

Abstract for the general public

Local impact of collaborative spaces (LIoCS)

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The project aims to **determine the scale and scope of impact of collaborative spaces (CSs)** on the local (intraurban) milieu. We will also investigate determinants which shape this influence. **Hence, the main research question is following: What is the impact of CSs on the local urban milieu? (RQ1)**. Auxiliary research goals include addressing the following questions:

- What is the geographical scope of impact of CSs? (RQ2)
- What does influence geographical range and intensity of impact of CSs in the local urban context? (RQ3)
- How do CSs are linked with other actors constituting local development platform and/or innovation urban ecosystem? (RQ4)

Hence, the project aims at:

1. The identification of the main forms of CSs' impacts on the local urban milieu,
2. The identification of the main factors influencing the impact of CSs on the local urban milieu,
3. Analysis of interdependencies between CSs and the local urban milieu and urban innovation system.

In the project we distinguish two complex types of CSs' impact upon the local urban milieu. The first one is the influence of CSs over urban innovation system. The second type includes local intra-urban economic and infrastructural impact. Based on a systematic literature review, it is argued that the popular topic of CSs' studies is how do CSs enhance collaboration, knowledge interactions, relationships, creativity and consequently innovation. The multi-scalar character of innovation processes was often neglected by economic geographers, who ignored the micro-scale of analysis in the localised innovation processes. We argue localized spaces of collaboration should be treated as a key element in the urban innovation ecosystem (as the subtype of local innovation system).

The intra-urban economic and infrastructural impact of CSs is relatively rarely studied. The following urban effects observed in the close vicinity of CSs have been distinguished:

- micro-scale physical transformations,
- collaboration of co-working spaces with local community initiatives,
- new direct and indirect job creation,
- spark of entrepreneurship resulting in the growth of entrepreneurial milieu and urban innovation system.

There is a proliferation of papers on the growth factors of CSs and their role in establishing new labour relations. Hence, we will attempt to avoid analysing such factors (e.g. changing work style, vacant spaces). In the field of economic geography, some authors have already studied evolving spatial patterns of CSs. However, little is known about indirect effects of CSs' operations such as scale and mechanisms of knowledge flows, micro-scale physical transformations, new job generation (not only in CSs, but also in close vicinity). Until recently, there were not many authors who combined concepts of localized (regional) development platforms, urban innovation systems, entrepreneurial milieu and impact studies (especially estimations of multiplier effects). In the project, we combine three schools of academic thought: classical approach (local impact studies), evolutionary (local/regional development platforms) and institutional approach. Three research methods and techniques will be applied: computer assisted interviews, in-depth interviews, and field observation and inventory nearby CSs.