

EUSPRI conference in Paris – June 6-8, 2018

Synthesis report

The annual conference of the EUSPRI forum in Paris was entitled “governance and relevance: towards a new generation of research and innovation policies. It took place over three days in Marne La Vallée (at ESIEE engineering school) over 3 days (June 6 to 8).

It has been focused around organised 4 tracks:

- Track one dealt with public research and its organisations, gathering 6 sessions and 19 presentations plus a keynote speech by Vic Borden on the evolution of the Carnegie classification of universities. It was introduced by the first overall conference keynote speech by Catherine Paradeise on “academic institutions as strategic organisations”
- Track 2 focused on societal challenges and their implications for STI policy, dealing with on-going European debates on “missions” and “transformative policies”. It gathered 6 sessions and 19 presentations discussing new frameworks, new processes and new policy instruments. The two joint concluding keynote speeches by Matthias Weber and Mireille Matt derived lessons from the debates and sketched new research directions
- Track 3 dealt with other new developments in STI policies with 7 sessions and 21 presentations discussing policy frames and mixes, revisiting policy instruments, and national experiences in non OECD countries.
- Track 4 focused on policy evaluation, discussing in particular new approaches for evaluating ‘mission oriented’ policies, and for impact assessment (3 sessions and 10 papers). It was followed by track 5 with 3 sessions (9 papers) discussing inclusive policies and responsible research and innovation. These were complemented by one special session on territorial innovation policy (4 papers) and a session on new knowledge on innovation dynamics (4 papers)

The conference being dedicated to open science, all presentations (and keynote speeches) are available on the website of the conference. We also have nominated rapporteurs that have taken note of the main elements being discussed and that will produce jointly a collective report for supporting discussing about the future agenda of the field. These reports will be available for the discussions planned by the EUSPRI forum for the end of 2018.

A conference is also a place to meet and celebrate and we hope participants appreciated the two events that were organised (even though the weather and the RER did not facilitate their access): a cocktail enabling to tests unique Burgundy wines and the dinner at the top of Pompidou museum with a unique view over Paris and access to the exposition on the Chagall, Lissitsky and Malevitch encounter in Vitebsk.

All in all, 140 participants from 29 countries participated. The participation was dominated by European countries (85%) with participants from 17 countries (it is interesting to note that the organising country (France) only ranked third (14%), contrary to previous conferences, where it has often represented more than one third of participants). The 4 other continents were equally present (with in particular, participants from the US, Argentina, Australia, Japan, China, Taiwan or South Africa).