# SmartSpec – Outputs

Smart Spec

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| Newsletter 5 |  | 20/06/2016 |

The SmartSpec research programme is coming to an end on the 30th of June. As a result of this programme a range of outputs have been published, covering four main topics. Additionally, the SmartSpec team was also responsible for organising 10 learning journeys involving 10 policy partners across the EU and for producing 16 regional reports on the design of smart specialisation strategies. This Newsletter presents a summary of the main results. The main ouputs and publications are found in the SmartSpec’s website: http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/cplan/research/smartspec.

**Entrepreneurial discovery process**

This work package was led by Philip McCann at the University of Groningen and Frank van Oort at the Erasmus University Rotterdam. It has led to the publication of several working papers, published articles and an edited book to be published in 2016 with a wide variety of prominent contributors.

**Social innovation**

This work package was led by Ranald Richardson from Newcastle University. It looked at how social innovation has become an important concept in EU policy and what this means for smart specialisation strategies. It has also produced three journal articles covering issues such as assisted living for the elderly or the challenges of addressing societal challenges through regional policy.

**Regions with less developed research and innovation systems**

Led by Jiří Blažek from Charles University in Prague, the third work package addressed the specific challenges and opportunities for regions with less developed research and innovation systems. It addressed issues such as the position of small and medium firms in global value chains or the role of universities in promoting diversity. As a result of this work three peer-reviewed articles have been published in top scientific journals.

**Underpinning effective strategy design**

The work package on strategy design was led by Claire Nauwelaers, an independent consultant who has previously worked for organisations such as the OECD or UNU-MERIT (University of Maastricht and United Nations University). It led to several outputs reflecting on how the design of smart specialisation strategies can be optimised, in light of previous examples of regional innovation policy and also learning from current practice.

# Policy briefs

*News and events*

**Final conference:** the final conference of the SmartSpec programme took place in Brussels on the 12th May 2016. It was attended by more than 100 delegates and included representatives from DG REGIO, DG RTD and the Committee of the Regions. It also had academic speakers from the London School of Economics, Cardiff University and Utrech University, among others.

**Working Papers**: Visit the SmartSpec website to access the final list of publications and outputs from the whole project: http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/cplan/research/smartspec

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*Project website:* [*ww*w.cardiff.ac.uk/cplan/research/smartspec](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/cplan/research/smartspec)

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