Local entrepreneurship ecosystems and emerging industries – OECD case studies

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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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Pomorskie, Poland</th>
<th>Malopolskie, Poland</th>
<th>Coventry &amp; Warwickshire UK</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access to finance</strong></td>
<td>Early-stage equity</td>
<td>Early-stage equity</td>
<td>Early-stage equity; mezzanine development funds; micro loans</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Entrepreneurship education and culture</strong></td>
<td>Entrepreneurship support in HEIs</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship support in HEIs</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship culture in parts of the region</td>
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<td><strong>Skills</strong></td>
<td>Skilled labour; digital skills</td>
<td>Growing skills mismatch</td>
<td>Technical and digital skills; mismatch training and business needs</td>
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<td><strong>SME innovation</strong></td>
<td>Management capabilities and ambition for innovation</td>
<td>Mechanisms to promote SME collaboration and overcome lack of trust</td>
<td>Few SMEs in R&amp;D; lack of innovation management capabilities</td>
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## Bottlenecks identified (2/2)

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<tr>
<td><strong>Knowledge exchange</strong></td>
<td>Limited academic entrepreneurship; little SME-HEI interaction</td>
<td>HEI technologies not to commercial level; limited interaction with scale-ups</td>
<td>Lack of collaboration among SMEs in the region</td>
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<td><strong>Large firm embedding</strong></td>
<td>FDI marketing not aligned with specialisations; low FDI innovation content; lack of entrepreneurship culture</td>
<td>Little large firm tradition of connecting with entrepreneurs</td>
<td>Lack of SME capabilities for linkages</td>
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<td><strong>Smart specialisation process</strong></td>
<td>Specialisations include ‘backward-looking’ industries; weak multi-level governance links</td>
<td>Large number of specialisations, including backward looking; limited promotion</td>
<td>Non-aligned geographies of policy organisations; lack of local policy resources</td>
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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!