

Urban Challenges and Sustainable Technological Revolution



Special Session Proposal

Night-time economy : impact, costs and policies

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Abstract

The repopulation of urban central districts together with the development of cultural and urban leisure have emerged since the 1980s as key elements of policies favoured by the local authorities to regenerate post-industrial cities. The objective was twofold i) the culture-led repopulation of urban central districts by encouraging people to move back to more central locations to live in ii) and the development of cultural and leisure activities to make city centres attractive locations for leisure and socialization, the so called « movida »-

However, the policy implications of these two issues may collide because tensions are likely to emerge between residents in gentrifying neighbourhoods and nightlife businesses due to the nuisance effects of the latter especially because cultural and leisure activities soon became alcohol-centred activities.

Night-time economy is a complex phenomenon that carries contradictory effects: social and economic benefits due to commercial activities and social interactions, but also difficulties related to the impact of alcohol on crime and disorders, coupled with public nuisance caused by recreational noise pollution.

The proposed session is addressed at papers investigating consequences, both social and economic, of night time economy, on the distinct players such as residents, night managers and workers, customers, local authorities.

Particular attention can be paid to social and health costs deriving from night time leisure activities in the cities and to the policies to be implemented.