

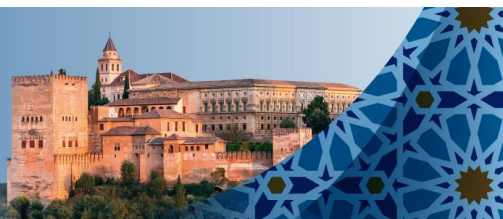
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## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL SCIENCE

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

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

XLVII REUNIÓN DE ESTUDIOS REGIONALES  
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## RESUMEN AMPLIADO

**Título:** Lagging regions or lagging places?

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**Área Temática:** *(indicar el área temática en la que se inscribe el contenido de la comunicación)*

**Resumen:** *(mínimo 1500 palabras)*

Certain areas facing territorial inequalities have been characterised as “left-behind places”, i.e. those areas that have been bypassed by the economic prosperity from which others have benefited.

These refer, mostly, to rural and old industrial areas where life-chances are limited and future growth stagnated, especially in contrast to continuously growing prosperous metropolises. The 'Lagging regions report' (European Commission, 2017) identified two types of lagging regions in the EU: i) low-growth regions (mainly located in the southern EU Member States), i.e. regions with a GDP per capita of up to 90 % of the EU average but did not converge to the EU average, and ii) low-income regions (mainly located in the eastern EU Member States) that remain far below the EU average GDP per capita, i.e. all regions with a GDP per capita below 50 % of the EU average.

While territorial inequality in terms of GDP, GDP per capita can be quantified at regional level –and therefore defining the lagging-regions-, very little can be said about the existence and persistence of “lagging places” basically due to the unavailability of GDP/income figures at a finer spatial scale.

What are the special characteristics of the lagging regions?

The World Bank outlines five characteristics of facts: i) some lagging regions are more dynamic than others, ii) lagging regions, both “low income” and “low growth” regions, have the lowest social outcomes in Europe, iii) Demographic decline is a defining feature of lagging regions, with both fertility and net migration rates that fall below the EU average, iv) Lagging regions are peripheral, but not necessarily sparse and v) Jobs in lagging regions are concentrated in low value-added non-tradables.

What areas in Europe would be “lagging places” according to those characteristics?

What if we applied these characteristics –for which there are data at finer spatial scale– to define “lagging places”?

Using a comprehensive dataset at local level (LAUs) generated thanks to the IMAJINE project, in this paper we show that there might be some forgotten “lagging areas” that cannot be detected if working with regional data (as well as some areas within the lagging regions with better performance than the aggregate regional values).

Also, using the unique questionnaire compiled thanks to the IMAJINE Project we will explore the gaps between the “existing or quantifiable inequalities” and the “perceived inequality”

**Palabras Clave:** left-behind regions, left-behind places, local data, rural-urban dichotomy, perceptions

**Clasificación JEL:**