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Smart Regions - Opportunities for Sustainable
Development in the Digital Era

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Special Session (SS28) on:

Smart Actors for Smart Regions

Organizers:

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The aim and scope:

A number of "-Tech" composites have been emerging in the past years: RealEs-Tech, FinTech, LegalTech, ConTech, PropTech, and more. These terms define a new way to approach the built environment (respectively in the real estate, financial, legal, construction, and property areas) through digital solutions. Not only methods and tools, but also processes and the culture itself are transitioning toward technological approaches. Start-ups and small innovative firms are mainly guiding the transition toward using smart technologies to address issues like efficient use of spaces, environmental sustainability goals, marketing and sales, and new ownership models. These trends are transforming the traditional ways real estate operations and markets work. What is their impact at the scale of cities and regional systems? Are we at the rise of an 'urb-tech' or 'reg-tech' era? Growing questions of theoretical, political and practical nature concern the actors, players and stakeholders participating in this evolution:

- Roles: what are the main actors and stakes at play? Is there the need of new professional figures to facilitate this kind of evolutions at the urban scale? Are traditional roles reversing? Are there new opportunities for bottom-up approaches?
- Data: what kind of data are we hungry for? Who gathers, analyses and makes use of data about cities and territories? Who generates this data? What methods and tools should be employed?
- Business: what kind of industries and businesses are mainly affected by the ongoing transformation? How are they interacting with one another and with other stakeholders in the urban landscape?
- Prospective: how do the main actors interact between each other and with other urban stakeholders for scenario calibration? How are they foreseeing the future? Are end-users enabled to shape the city of tomorrow?

Buildings, cities and regions are subjected to new uses. Researchers are called to interpret them, while practitioners seek to take advantage from them, and policy-makers aim at anticipating them. The goal of this session is therefore to discuss the experiences, uses and potentials of digitalization by observing its main actors. This will encourage the identification of key stakeholders and the creation of synergetic networks to feed academic research, business development and policy design.

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT