

RSA Expo Industrial Policy

Smart Specialisation and Industry 4.0: Upgrading Regional Capabilities for a Balanced Industrial Development and Growth Through Networks.

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Research Questions:

- How might policy be utilised to turn the perceived potential of SS into reality for laggard regions?
- To what extent are lagging regions able to (re)build their knowledge networks, create value and capture this value through more commercial business networks?
- To what extent are lagging EU regions able to utilise/combining new General Purpose Technologies (GPTs) with existing industrial capabilities to move onto new paths?
- How are lagging regions utilising training & skills policy to rebuild their capabilities and take advantage of Industry 4.0?

Deliverables:

1. A 30,000 word (Edited Volume) on *Smart Specialisation and Rebuilding Capabilities for a Balanced Industrial Renaissance*; to be circulated to 3,000 RSA members, policy and institutional stakeholders.
2. A research article for *Regional Studies, Regional Science*; industrial policy and rebuilding lagging regions/participating in smart specialisation
3. **Two Policy Briefs** to disseminate key findings to policy audiences (and RSA members)
4. Engagement with RSA members and stakeholders
 - A Call for Evidence via RSA network
 - 3 RSA Focus Groups/Seminars/Workshops
 - Public Session & Master Class at European Committee of Regions, Brussels (Sept, 2018)
 - Twitter Account **@SmartSpecRSA**

Industrial Strategy: Taking the Debate Further



Policy Debates Section

Editor: Lisa De Propis



Special Issue - Back on the Agenda: Industrial Policy Revisited

Abstracts: 6 January 2018,

Workshop in Bath: 26th April 2018

Final Papers: 1st September 2018

Editors: David Bailey, Amy Glasmeier, Phil Tomlinson & Pete Tyler

See https://academic.oup.com/cjres/pages/call_for_papers_back_on_the_agenda_industrial_policy_revisited

RSA Expo

New Scheme launched 2017

An Expo is a ‘comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory’

The RSA Expo awards **£15,000** to support a team to explore a **contemporary, salient policy** focused **issue**

RSA Industrial Policy Expo:

‘Smart Specialisation and Industry 4.0: Upgrading Regional Capabilities for a Balanced Industrial Development and Growth Through Networks’

Research Context:

- SS is the major component in EU's 'Innovation Union' programme and 2014-2020 Cohesion Policy
- 'Place-Based', 'bottom up' process, 'entrepreneurial discovery' linked to regional competences, capabilities and knowledge bases
- SS logic naturally favours dynamic regions; entrepreneurial & technological dynamisms, good networks & absorptive capacities. Opportunities for Industry 4.0.
- Lagging Regions at a distinct disadvantage; 'hollowed out' manufacturing bases, weak networks, low knowledge/skills bases

Data Sources

1. Secondary Data Sources:

Source	Purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eurostat (e.g. CIS data)• ONS microdata• European Manufacturing Survey• European Patent Office• ORBIS database	<p>Identify types and location of collaborative networks for innovation and production</p> <p>The diffusion of technical and non-technical innovations in manufacturing companies across regions</p> <p>Establish (regional) networks of innovators, technological search patterns and adoption of GPTs</p>

The focus here is to **explore collaboration** and **(external) networking** for **industrial upgrading** at **regional** level.

Are there any **other (granular) data sources** (particularly at country/regional level) to utilise?

2. Case Studies for selected (lagging) regions in the UK (3-5 weak performing LEPs), Italy (Mezzogiorno) and Spain.

Focus:

- Implementation of place based industrial strategy/RIS 3
- Training and Skills,
- GPT & Enabling technology opportunities
- Industry 4.0 opportunities

Summary: Our approach focuses on lagging regions (GDP below EU average/low GVA/low innovation) and mainly on their ability to access and utilise external linkages as platforms for industrial upgrading

Your thoughts?

Do you have any questions/suggestions on

- **The research focus and/or approach?**
 - are there any other specific aspects related to SS that need to be explored?
 - are there other dimensions besides external linkages we need to consider?
 - other (granular) data sets (particularly at country/regional level) to utilise?
 - other potential case studies that may be of use?
- **Potential contacts to engage with?**
 - other potential collaborators working on similar topic?
 - potential contributors for the Expo book?

Thanks for listening