SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGIES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

- Lecture 1

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I. Smart Specialisation Strategies: a EU-made policy approach

II. Smart Specialisation: an innovation bridge between the EU and Latin America

III. Smart Specialisation for green industrial and territorial transformation in sub-Saharan Africa
I. Smart Specialisation Strategies: a EU-made policy approach
I. Smart Specialisation Strategies: a EU-made policy approach

Under the European Cohesion policy reforms

- **Place-based** nature of the policy
- Decision-making with **stakeholder** involvement, experimentalism and results (Barca, 2009)
- Pan-European **industrial policy** funding prog. with principles of – prioritization, concentration, mobilization - to guide innovation investments (Ahner & Landabaso, 2011)
- **GUIDE RIS3 (2012)**
Smart Specialisation Strategies: a EU-made policy approach

REGULATION (EU) 1303/2013
Applies to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

Ex-ante conditionality to access the ERDF
A national or regional smart specialisation strategy is in place to:
• concentrate resources on a limited set of Research and Innovation priorities
• maximise the positive impact of Research and Innovation on sustainable growth and jobs
Smart Specialisation Strategies: a EU-made policy approach

RATIONALE

- **What**: concentration of resources
- **Why**: shortcoming or failures in regional innovation systems (*governance, picking the winner’s syndrome, evidence base, public involvement, etc.*)
- **Who**: Entrepreneurial knowledge (broad)
- **How**: Driving structural change, diversification
- **Where**: everywhere but ERDF target + less developed regions

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«Smart specialisation: linking global challenges to local implementation»
Smart Specialisation Strategies: a EU-made policy approach

**IN POLICY PRACTICE**

**STEPS TO RIS3 or S3 DESIGN**
1. Analysis of the region and potential for innovation
2. Sound and inclusive governance structure
3. Shared vision about the future of the region
4. Selection of a few priorities for regional development
5. Establishment of suitable policy mixes
6. Integration of M&E mechanisms

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Smart Specialisation Strategy: a EU-made policy approach

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« Smart specialisation: linking global challenges to local implementation »
Smart Specialisation was and still is to a great extent an ‘ambitious experiment’ (Kuznetsov & Sabel, 2017, p. 52), the achievements and effectiveness of which are an important matter of empirical investigation.


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II. Smart Specialisation: an innovation bridge between the EU and Latin America
"International Urban Cooperation: Sustainable and Innovative Cities and Regions – Regional Action Latin America and the Caribbean" (IUC-LAC)

1: EU-LAC city-to-city cooperation on sustainable urban development;
2: EU-LAC cooperation on local and regional climate change action, building upon the Covenant of Mayors initiative;
3: EU-LAC region-to-region cooperation on innovation for local and regional development
# Smart Specialisation: an innovation bridge between the EU and Latin America

## Strengths
- Awareness and understanding of the Smart Specialisation approach
- Pilot projects inspired by “Made in EU” Smart Specialisation and adapted to national and regional conditions
- Experiences of multi-stakeholder involvement

## Weaknesses
- Challenge of performing 360° place-based diagnoses
- Funding constraints
- Difficulty to ensure a wide and sustained engagement of actors
- Lack of prioritisation of investment
- No systematic integrated policy mix of Smart Specialisation with other strategic plans
- Need for monitoring indicators at an early stage

## Opportunities
- Customisation of Smart Specialisation to different territorial configurations
- Committee of Latin American Regions
- Budgetary and strategic contexts favourable to prioritisation
- Emphasis on traditional (with potential for reconversion) or new promising economic sectors
- Developed practice of monitoring systems

## Threats
- Political instability
- Risk of frequently changing priorities
Smart Specialisation: an innovation bridge between the EU and Latin America

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Smart Specialisation: an innovation bridge between the EU and Latin America

Regionalising innovation strategies in Peru based on smart specialisation:
Implications and challenges

Richard ESPARZA MASANA, Autonomous University of Barcelona, ES*
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Abstract

The article builds on the case study of Piura (Peru) to analyse the implications of developing an innovation policy strategy, based on decentralisation and the concept of smart specialisation strategy in emerging economies with limited institutional capacity and low rates of innovation activity. Two main conclusions from the case are: regional innovation policy can usefully serve as a catalyst to foster dynamism among stakeholders, enlarging the potential for R&I, but it requires a capacity building process; and specialisation must be understood as an inclusive concept, where agents work undertake inclusive innovation projects based on their territorial challenges and comparative advantages.

