

Innovation in States and Regions

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Context

- **Regions and states in Europe are very diverse on different elements:**
 - Size, resources and capabilities.**
 - Political autonomy (constitutional)**
 - Independent financial resources**
 - Legal powers over the S&T policy field**

Fact :Regionalization of S&T& innovation policy many angles

Objectives: Region-specific objectives vs nation-wide

Operation: In certain regions only vs. Nation-wide

Instruments: Differentiated by region vs identical in all regions

Administration: Within the regions vs at a central level

Decision competencies: Regional authorities vs central body

Finance: From within the regions vs from central level

What we know about it

- ◆ Diverse models for constructing regional advantage:
 - Regional Innovation Systems
 - Clusters
 - Learning Regions
 - Triple Helix

The limits of our knowledge

- ◆ Analysis centered on particular emerging sectors (bio, ICT, etc.) and particular high-performing regions
 - Focus centered in few locations and cases, from which policy implications are drawn
- ◆ Endogenous bias, because the emphasis on geographical proximity as key for ignoring other types of proximities and the importance of external as well as intra-regional knowledge sharing
 - Knowledge base cannot be only local, but need to be linked across wider spaces through firms and institutions

The limits of our knowledge

- ◆ Lack of exploration of key issues linked to the articulation of regional science policies:
 - What are the tensions?
 - What are the policy mixes and implementation issues?
- ◆ Too many normative proposals and little on empirical facts
- ◆ In fact, we know very little about real policies implemented on a comparative framework

Factors to consider for building up a research agenda

The changing nature of innovation

The changing governance landscape

The changing regional innovation policy

Diversity of regional trajectories

a. Changing dynamics of regional innovation

- ◆ **Increasing global competition**
- ◆ **Internationalization of research and development**
- ◆ **Emergence of knowledge base, science-intensive sectors**
- ◆ **New modes of knowledge production**
- ◆ **Global distributed knowledge base**

b. Changing governance landscape

- ◆ The institutional landscape in which regions operate is progressively becoming multi-level: regional, national and European policy actors and organizations shape the development and dynamics of RIS
- ◆ Progressive devolution / regionalisation of policies
- ◆ Considerable differences in the distribution of competences within Europe
- ◆ But in any case, the division of labor between national/supranational policies and regional policies has become blurred.

c. New mode of regional policy

- ◆ Heightened role of regions in the sphere of innovation and research policy
- ◆ Whereas traditionally policies for science and technology were under the responsibility of national and supranational governments
 - ...and innovation and SME policies was generally dealt with by regional authorities
 -this 'division of labor is changing and becoming more complex.
 - The region is therefore no longer just a platform for the implementation of national and EU policies, but increasingly an actor for the mobilization of its endogenous capabilities.

How can this regional innovation policy be articulated? Questions for a research agenda

◆ Understanding decentralisation processes and scalar policy coordination

- Diversity in governance structures and multi-scale relations
- Alignment or misalignment between policies at different scales and levels
- Potential tensions between e.g. Rationales at EU level and outcomes at regional level



Understanding the diversity of actors involved, their role and coordination across them

- **Who are these actors?**
- **How can be define and characterise them?**
- **How do they evolve?**
- **Origin: public, private, non-for-profit?**
- **Old and emerging actors**
- **What is their role and influence in regional science and innovation policy?**
- **How are they mobilised?**

◆ Understanding the diversity of policy rationales and policy mixes and their coordination/integration

- Different (even conflicting) policy rationales
- Integration and coordination of policies at the regional level
- New instruments: science policy, foresight
- Evaluation

◆ Understanding the diversity in regional trajectories

- Policies adopted by the regional governments vary substantially. regions present very distinct and diverse strategies.
- There is clearly a lack of any “ideal model” of innovation policy
- Differences in: degrees in decentralization, governance of science and technology, industrial structure and technological specialisation.
- Path dependency and context specificity
- Difference in of attitudes towards science policy and policy choices

On the consequences of....

- ◆ Providing opportunities for local control, but increasing competition between regions with conflicts
- ◆ Please, be careful promoting, in all circumstances, the regional S&T policies and strategies as generalized solution to different problems: Please do not harm
- ◆ More fragmentation (even balkanization) of the systems: