

OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

OECD Spatial Productivity Lab in collaboration with the Regional Studies Association (RSA)

The new reality of teleworking:
People, firms, places

*Spatial productivity for regional and
local development –9th meeting*

3 September 2020 | DIGITAL EVENT

DRAFT AGENDA



■ The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies. www.oecd.org/cfe



■ The OECD Spatial Productivity Lab

The OECD Spatial Productivity Lab (SPL) is a dedicated research laboratory that works with local and global partners to improve our understanding of the spatial dimension of productivity growth, the relevance of links between different types of areas and how regional policy can facilitate productivity growth, creation of better jobs and increased well-being.

■ The Regional Studies Association

The Regional Studies Association is a learned society concerned with the analysis of regions and regional issues. Through its global membership the RSA provides an authoritative voice of, and network for, policymakers and academics. The RSA supports its members with latest research, funding schemes, networking and publishing opportunities and spaces to grow research and careers.

■ Venue

Virtual meeting over ZOOM

Link with log-in details sent to all registered participants.

■ Language

The meeting will be held in English.

■ Website

OECD Trento Centre: www.trento.oecd.org

OECD Spatial Productivity Lab: oe.cd/SPL

Regional Studies Association: www.regionalstudies.org

■ Contact

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Daniela Carl: Daniela.Carl@regionalstudies.org

OECD SPL Partners



Venue: Virtual meeting over ZOOM || Moderator: John Harrison, Reader in Human Geography, Loughborough University, UK

15:30-15:40 **Welcome and overview/logistics**

Daniela Carl, Deputy Chief Executive, RSA

Alexandra Tsvetkova, Economist/Policy Analyst, OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

15:40-15:50 **Telework in the EU before and after the COVID-19: Where we were and where we head to**

Santo Milasi (TBC), Economist, Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

In 2019, only about 5% of workers in the EU-27 usually worked from home – a share that remained constant since 2009. The confinement measures prompted a rapid introduction of teleworking. Although this created challenges, it also contributed to lowering barriers to telework related to organisation of work and organisational hierarchy. Looking forward, we estimate that 37% of EU employees can technically telework but there is a risk that the divide between those who can telework and those who cannot will exacerbate existing inequalities along a number of dimensions.

16:00-16:10 **Homeworking and its effects on productivity and well-being**

Darja Reuschke, Associate Professor in Human Geography, University of Southampton, UK

A traditional fear of employers is that without physical oversight, workers will shirk and productivity will fall. This proposition is examined using a large Covid-19 Survey in the United. The findings suggest that allowing employees to work at home, if they want to, may increase not reduce productivity, hence supporting the business case for the continuation of homeworking. A massive return to pre-Covid-19 patterns of working is therefore unlikely to happen.

16:10-16:20 **Teleworking and mobility: What do we (think we) know and not know?**

Patricia Mokhtarian, Susan G. and Christopher D. Pappas Professor, Georgia Tech, USA

The transportation-related impacts of teleworking have been studied for several decades, but there is still much to learn, especially as the nature and extent of teleworking continue to evolve with new technologies and social trends. This intervention will briefly review our state of knowledge, including its gaps, in this realm of inquiry.

15:50-16:00 **Exploring policy options on teleworking**

Mattia Corbetta, Policy Analyst, OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

A shift towards large-scale teleworking will have profound implications for workers, employers and the geography of local economic and employment development. Public policy can help turn teleworking into an opportunity for all, ensuring that it does not aggravate pre-existing disparities between people, places and firms. The presentation will discuss common policy options adopted by governments during or before the Covid-19 pandemic to enable and make the most of teleworking, as well as to attract and retain digital and remote workers and entrepreneurs.

16:20-16:35 **Roundtable discussion**

Questions to all panellists

16:35-16:55 **Q&A**

Questions from the audience

16:55-17:00 **Concluding remarks**

John Harrison, Reader in Human Geography, Loughborough University, UK

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Regional Studies Association

Regions, Cities, Industries – webinar series

3 September 2020 | DIGITAL EVENT

VENUE

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INFORMATION

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@OECD_local #spatialproductivity

@Regstud #RSAWebinar

OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

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This event is part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities activities.

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