

# SmartSpec

Newsletter 1

1/2/2014

## SmartSpec Launch

### European Parliament hosts opening conference

*The SmartSpec project formally kicked off on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2013 with an opening event hosted by Derek Vaughan MEP in the European Parliament, Brussels. Around 85 participants heard from members of the project team, officials from the European Commission and practitioners from across the EU. The conference provided a*

*valuable opportunity to discuss emerging challenges for the Smart Specialisation concept and to introduce the SmartSpec project to a wider audience. Summary documents are available at:  
<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/cplan/research/smartspec/events>*



### Staying in touch

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Details of SmartSpec can be found at

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/cplan/research/smartspec>

The project also connects to wider debates through the Linked In Group: S3.

### Smart Specialisation High Level Event

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On the 8<sup>th</sup> November, members of the SmartSpec project team joined the High Level event on Smart Specialisation organized by the European Commission, the Government of Flanders and hosted by the European Parliament.

## SmartSpec: the project

### What is SmartSpec?

The aim of SmartSpec is to provide substance, guidance and practical support, based on the combination of leading academic and practical expertise. The goal is directed at operationalising the concept of smart specialisation in a manner which will be useful to actors in different regional contexts. It will do this by

strengthening the analytical underpinnings of the smart specialisation concept, providing methodological guidance for practice and generating strategic intelligence for policy-makers.



### Living Labs

SmartSpec is using an approach based upon the notion of regional living laboratories to explore the practical aspects of smart specialization in applied settings. Sixteen regions across Europe will be party to this.



### SmartSpec Themes

*SmartSpec includes a number of key themes related to implementing concepts of smart specialization, including:*

*The role of institutions in the entrepreneurial search process*

*The challenges of multi-level governance in developing smart specialization approaches*

*Links between Social Innovation and smart specialization approaches*

*Designing, implementing and assessing smart specialization strategies*

*The potential for smart specialization in regions with less developed research and innovation systems*

This project is funded by the European Union under the FP7 Cooperation Programme:  
Social Sciences and the Humanities - Grant number 320131.



This Project is funded by the European Union under the 7th Framework Programme.