

# *Supporting Smart Specialisation Strategies and Technology Transfer in South-East Europe*

Tuesday 18 June 2019  
Politehnica University of Bucharest  
(Romania)





# SUPPORTING SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGIES AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

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## Overview

08:00 - 09:00	Registration & welcome coffee
09:00 - 09:30	Welcome addresses
09:30 - 11:45	Advancing Innovation Policies in South-East Europe through Smart Specialisation Strategies and Technology Transfer  <i>+Initiating Smart Specialisation Strategies and the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process</i> <i>+Promoting Technology Transfer as an implementation tool of Smart Specialisation</i>
11:45 - 11:50	Family photo
11:50 - 12:15	Coffee break
12:15 - 13:45	Smart Specialisation as a driver of Innovation in South-East Europe
13:45 - 14:45	Lunch break
14:45 - 16:00	Parallel sessions  <i>+Engaging the actors of the innovation ecosystem in smart specialisation in the Western Balkans</i> <i>+New Emerging Trends in Technology Transfer</i> <i>+Facilitating access to finance for High-Growth Innovative Enterprises (HGIE): do's and don'ts</i>
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 - 17:45	Parallel sessions  <i>+Challenges and achievements in the economic transformation of the SEE economies</i> <i>+Tech Transfer: Supporting promising ideas with Proof of Concept</i> <i>+Assessing the Regional Innovation Impact of Universities</i>
17:45 - 18:15	Closing remarks
18:15 - 19:30	Networking cocktail

# WELCOME ADDRESSES

From 9:00 to 09:30

**Moderator:** Mihnea Costoiu, *Rector University Politehnica of Bucharest*

**Nicholas Hurduc**, *Minister of Research and Innovation, Romania*

**Charlina Vitcheva**, *Deputy Director General, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

## ADVANCING INNOVATION POLICIES IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE THROUGH SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGIES AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

From 09:30 to 11:45

**Moderator:** Charlina Vitcheva, *Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

Following a keynote, scene-setting introduction by the Moderator, this panel will then address, in two parts:

- **Initiating Smart Specialisation Strategies and the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process**
- **Promoting Technology Transfer as an implementation tool of Smart Specialisation**

**Robert Dumi**, *General Director, National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation, Albania*

**Karina Angelieva**, *Deputy Minister for Research and Structural Funds, Bulgaria*

**Tome Antičić**, *State Secretary, Ministry of Science and Education, Croatia*

**Sotiris Pavleas**, *Special Advisor to the Secretary General for Research and Technology, Greece*

**Sanja Damjanović**, *Minister of Science, Montenegro*

**Petar Atanasov**, *Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Republic of North Macedonia*

**Adrian Curaj**, *Former Minister of Education, Science and Innovation, Romania*

**Viktor Nedović**, *State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Serbia*

Enhancing the effectiveness of research, development and innovation in South-East Europe requires appropriate action both on the strategy and implementation level. This panel discussion involving high-level representatives from the relevant Ministries in the region will explore common challenges from their different perspectives on designing and implementing smart specialisation strategies in combination with technology transfer capacity building activities fostering place-based innovation and regional growth.

# SMART SPECIALISATION AS A DRIVER OF INNOVATION IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

From 12:15 to 13:45

**Moderator: Nicola Aimi**, *Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General For Regional And Urban Policy, European Commission*

## Panel discussion

### Challenges for smart specialisation in the South-East Europe

**Slavo Radosevic**, *Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies, UCL London*

### Financing smart specialization sectors for a smart future

**Mihaela Toader**, *State Secretary in the Ministry of European Funds, Romania*

### Connecting research with market innovation needs through dynamic entrepreneurial discovery in Greece

**Sotiris Pavleas**, *Special Advisor to the Secretary General for Research and Technology, Greece*

### S3 as an operational plan facilitating the shift to high-productivity economy

**Peter Wostner**, *Head of the S3 Coordination Division, Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Slovenia*

### Romanian S3 experience in setting the 2021-2027 financial period

**Radu Gheorghiu**, *Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (EUFISCDI)*

The session will aim at highlighting common growth and innovation challenges in the SEE to address path dependency patterns in the economic structures and overcome industrial legacies of the past, and the role of smart specialisation as a driver of regional and national innovation ecosystems to address them. Key dimensions of RIS3 will be addressed, incl. the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process, governance, monitoring and evaluation, inter-regional and international cooperation, as well as institutional capacity-building.

