

Special Session Proposal

Regional Disparities in Social Infrastructure

Anna-Theresa RENNER and Michael GETZNER
(both Vienna University of Technology / TU Wien)

Abstract

Social infrastructure and institutions are part of everyday life as they provide essential goods and services for all citizens, and are, hence, fundamental for people and businesses alike. Usually, healthcare, education, housing and other services and facilities enhancing population well-being, e.g. through culture and recreation, but also through targeted social services for marginalized groups, are understood to be integral parts of social infrastructure (SI). All of these domains are constantly affected by social, demographic, economic, ecological, and spatial developments. For example, global trends such as climate change alter the needs for SI services whilst digitization influences the regulation, planning, management and provision of social infrastructure. In turn, the regulation, provision and funding of SI may also influence some of these developments, such as depopulation in rural areas, or regional economic activities.

In this special session research on all sub-fields of social infrastructure are welcome. In particular, we are interested in topics related to the reasons and implications of regional inequalities and the urban/rural divide in accessibility and availability of social infrastructure.