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Challenges, policies and governance of the territories in the post-covid era

Desafíos, políticas y gobernanza de los territorios en la era post-covid

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PAPER

Title: Telecommunications' use during lockdown period in Spain

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Subject area: (please, indicate the subject area which corresponds to the paper)

Abstract: (minimum 1500 words)

We intend to analyse the changes in the use of smartphones and their relationship with the mobility restrictions imposed in Spain in the COVID-19 period. In order to approach this issue, data from the mobile network of a national telecommunications operator have been used to study the influence of 15 different mobility restrictions on citizens' use of mobile phones from March 15 (2020) to April 15 (2021) in Malaga (a Spanish city). A quasi-experimental methodology has been implemented, finding that the use of smartphones presented an initial reduction with the first and most drastic mobility restrictions, but showed a growing use after their removal. We have also found that user mobility was negatively influenced by all the mobility restrictions under analysis, differing this influence depending on the severity of the restrictions.

Keywords: (maximum 6 words) COVID; mobility; Internet use; lockdown; government restrictions.

JEL codes: O30, C01.