

SMART SPECIALISATION FOR THE RECOVERY

online workshop

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**Taking stock of the
implementation of Smart
Specialisation: Evidence and
Lessons Learned**

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European Committee
of the Regions



#SmartSpecialisation

Structure

- 
- Four miniature hiker figures with large backpacks are positioned on a topographic map with yellow contour lines. The hikers are arranged in a line, moving from the bottom left towards the top right. The first hiker is wearing a green shirt and brown pants, the second a yellow shirt and blue pants, the third a red shirt and brown pants, and the fourth an orange shirt and grey pants. The map background features yellow contour lines and some blue text labels like '724' and 'A'.
1. The **Real Implementation** of the Smart Specialisation methodology
 2. Empirical evidence: **Governance**
 3. Empirical evidence: **EDP**
 4. Empirical evidence: **Implementation measures**
 5. Empirical evidence: **Monitoring and Evaluation**

1. The Real Implementation of the Smart Specialisation methodology

Key steps :

1. Analysis of regional context/potential
2. Governance
3. Vision for the future: EDP
4. Selection of priorities
5. Policy mix
6. Monitoring and evaluation



Analysing the evidence in key topics in the implementation of Smart Specialisation

1

EDP

- The **Entrepreneurial Discovery Process** guides public and private investment to the areas with potential meet the social and economic development goals of the territory

2

Governance

- When it comes to the sensitive moment of deciding on strategic priorities, a truly **inclusive RIS3 governance** structure should be able to prevent capture by specific interest groups, powerful lobbies, or major regional stakeholders.

3

Monitoring Evaluation

- **Monitoring** as: a system to gather and process information, a transparent crystallisation of the logic of intervention and a communication device
- **Evaluation** as: a way to reinforce our credibility, a communication device and provide confidence in the process.

4

Implementation measures



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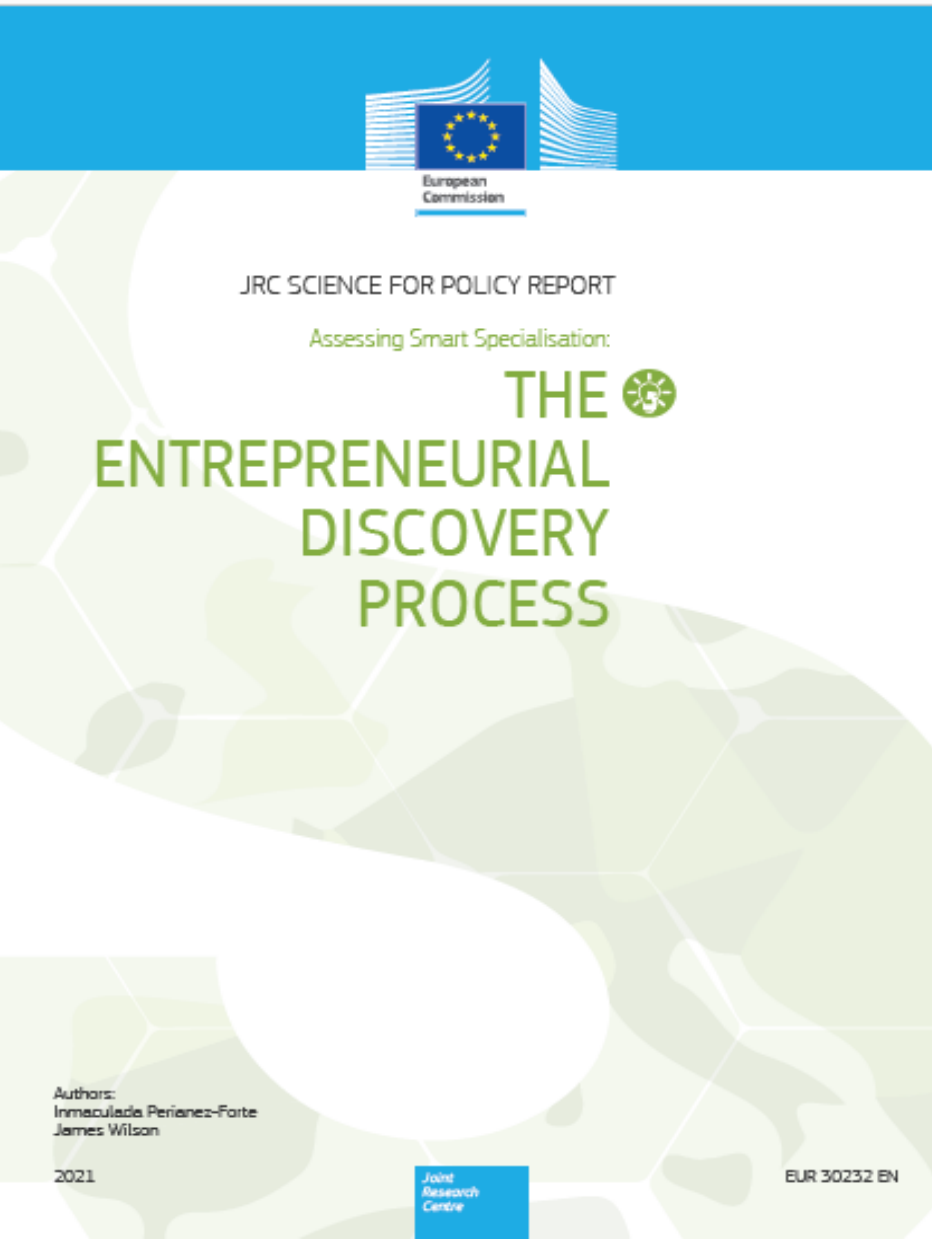
2. Empirical evidence: Governance



- Strengthened **networks of actors** and made the **decision-making process more inclusive**.
- The **institutional changes** have contributed to the production of a wide range of tangible and intangible collective goods.
- The effectiveness of **horizontal and vertical coordination** is still low.

