

ERSA2019 Special Session

Title: Collaboration-based innovation policies: theory, empirics and practitioner feedbacks

Expected number of papers: 10-12

Call for paper:

Among the various public policy tools to stimulate innovation within territories, an increasing place is given to support for collaborative research. This is because collaboration can be an effective way to reduce market failures associated with the innovation process and to create innovation ecosystems to enhance the positive effects of spatial concentration. Although there are many arguments to justify public intervention in support of collaborative research, encouraging cooperation can be unsuccessful: financial opportunism may prevail over real collaborative practices or knowledge transfer within and between territories, public supports may fail to target the strategic links that would achieve efficient network structuring, creating lock-in situations and reinforcing entry barriers. In addition, the proliferation of mechanisms (science parks, technological platforms, clusters, etc.) raises the question of their readability and consistency.

In this context, this special session aims to discuss the latest theoretical and empirical developments regarding public support to collaborative research. More specifically, a set of issues deserves particular attention:

- size and geographical scale: Shall we, for example, set up very large collaborative clusters or multiply smaller ones that take better advantage of geographical proximity between individuals?
- nature of collaborations and the type of mechanism: for example, should R&D projects be funded or more informal exchange platforms be supported?
- beneficiaries targeting: Shall we, for example, encourage collaboration uniformly or target support to a few key actors in the networks?

This special session will gather scholars addressing these issues from a theoretical or an empirical perspective as well as practitioners.