



Special Session Proposal

Telework in post COVID times: trends and challenges for the future

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Abstract

Recent years have brought vast changes in the organization of work and offices. After the COVID-19 pandemic, it is expected that a substantial proportion of people will maintain the telework labor regime (at least for a part of the week). This uptake in telework impacts not just the mobility and travel patterns with potential environmental gains and new daily family opportunities, but also the location of firms with consequences in the redefinition of economic centralities in the territories. The effects of telework on firm location are a somewhat controversial matter (although still an understudied theme in current literature) with studies pointing either to job dispersion or even to its de-territorialization, with large impacts in entrepreneurial costs, real state prize effects and emerging new retail and services location, as teleworkers tend to shop closer to home. Nevertheless, telework adoption is unevenly distributed across regions, either in cities/metropolises and rural territories, but also between different economic activities and professions and functions.

This special session aims to discuss the adoption of telework and its impacts on economic (decrease of mobility costs on family budgets, reduction in operational costs, higher/lower productivity, etc.), social (work and life management, migration from cities to rural places, health impacts, etc.) and environmental (increase in non-work trips, higher distance per trip, reduction of offices waste, emission reduction, etc.) issues.