Keywords: regional planning, innovation policy, smart specialisation, participatory governance, entrepreneurial discovery process, decentralisation in Latin America

Forthcoming in Regional Studies

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**Smart Specialisation:** an innovation bridge between the EU and Latin America

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**Piura region:**

- 2\textsuperscript{nd} largest region (after Lima) - 4\% of Peru’s GDP
- a ‘peripheral region’ (Tödtling and Trippl, 2005)
- S3 co-led by the University of Piura (HEI and Smart specialisation) and the Regional government
- Data collection to present the regional structure (University of Piura)
- EDP → foster stakeholders’ commitment

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III. Smart Specialisation with sub-Saharan Africa: addressing Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) policy challenges

Smart Specialisation with sub-Saharan Africa

RATIONALES

(°) Uptake of Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) policies, strategies

(°) Institutions for innovation being created

(°) Funding for innovations/incubators & start-ups

(°) Decentralisation

(-) Government/Governance quality and capabilities

(-) Rising multidimensional spatial inequalities

(-) Limited state resources and low STI funding

(-) Limited innovation data collection & M&E

(-) Informal sector prevails

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« Smart specialisation: linking global challenges to local implementation »
Thinking about Smart Specialisation in the African STI policy framework (conceptual)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges of IP implementation</th>
<th>Smart specialisation approach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institutional capacity for the design, monitoring and implementation of STI policies and cooperation between AU Member States</td>
<td>Step-based &amp; Policy experimentation and learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evidence for policy and M&amp;E frameworks</td>
<td>Evidence mapping and Data (sets) integration</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Periodic revisions or reviews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matching implementation plans with the needs of varied and diversified territories of African states</td>
<td>Place-based policy:</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Valorise existing assets &amp; focus implementation plans on local idiosyncrasies/needs</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Macroeconomic strategies for broader missions or societal challenges (e.g. health, energy, security)</td>
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Table 1. Mapping IP challenges and S3 implementation principles (1/2)
Thinking about Smart Specialisation in the African STI policy framework (conceptual)

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<tr>
<td>Commitment of local &amp; small entrepreneurs &amp; other actors for development</td>
<td>Monitoring of local (micro-) entrepreneurial dynamics</td>
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<tr>
<td>An inclusive approach to knowledge- &amp; innovation-based development</td>
<td>Including local actors in the decision-making process</td>
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<td>Practical steps for the successful implementation of the strategy</td>
<td>Collective and inclusive governance and experimentation (learning by doing &amp; by interacting)</td>
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<td>Stakeholders from the Quadruple Helix</td>
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<td>Step-based approach and tailored monitoring &amp; evaluation instruments should be implemented</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Include various actors (triple/quadruple helix) in the operational planning phase – they will help verify the generated ideas (usefulness and applicability)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Table 1. Mapping IP challenges and S3 implementation principles (2/2)


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What do you see as the main challenges for the implementation of Smart Specialisation in Rwanda?

(Selected messages)

- Awareness and understanding of ‘innovation’ (broad approach including technological and non-technological solutions)
- Ownership and accountability for the smart specialisation strategy in Rwanda’s institutional framework
- Capacity-building for smart specialisation policy design & implementation
- Accessibility of data and toolbox for policy monitoring
- Accessibility of data and methods to map ecosystems and actors in order to inform a smart specialisation strategy
- Formulation of challenges and innovation priority domains within multi-stakeholders participatory settings
- Commitment and coordination of stakeholders beyond the 2-helix (industry-government or university-government)
Smart Specialisation strategies in sub-Saharan Africa: Opportunities, challenges and initial mapping for Côte d’Ivoire

Mafini Dosso, Alexander Kleibrink & Monika Matusiak

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To link to this article: https://doi.org/10.1080/20421338.2020.1816265

Abstract

Tourism in Cameroon, just like in most Sub-Saharan African countries, despite its potential, has been lagging behind in international terms, with one of the causes being the lack of adequate sectoral policy tools and strategies to carry out development goals. This article considers the notion of smart specialisation, currently in the spotlight in European Union’s regional policy, to analyse the situation in Cameroon. Firstly, it provides a brief outlook on the Cameroonian economy, coupled with a comprehensive look of innovation, training and tourism resources at regional level. Secondly, specialisation indices are calculated and a cluster analysis is implemented to find territorial patterns at regional level. Clusters with high potential for tourism development are grouped into clusters while other clusters are constituted by regions with lower potential for tourism and innovation. Hence smart specialisation may be an interesting concept to be implemented in Cameroon and other African regions as a planning tool. A proper manner to discover the existing potential of the territories needs to be performed in order to define accordingly priorities and areas of intervention.

Keywords: Cameroon, Cluster Analysis, Smart Specialisation, Tourism.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR DIGITAL ATTENTION

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Lecture 1

Smart Specialisation on the EU Science Hub:

Revue d’Economie Régionale et Urbaine (RERU):
http://reru.fr

Regional Studies journal:
https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cres20/current

ERSA 2020 video, Dr Mafini Dosso
“Design S3 with Sub-Saharan Africa”:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzOSqKE2XM8