## PARALLEL SESSION I-1

# ENGAGING THE ACTORS OF THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM IN SMART SPECIALISATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

From 14:45 to 16:00

**Moderator:** Manuel Palazuelos Martinez, *Team Leader, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

### Keynote Presentation

**Manuel Palazuelos Martinez**, *Team Leader, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

### Panel discussion

**Viktor Nedović**, *Head of the S3 Working Group, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Serbia*

**Darko Petrusic**, *Head of the S3 Working Group, Director General, Ministry of Science, Montenegro*

**Jasmina Majstoroska**, *Head of the S3 Working Group, Head of the Industrial Policy and Competitiveness Unit, Ministry of Economy, North Macedonia*

Contribution to the enhancement of the innovation potential can come from diverse, often neglected sources. Stakeholders need to be identified and mobilised for participating at the smart specialisation process. Montenegro and Serbia should have RIS3 strategies adopted by mid-2019, while Albania, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo\* have started the smart specialisation process in 2018 and by mid-2019 at least two should be prepared to enter the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process. Following the comparative mapping presentation at the beginning of this panel the Western Balkan policy makers will address the biggest challenges that the countries might face in the process and provide possible solutions for overcoming them.

\*This designation, and all other designations in this programme, is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

# PARALLEL SESSIONS I-2

## NEW EMERGING TRENDS IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

From 14:45 to 16:00

**Moderator:** Giancarlo Caratti, *Head of Unit, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

### Presentations

#### EC Competence Centre for Technology Transfer

Alessandro Fazio, *Team Leader, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

#### The Romanian Laser Valley Mega Project

Adrian Curaj, *Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding*

#### Insights into a study on the use of Public-Private Partnerships for Science Parks and Innovation Districts

Hardy Schmitz, *Member of the Advisory Council of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP)*

#### Emerging Trends in Technology Transfer

Henric Rhedin, *ASTP-Proton*

### Round table discussion

The domain of Innovation Ecosystems (IE) is one of the three main pillars of the JRC's Competence Centre for Technology Transfer (the other two being capacity building and financial instruments). The Centre provides on-demand policy and operational support for the structuring, development and management of IE, including science parks, technology transfer offices, incubators and accelerators. A number of countries in the SEE plan and/or already construct IE to modernise and boost their national and regional economies and fight brain drain. The session will also present the results of a study on the trends in the utilisation of PPP models for creating or regenerating urban innovation areas.

## PARALLEL SESSIONS I-3

# FACILITATING ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR HIGH-GROWTH INNOVATIVE ENTERPRISES (HGIE): DO'S AND DON'TS

From 14:45 to 16:00

**Moderator:** James P. Gavigan, *Policy Officer, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

### Keynote presentation

#### The HGIE study

**Aurélien Genty**, *Policy Officer, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

### Panel discussion

**Mihai Darzan**, *CEO, Ringhel*

**Sergiu Negut**, *Co-Founder, Fintech OS*

**Luigi Amati**, *President, Business Angels Europe*

**Andrea Brasili**, *Senior Economist, European Investment Bank*

**Rudy Aernoudt**, *Professor, Corporate finance & European Enterprise Policy, UGent*

This session will discuss how to facilitate the access to finance for young innovative companies and which policy measures contribute to their growth. The aim is to discuss with experts, practitioners and stakeholders the role and impact of public schemes in facilitating the access to finance of this type of companies. Particular attention will be drawn to the efficiency of different types of instruments based on a study conducted by JRC and comparing equity, grants and guarantees. The main lessons on policy design and implementation will be presented and discussed.



