

20th APDR Congress

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Renaissance of the Regions of Southern Europe

Session Theme:

Smart Specialisation Strategies and the Renaissance of the Regions of Southern Europe

Session coordinators:

John Edwards (Chair)

JRC-IPTS, European Commission

John.EDWARDS@ec.europa.eu

Martina Pertoldi

JRC-IPTS, European Commission

Martina.PERTOLDI@ec.europa.eu

Artur da Rosa Pires

University of Aveiro

arp@ua.pt

Description

Smart Specialisation is a new policy concept which promotes a prioritisation of public support to place-based development through the strategic use of research and innovation. It has been adopted as a central pillar of the new EU Cohesion Policy from 2014-2020 and all Member States are required to submit national and/or regional Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) as an ex-ante conditionality for spending European Structural and Investment Funds on R&I. This session will allow for a debate on the distinctive features of S3, a critical assessment of the added value it brings to policy making and a comparative analysis of how the approach is being interpreted and implemented in the South of Europe.

Scope

Papers may cover different aspects of smart specialisation but should have a conceptual or empirical focus on Southern Europe.

Objectives

The main objectives of the session are to:

- Provide useful insights into the challenges, opportunities and specificities of the next generation of regional innovation policies in Southern Europe
- Explore the contribution of Southern Europe to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy in the context of current socio-economic challenges
- Promote the debate about relevant and spatially sensitive analytic and policy tools looking at the specificities of Southern Europe