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Smart Regions - Opportunities for Sustainable Development in the Digital Era

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Special Session (SS44) on:

Mapping Co-Working Spaces: Spatial Patterns and Location Factors

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Context

The spatial patterns of working places have been the subject of the substantial changes in recent years. New forms of working spaces such as co-working spaces, flexible offices, hacker-spaces, maker-spaces, FabLabs, innovation hubs, have emerged either as the supplement or as competitors of traditional working places such as offices and/or classical factories. In parallel to this trend, different urban players such as universities, libraries, airports, hotels and train stations have started to share their under-utilized facilities in a broader sense. With the globally average annual growth rate of co-working spaces over 50% in recent years, major cities in the world and their peripheries have been socially, economically as well as spatially transformed. Location choice of co-working spaces and their spatial patterns differ due to the different user and target groups and their demands. Some co-working spaces locate in office towers (high rise office blocks) and office buildings (midrise office blocks) in the city center, while some others locate in old industrial buildings and ateliers. Some co-working spaces prefer to locate in football stadiums, airports, shopping mall complex, whereas some others locate in apartment buildings in historical neighborhoods or central areas. While some co-working spaces prefer the most accessible and prestigious locations in the center, some others prefer sub-centers around the arterial roads and its connection roads. Some co-working spaces prefer to locate in buildings reflecting special architectural characteristics in historical neighborhoods. Nevertheless, the vast majority of co-working spaces prefer to locate in a triangle surrounded with airports, shopping malls or cultural complexes with a strong metro connection. Public transportation advantages and commercial activities have emerged as important location factors to attract also cultural and creative activities. Co-working spaces increasingly locate their branches in airports and shopping mall complexes for more mobile people that is a new type of location choice that did not exist a decade ago.

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eu/), which is funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union (<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18214>). The overall aim of this Special Session is to rethink location factors and patterns of new working spaces:

- How/why do new working spaces present themselves distinctively in different regions?
- How can we analyse these spatial shifts?
- What is the role of peripheries in attracting such spaces?

This Special Session aims to bring together regional scientists interested in the study of new working forms and spatial patterns of co-working spaces. This session intends to provide a possibility for debating how location choices and spatial patterns of co-working spaces transform our cities and their peripheries.

Specific topics of the Special Session include:

- New forms of working spaces
- Criteria and measures of co-working spaces
- Spatial patterns and location factors of co-working spaces
- Geographical proximity factors in location choice
- Social, economic and spatial transformative impacts of co-working spaces
- The role of co-working spaces in urban regeneration
- Behaviors of co-working spaces in times of COVID-19 Pandemic

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