Guzzo and Gianelle (2021) “Assessing Smart Specialisation: Governance”

3. Empirical evidence: EDP



- These processes remain highly **context-dependent**.
- Existing **institutions, culture and historical trajectory of innovation policy** influence their success.
- **Key factors:**
 - 1. Design/implement mechanisms** around the specificities of the regional context;
 - 2. Using digital forms of engagement;**
 - 3. Increase the use of dissemination tools.**

Periañez-Forte and Wilson (2021) “Assessing Smart Specialisation: The Entrepreneurial Discovery Process”

4. Empirical evidence: Implementation measures



JRC SCIENCE FOR POLICY REPORT

Assessing Smart Specialisation:

POLICY 
IMPLEMENTATION
MEASURES

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Joint
Research

EUR 50252 EN

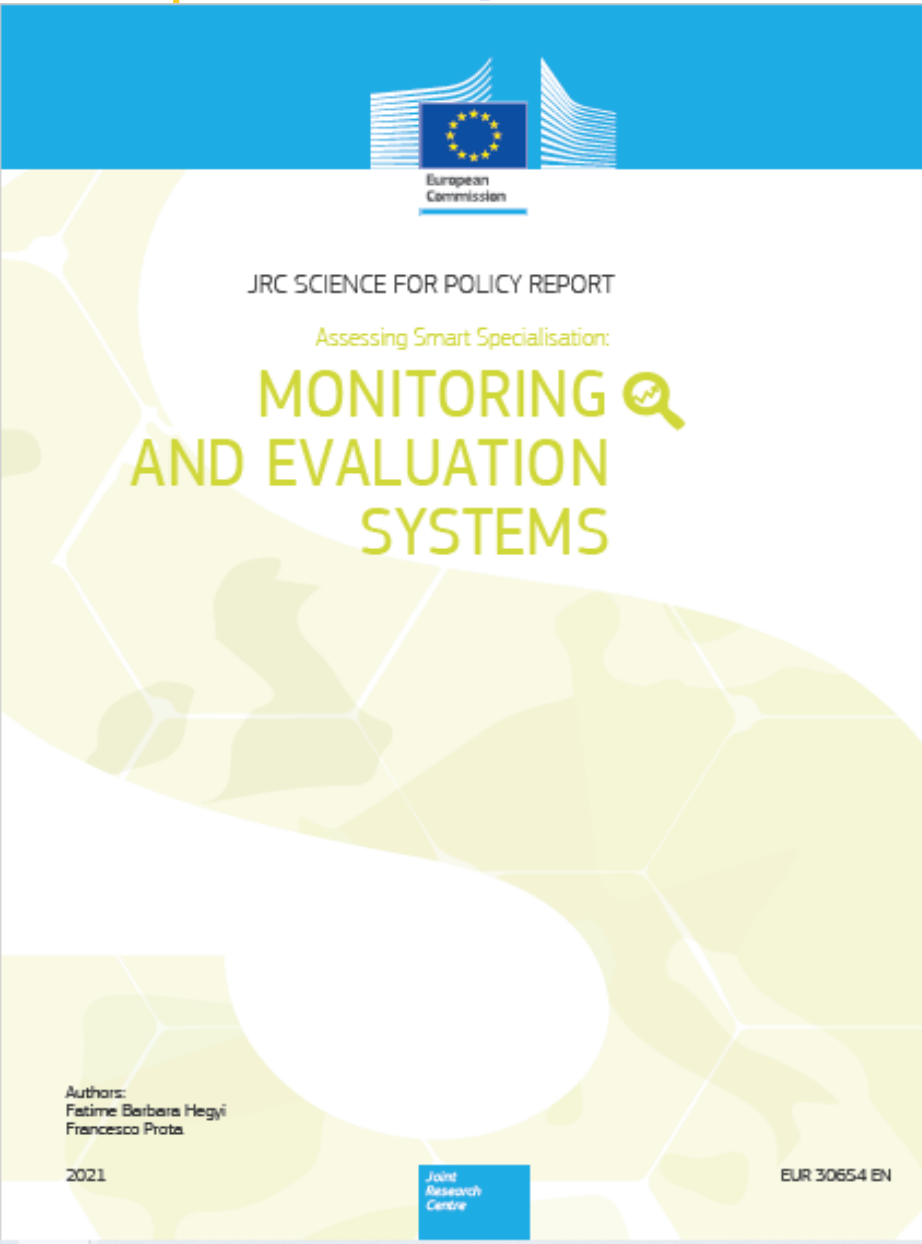
- **Little selectivity** in terms of both priorities and type of interventions
- **Instruments** deployed are mostly **traditional, supply-side**
- Limited support to **agglomeration dynamics**

Fratesi, Gianelle, and Guzzo (2021) "Assessing Smart Specialisation: Policy Implementation Measures"



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5. Empirical evidence: Monitoring and Evaluation



- Incomplete logic of intervention
→ **incomplete monitoring system**
- **Great heterogeneity:** Policy learning occurs mostly in more developed regions
- **Lack of feedback loops** from evaluators to policy makers

Hegyi and Prota (2021) “Assessing Smart Specialisation: Monitoring and Evaluation Systems”



Thank you for your attention! 😊

...so let's have a debate!