INPLASY

Conceptualization of Regional Digitalalization: A protocol for a systematic review

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

*R*eview question / Objective This systematic review aims to explore the concept of regional digitalalization to better inform about the importance of this process in regional economies. To this end, the proposed systematic review will address the following question: What was written on this topic until now, and how it was described and defined?

Rationale Digital transformation is changing the economies around the world, underling its importance (Teichert, 2019) and inevitably spreading across all areas of our daily lives, making changes in the way we buy, travel, work, learn, and enjoy our lives (Stark, 2020).
Nevertheless, the evolution of the concept is growing, and new approaches are appearing to analyze and look at digital transformation from different perspectives. For example, one can look more closely at digital transformation through analyses of digitalization or digital maturity, its

levels or digital strategy, etc. For many reasons, but mainly considering Europe's disposition and generally around the globe becomes paramount to look more closely at and define better regional digitalization, which was not done before.
Considering that every region can have its particularities (Pirni, Giampellegrini and Raffini, 2019), (Zuti, 2018) cultural, economic, or other, being forced to manage self-development in their particular way, including regional specificities. Also, when the approach is based on the local/regional level regional inequalities can be reduced (Toniolo et al., 2020) and provide more opportunities for economic growth (Luo et al., 2023). Delimitation and articulation of the concept of regional digitalization figures out of crucial importance to be developed through thorough analysis and review of available literature on this topic.

Condition being studied Regional digitalization is a process of digitalization that is happening on the scale of regions. We try to look closely at this process mentioned by authors in their studies and

conclude what they are saying about it and if present a clear definition of regional digitalization.

METHODS

Search strategy Query search performed on Web of Science was (((((ALL=("regional digitalization")) OR ALL=("regional digitalisation")) OR ALL=("region* digital*")) AND ALL=("digital transformation")) AND LA=(English)) AND DT=(Article)
Search perfermed on ScienceDirect with query ("regional digitalization OR "reginal digitalisation" AND "digital transformation"), refined by: Subscribed journals, article type - research article and by subject area - Business, Management and Accounting.
Query search performed on EBSCOhost with database of Business Source Complete was "regional digitalization" OR "regional digitalisation" OR "region* digital*" AND "digital transformation" also search was refined by language - English, type of document - article, and type of publication - academic journal.

Participant or population Entreprises (usually SMEs).

Intervention Not applicable.

Comparator Not applicable.

Study designs to be included Research design, case study design.

Eligibility criteria Search refined by language - English, type of document - article, and type of publication - academic journal perfomed in all text.

Information sources Web of Science, ScienceDirec and Business Source Complete on EBSCOhost.

Main outcome(s) Delimitation and articulation of the concept of regional digitalization.

Data management Main mechanism to manage the data will be EndNote. And PRISMA's guidelines will be followed.

Quality assessment / Risk of bias analysis AMSTAR - 2.

Strategy of data synthesis Mainly synthesis will involve qualitative analyses of data.

Subgroup analysis Not reported.

Sensitivity analysis For the moment there is no such.

Language restriction English.

Country(ies) involved Portugal.

Keywords Digital Transformation, Regional Transformation, Regional Innovation.

Dissemination plans Publication.

Contributions of each author

Author 1 - Anhelina Bykova - Author 1 drafted the manuscript.
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