Global Challenges and Regional Responses in a transition era
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Special Session Proposal

Digital Transformation, Artificial Intelligence, and Regional Development: Productivity, Competitiveness, and Territorial Dynamics

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Abstract

We invite submissions to a Special Session focused on the intersections between digital transformation, artificial intelligence (AI), and territorial development. The session aims to gather contributions that examine how emerging digital technologies reshape regional economies, firm performance, and sustainable development trajectories.

We welcome papers addressing (but not limited to) the following themes:

- The impact of AI adoption on firm-level productivity, competitiveness, and innovation.
- The role of territories, spatial structures, and regional assets in enabling or constraining digital transformation.
- Interactions between AI, industrial structure, human capital, and regional specialization.
- The contribution of digitalization and AI to sustainability, resilience, and regional transitions.
- Comparative or case-study analyses exploring digital and technological gaps across regions.

Papers presented in this Special Session could be eligible for consideration for a forthcoming **Special Issue of the Journal of Regional Research, which will be announced during 2026.**
We look forward to receiving contributions that advance our understanding of how AI and digital transformation interact with regional dynamics, shaping new opportunities and challenges for firms and territories alike.