

RESEARCH NETWORK Event Report

Smart Policies for Regional Innovation, Sustainability and Transitions (SPRINT)

Introduction to novel methodologies in regional innovation policies webinar

25-09-2024 (Online)

The aim of organising this webinar on novel methodologies in regional innovation policies was to share cutting-edge approaches that better capture the complexity of regional development. By bringing together researchers and practitioners, the event created a space for exchanging ideas and practical insights. Ultimately, it intended to strengthen the community's ability to design more effective, evidence-based innovation policies across diverse regional contexts. Around 50 people from more than 10 countries attended the event.

The following speakers were invited to share their insights.

- A) Julio Raffo (WIPO): Innovation Economy Section
- B) Federico Moscatelli (WIPO): Can we map innovation capabilities?
- C) Dario Diodato (JRC): EU innovation policies in an evolving context

The webinar successfully advanced the network's overall aim of fostering knowledge exchange and strengthening capacity in regional innovation policy. By introducing novel methodologies and illustrating their practical application, the event helped participants better understand how to address complex, place-based challenges and design more effective, evidence-based policies.

The event started with a presentation by Alan Kinder former RSA Chief Executive Officer, who introduced the Regional Studies Association. Also, Dima Yankova introduced SPRINT as an RSA network.

Key discussions focused on the need for more context-sensitive analytical tools, the integration of qualitative and quantitative methods, and the importance of multi-level governance in shaping innovation outcomes. Participants also highlighted the value of cross-regional learning, sharing experiences from different territories to identify transferable practices as well as context-specific limitations. Overall, the event reinforced collaboration within the network and encouraged continued dialogue on methodological innovation in Regional Studies.

The recording of the webinar is included in the RSA website:

<https://www.regionalstudies.org/network/sprint/>