



Special Session (SS03) on:

Transport Infrastructure, Accessibility and Regional Development

Organizers:

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The aim and scope:

According to endogenous growth theory models, transport infrastructure endowment, similarly to other types of public infrastructure, contributes to economic growth and convergence of lagging regions towards more developed ones. The view of improved transport accessibility as a driver of efficiency and (spatial) eq-uity justifies the popularity of transport investment among politicians and other policy makers. In the Euro-pean context, the central role of transport infrastructure as a determinant of regional economic growth and convergence has been present for decades in EU's regional cohesion policy. However, more recent developments based on the New Economic Geography (NEG) suggest that the economic outcome of a reduction in transport costs resulting from improved transport is ambiguous and depends on the extent of labor mobil-ity. In the presence of geographical labor mobility, falling transport costs tend to favor the concentration of economic activity (i.e. spatial agglomeration), thus reinforcing regional disparities. Given the observed ab-sence of regional convergence both between and within many EU member states, despite large transport infrastructure in their respective lagging regions, the NEG models seem to have a better predictive value of EU-wide and nation-wide regional economic disparities.

This special session looks at the **relationship between transport infrastructure, accessibility and the spatial economy**. The main objective is to discuss and disseminate existing evidence on the **effects of transport in-frastructure and accessibility on the location and spatial organization of the economic activity and its con-tribution to local and regional development**. The session will also look at the factors influencing the location of transport investments. The session focuses on both national and international studies.

We invite the submission of papers addressing the following topics, and considering road, rail and air based transport services and infrastructure:

- The socioeconomic effects of transport and accessibility improvements on regional development.
- The effects of transport accessibility improvements on the location of employment and population.
- The impact of transport accessibility improvements on rural-urban interactions.
- The contribution of transport accessibility improvements to territorial cohesion.
- Displacement effects from transport accessibility improvements.
- Determinants of the location of new transport infrastructure projects.
- Comparative studies of the impact of transport infrastructure on the local economy.

SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT