

STI Roadmaps for SDGs – paving the pathways for sustainable recovery and future resilience: Australia, Gippsland

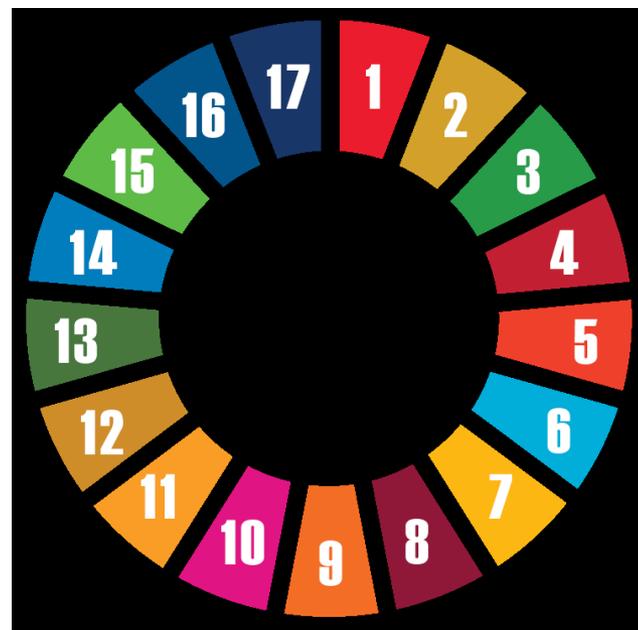
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European Union Centre of Excellence in Smart Specialisation and Regional Policy, and the EU Jean Monnet Network on the EU's Role in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia Pacific, RMIT University, Melbourne Australia

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A New Agenda for Global Transformation

- Several projects underpin these comments:
 - A Jean Monnet Network focused on the EU's role in the implementation of the SDGs in Asia Pacific
 - A Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on Smart Specialisation and Regional Policy which has examined the value of smart specialisation in enhancing regional development, in Australia and parts of Asia;
 - A Victorian Government project supporting the application of smart specialisation in Gippsland, a region in the south east of Australia in transition from coal-powered electricity generation.



The Australian STI Priority Framework

- *Technology Investment Roadmap* – a framework to accelerate **low-emission technologies** (Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources): Discussion Paper May 2020, for consultation.
- Australian Government has identified **9 science and research priorities**, with associated practical research challenges (Australian Research Council):
 - Food Soil and Water Transport
 - Cybersecurity Energy Health Resources
 - Advanced Manufacturing Environmental Change
- Innovation and Science Australia –recognises the importance of STI for health, public safety & decarbonising the economy

Gippsland as a peripheral transition region

- Smart Specialisation process introduced in November 2017 following closure of Hazelwood power station by Engie
- Why a peripheral region? Poor socioeconomic indicators, dispersed population, poor transport routes, mining/power concentrated in the Latrobe Valley, but other parts of the region were dominated by various forms of agriculture
- The process followed the S3 Platform Guidelines initially, with significant local adaptation
- Initial focus on STI opportunities but the real challenge has been building the regional innovation system



Social and Science/Technology Innovation

- Why the initial emphasis on social innovation? Challenging grant-driven competitive ethos, building collaboration; separation of industry and research; engaging civil society; demonstrating the importance of data; building capability;
- STI early efforts focused on vegetable waste processing producing nutrients for health markets; possible uses of indigenous grains (also undermine commodity pattern)
- Real STI agenda is emerging in renewable technologies, both massive offshore but also community initiatives to develop remote smart grids, smart refuges re bushfires, and new systems for managing agricultural energy usage
- SDGs 13, 12, 2, 3, 6, 16 and 17.



Three Concluding Points

- System-building collaboration is essential for innovation to flourish in achieving the SDGs
- In a peripheral coal-power region facing necessary transition, community engagement with renewable energy sources can lead to significant social and technological innovation
- As the regional capability for collaborative innovation develops, new opportunities for technical innovation emerge across a range of sectors

