



## Special Session Proposal

### **Research and innovation policies and their role in fostering local development, digitization and innovation potential**

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#### **Abstract**

A number of pan-European policies have been striving to increase European research and innovation potential to make EU a world's top performer in science and innovative products and services. These policies act along a number of dimensions, including: revolutionising patterns of collaboration between private and public sector through innovation partnerships between European institutions, national and regional authorities and business; removing obstacles to innovation such as market fragmentation, skills shortages and slow standard setting; and advancing local innovation and digital potential through a number of financial instruments (e.g. H2020).

Indeed, promoting technological and social innovation as well as digital technologies is becoming of uttermost importance as most employees find themselves working confined at their homes. Moreover, research is always an investment in future. Hence, it has to be at the centre of any policy that strives to achieve smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. At the same time, effective delivery of such policies requires a granular approach that would take into account features of local economies as well potential spillovers to neighbouring areas. Hence, exploring the spatial aspects of the impact of national and international research and innovation promotion policies is of utmost importance (Camagri & Capello, 2017).

At the same time, the literature on R&I policies and policy challenges has mostly been concentrated on individual national/regional impacts of innovation promotion

policies, while inter-regional aspects of policy implementation continue to be relatively less explored (Kuhlmann, 2003). Moreover, studies exploring the impact of national and international R&I policies on inter-regional collaboration continue to be rare (Amoroso *et al.*, 2018).

Thus, the aim of this special session is to bring together research contributions from different fields, helping to enlighten how research and innovation policies shape local development and innovation potential; affect people and places, and promote inter-regional research and industry collaboration. Consequently, we welcome innovative theoretical and methodological approaches, as well as empirical evidence, focused on responding to the questions discussed above. We especially welcome interdisciplinary contributions encompassing multiple topics; and contributions focusing on the territorial specificities – such as rural and peripheral regions, urban-rural interfaces, inter-regional development and innovation spillovers.

## References

Amoroso S., Coad A., and Grassano N. (2018) European R&D networks: a snapshot from the 7th EU Framework Programme, *Economics of Innovation and New Technology*, Taylor & Francis Journals, 27(5-6), 404-419

Camagni R., Capello R. (2017) Regional Innovation Patterns and the EU Regional Policy Reform: Towards Smart Innovation Policies. In: Capello R. (eds) *Seminal Studies in Regional and Urban Economics*. Springer, Cham.

Kuhlmann, S. (2003). Evaluation of research and innovation policies: a discussion of trends with examples from Germany. *International journal of technology management*, 26(2-4), 131-149.