



Local entrepreneurship ecosystems and emerging industries – OECD case studies

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Structure

1. Study Approach
2. Early findings – bottlenecks; smart specialisation policy implementation
3. Some conclusions – lessons for EU policies



Study approach

Regional case studies :

Stakeholder interviews (one week mission)

Draft report – assessment of region and international inspiring practices

Action planning workshop and final report

[Complemented by a data stream]





What processes could favour local emerging industries?

Entrepreneurship

- Start-ups
- University and large firm spin-offs
- Scale-ups
- SME innovation

Knowledge exchange

- Knowledge generation in HEIs, companies
- Innovation collaborations
- Connections between related variety industries

Skills

- Entrepreneurship education
- Apprenticeships and in-company training
- Labour mobility

Policy capacity

- Identifying smart specialisations
- Accessing, steering, integrating national policy
- Bringing stakeholders together
- Avoiding lock-in
- Using evaluation



Smart specialisation policy in action

Poland – regional government

- Diagnostic research
- Events and workshops to create research/innovation partnerships
- Expert commissions and selection board
- Included in Regional Innovation Strategy
- Priority to specialisations in ERDF research and innovation funding

UK – Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) (and Combined Authorities)

- LEP Board – private sector; local government; HEIs
- Small LEP Secretariat to network and co-ordinate local actors
- Strategic Economic Plan identifies regional specialisations based on data and dialogue; and refreshed in new Local Industrial Strategies
- LEP draws down national government competitive funding, including ERDF and future Shared Prosperity Fund



Bottlenecks identified (1/2)

Challenge	Pomorskie, Poland	Malopolskie, Poland	Coventry & Warwickshire UK
Access to finance	Early-stage equity	Early-stage equity	Early-stage equity; mezzanine development funds; micro loans
Entrepreneurship education and culture	Entrepreneurship support in HEIs	Entrepreneurship support in HEIs	Entrepreneurship culture in parts of the region
Skills	Skilled labour; digital skills	Growing skills mismatch	Technical and digital skills; mismatch training and business needs
SME innovation	Management capabilities and ambition for innovation	Mechanisms to promote SME collaboration and overcome lack of trust	Few SMEs in R&D; lack of innovation management capabilities



Bottlenecks identified (2/2)

Challenge	Pomorskie, Poland	Malopolskie, Poland	Coventry & Warwickshire UK
Knowledge exchange	Limited academic entrepreneurship; little SME-HEI interaction	HEI technologies not to commercial level; limited interaction with scale-ups	Lack of collaboration among SMEs in the region
Large firm embedding	FDI marketing not aligned with specialisations; low FDI innovation content; lack of entrepreneurship culture	Little large firm tradition of connecting with entrepreneurs	Lack of SME capabilities for linkages
Smart specialisation process	Specialisations include 'backward-looking' industries; weak multi-level governance links	Large number of specialisations, including backward looking; limited	Non-aligned geographies of policy organisations; lack of local policy resources



Conclusions – priorities for EU policy

- Support innovative start-ups, scale-ups and SME innovation with regionally-tailored interventions:
 - Finance, entrepreneurship culture, technical and digital skills, SME management capability, firm networks, etc.
- Support commercialisation of HEI research and HEI-industry collaborations, and engage large firms in local skills and innovation initiatives
- Build regional policy capacities for smart specialisation (networking, intelligence, evaluation, ensuring priorities are focused and future oriented)



For information on how to participate:

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Thank you!

