near-shoring?
- What are the consequences, for instance in terms of competitiveness and/or disparities, of regional participation into GVCs/GPNs?

The multidisciplinary nature of the topic makes the ERSA conference an ideal forum in which to debate these issues. Economists, geographers, sociologists and political scientists are therefore invited to contribute to the special session.