

Smart Specialisation for Sustainable Development Goals - E-talks webinar series | 3 December 2021
Pathways for digital and green transition in view of structural transformation and technological up-
grading: the role of innovation in long-term sustainable growth

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A systemic perspective on implications of policy implications

1. With respect to multidimensional analysis:

What can we learn from the analysis of other dimensions?

- **population:** size and age composition impact on long term growth
- **education and competence networks** that support technological upgrade and greening
- **income distribution:** cross country differences and within countries differences (regional divide): any impact on green and digital technologies?
- intra-country **regional structural unbalances:** they hamper the potential at country level and become per se a target of policy
- **cross-country relationships** (core semi-peripheries-peripheries relational dimensions vs. groups of countries on given variables)
- **pandemic and recovery:** what different paths for building back better across regions/countries, in Europe and beyond?

2. With respect to implications for policy: What *implications of policy implications* (i.e. which tools for policy in action)

- **Policy coordination** is needed, and it is a multidimensional coordination that must be built:
 - intra-country (subnational levels)
 - cross-domains
 - cross-region/country: macro regional strategy (MRS) can indeed play a role in coordination, also through MRSs coordination
- **Resources**, not only categories of specific resources (capital, labour, intangible) that are needed to support technological upgrade and green development, but potential deriving from mobilising – as Hirschman observed in analysing development projects:
 - latent resources
 - reducing risk aversion.
- **Monitoring and evaluating:** new strands of methods and tools able to take into account the systemic nature of policy interventions need specific academic education and training of professionals and policy administrators
- Last: policy in action means **mobilising processes of change**, and this needs time to plan, time to learn, time to ripe the effects. Different time horizons must be made clear to address the difficulties inherent to processes of change

To conclude, we should look forward - beyond the time frame analysed by the authors - on the European role in the world challenges on pandemic: we/they does not work. Instead, all of us and each of us is the essential condition for reaching the SDGs.

Addendum on data at subnational level. Such data is needed to assess the critical issues characterising intra-country disparities. At EU level a large effort in collecting data at subnational level (at NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 level) can be furthered and methods can be shared to support other countries in the same direction.