

# Socio-spatial context for innovation: learning macro-regions

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# Context

- Innovation as a social construct
- Innovation as a spatial construct
  - The death of geography?
  - Or does geography still matter?
- Spillovers and absorptive capacity
- Why macro-regions?

# Macro-regional dimensions to innovation

- Niches for potential S3
  - Atlantic blue economy
  - NWE health innovation clusters
- Combined capacity
  - Firms, research institutions, education
  - Islands to archipelagos
- Facilitating 'esd'
  - eg VC funds for niche investments
  - Soft launches and soft landings
- Stimulating new products or processes (NPP)

# Role of macro-regions?

- Combine scarce resources to create (and build) capacity
  - Differential needs in different macro-regions
- Focus on (a) particular specialisation(s)
- Stimulate cross-border/boundary research and innovation spaces
- Facilitate new combinations of players

# Learning macro-regions?

- Learning by macro-regions
  - What is in the programme?
  - Past experience (eg Regions of Knowledge)?
- Learning in macro-regions
  - Role of national/regional strategies
  - Are external macro-regional perspectives considered?
- Learning from macro-regions
  - Are innovative approaches being learnt from?