

Urban Challenges
and Sustainable Technological Revolution



Special Session Proposal

Planning territorial healthcare services using data science approaches

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Abstract

Investments in healthcare services have always constituted a large proportion of countries' GDP all around the world. Consistently, the appropriate organization and distribution of healthcare services are recognized to be crucial strategic decisions of interest of different stakeholders, varying from governors and policymakers to healthcare practitioners and patients.

Continuous changes and improvements in the supply of healthcare services are necessary to adapt the service provision to both predicted variations in population needs and exogenous shocks. These include, among all, increasing urbanization, climate change, population ageing, and the adoption of new technologies. Additionally, an efficient and well-designed distribution of healthcare infrastructure on the territory is acknowledged to have positive effects from multiple perspectives, including both healthcare-related output and economic impact.

After COVID-19, many governments dedicated huge investments to healthcare, which comprise the reorganization of territorial services. The investments are finalized to increase the accessibility of healthcare facilities, optimize the allocation of (scarce) healthcare resources on the territory, and, more generally, provide a more efficient service.

Under these circumstances, the aim of this special session is to collect research contributions that rely on data science approaches and methodologies to respond to

new territorial healthcare challenges and opportunities. The special section welcomes submissions that focus on issues such as:

- The spatial distribution of healthcare services and facilities and its impact on the local areas
- The spatial inequality in access to healthcare
- Interregional patients' mobility
- The allocation of healthcare resources and its impact on the territory
- The role of digitalization and remote healthcare services in the spatial distribution of facilities
- The role of healthcare facilities in the area where they are located
- The effect of a re-organization of healthcare services on the local areas
- The impact of regional healthcare decentralization/centralization