# PARALLEL SESSIONS II-1

## CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF THE SEE ECONOMIES

From 16:30 to 17:45

**Moderator: Nikola Radovanovic**, *Economic and Policy Analyst, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

### Cohesion Policy and Smart Specialisation in the EU – Achievements, Challenges, Perspectives

**Nicola Aimi**, *Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General For Regional And Urban Policy, European Commission*

### Innovation matters: the need for good quality data as an input for mapping economic specialisation domains

**Hugo Hollanders**, *Senior Researcher, UNU-MERIT*

### Capacities to monitor and evaluate the implementation of Smart specialization

**Ramojus Reimeris**, *Head of innovation policy Unit, MOSTA*

### S3 as a Catalyst for Regional Innovation Systems – Insights from the "Targeted Support to S3 in Lagging Regions" project (with emphasis on BG, HR and RO)

**Marina Ranga**, *Scientific / Technical Project Officer, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

### Mapping and Alignment of S3 Priorities in the Danube Region – A basis for enhanced R&I cooperation in the SEE

**Ales Gnamus**, *Project Officer, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

The enhancement of the governance in the area of developing efficient innovation frameworks in the SEE economies came as the result of increased capacity building activities in the region, as well as of the real needs emerging as a result of social and economic transformation. In this process, research and innovation systems need to continue shifting their focus towards private sector in order to yield more promising results in terms of competitiveness of the economies. This panel will provide results of the analyses of the governance structure for smart specialisation process and beyond, and reveal the key challenges in the process as well as provide some outlook on the smart specialisation developments towards the next Multiannual Financial Framework.

## PARALLEL SESSIONS II-2

# TECH TRANSFER: SUPPORTING PROMISING IDEAS WITH PROOF OF CONCEPT

From 16:30 to 17:45

**Moderator:** Elena Andonova, *Policy Officer, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

### Panel discussion

**Mihai Sfintescu**, *Managing Director, Abilito Capital; Jury Member European Investment Council*

**Mladen Stojanović**, *Technology Transfer Coordinator, Innovation Fund, Serbia*

**Petra Karanikic**, *Head of Technology Transfer Office; Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, University of Rijeka*

**Alexander Paine**, *Associate Director Advice for Small Businesses, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)*

**Frane Šesnić**, *Director, Zagreb Innovation Centre (Zicer)*

Proof of Concept is the first step of the technology transfer process. It consist of granting relatively small funds to researchers that aim to facilitate the validation (prototype, demonstrator, etc.) and explore avenues for the commercialisation of technologies developed within Public Research Organisations (PROs), start-ups and micro-enterprises. This session will present best practices in the area of Proof of Concept and discuss most appropriate models for SEE .

# PARALLEL SESSIONS II-3

## ASSESSING THE REGIONAL INNOVATION IMPACT OF UNIVERSITIES

From 16:30 to 17:45

**Moderator:** James P. Gavigan, *Policy Officer, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

### Presentations

#### Presentation of the framework and comparative case study analysis

Koen Jonkers, *Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

#### Case study 1 – Ruse University

Svilen Kunev, *Ruse University*

#### Case study 2 – Rovira i Virgili

Francesc Xavier Grau Vidal, *Secretary General for Universities of the Catalan Government*

Kiril Geratliev, *Executive Director, Executive Agency OP Science and Education for Smart Growth (SESG)*

**Panel discussion** (to address the challenges in drafting, usefulness of the exercise both for the universities and for policy makers)

In 2018 JRC published a report which provides a framework to assess the impact of universities on their regional innovation ecosystem. The assessment objective is to set a path for an additional institutional funding stream for universities based on the contribution they can have on their regional innovation systems. The presentation will give an insight into the first outcomes. JRC will also conduct a comparative analysis based upon two case studies.

## CLOSING REMARKS

From 17:45 to 18:15

**Adrian Curaj**, *Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding*

**Charlina Vitcheva**, *Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission*

