



## **Eu-SPRI Forum**

# **Annual Report 2021**

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## Eu-SPRI 2021 in a Nutshell: Message from the President

Dear Reader,

The **European Forum for Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation** (Eu-SPRI), aims to strengthen the community of researchers who focus on interdisciplinary dimensions related to policy and governance, in the field of knowledge creation and innovation. Studies of Policies for Research and Innovation (SPRI), has been a growing field of research since the late 1960s; evolving at the encounter of Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Science and Technology Studies, Business Administration, Geography and History.

The Eu-SPRI Forum was founded in Paris in June 2010 by eleven organisations. As of 31st December 2021, our Forum had nineteen full members and one associate member.

This was another difficult pandemic year for Eu-SPRI members in terms of scheduled events and activities. The continued restricted circumstances imposed by the pandemic meant that the number of events scheduled for 2021 was less than we would normally carry out. Three events took place; all of which had to run virtually.

Our main **community building event**, the Annual Conference, was held June 9-11, 2021. The conference was on-line due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was organised and run by NIFU and TiK in Norway. The title of the conference was *Science and innovation - an uneasy relationship?* The conference report can be found in [Annex 1](#)

One Early Career Research Training School was held in 2021. This was on the topic of Advancing Mission-oriented Innovation Policy. It took place online 25-27<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and was organised by Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. The conference report can be found in [Annex 2](#).

In advancing our mission to nurture the **next generation of Research and Innovation Policy researchers**, we normally expect to run two Early Career Conferences (ECC) in the year. Due to the constraints of the pandemic, we held only one **Early Career Researcher Conference in Paris, 21-23 October 2021**. This was on the topic of *Transformative Innovation Policy, Concepts, Methods and Policy Practices*. The conference report can be found in [Annex 3](#)

Our **Early Career Researcher mobility scheme** suffered a setback during the pandemic and applications to the scheme were inevitably lower than normal [Annex 4](#). The latest call is currently on the Eu-SPRI website and we encourage you to ask Doctoral Researchers in their second year and beyond as well as Early Career Researchers to apply for the scheme. The scheme has been made more flexible and candidates can now decide to apply for a short mobility call (up to one month visiting) or a regular mobility call (at least 3 months of visiting).

Our community continues to explore new **global co-operation with neighbouring networks to influence global policy agendas**. Our focus in 2021 was to continue to coordinate activities with the Transformative Innovation Policy Consortium (TPIC), building on the joint

working paper published in 2020 “*Towards a Transformative Innovation Policy (TIP) Research Agenda*”<sup>1</sup>. A TIPC/Eu-SPRI conference titled *Building a sustainable knowledge infrastructure for Transformative Innovation Policy* was planned during 2021 and was ultimately held in January 2022.<sup>2</sup> The TIPC conference is an example of the interaction with another research community where we maintain the visibility and engagement of Eu-SPRI.

The programme for **future EU SPRI initiatives** continued in 2021. As a result of the virtual workshop of the General Assembly working groups in December 2020, a position paper was prepared and presented at the 2021 General Conference, in order to feed into the debate within our community on new trends and transformations in the SPRI field, and the role of our community. This work produced two main consequences.

First, we decided to add a fourth mission at the core of our activities. This mission commits our community **to engage with scientific and policy fields addressing STI policy matters** strengthening the interface with other scientific disciplines and policy fora where STI topics are discussed. Second, we have set up an advisory board (Stakeholder Advisory Board - SAB) to make our public engagement more institutionalized. The composition of the SAB is described on page 6. The first meeting with the SAB was planned in January 2022 in order to prepare a dedicated session at the General Conference 2022.

Finally, new initiatives conceived in 2020 and now implemented from the group work include an Eu-SPRI Early Career Researcher (ECR) Webinar Series, which has started in 2021. This is a new online format for ECR to present and discuss their work with senior colleagues as commentators (training). Further information can be found in Annex 5.

Professor Dr. Jakob Edler continued his term of office as President of Eu-SPRI until June 2021 when Dr Emanuela Reale assumed the role of President. The Secretariat was run by the Manchester Institute for Innovation Research (MIOIR) at Manchester University throughout the year. The Secretariat is managed by Deborah Cox with support from Holly Crossley and Wendy Walker at MIOIR and Jakob Schiele at Utrecht (website/social media).

Emanuela Reale President

Debbie Cox, Secretariat

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.tipconsortium.net/publication/towards-a-transformative-innovation-policy-tip-research-agenda-2/>

<sup>2</sup> We will include the TIP conference report in the 2022 annual report

## Organisation

The Eu-SPRI Forum is a not for profit association (French law) founded in Paris in June 2010 and is funded by the annual contributions of its members.

The Eu-SPRI Forum is governed by the Assembly of its full members meeting once a year and is managed by an Executive Committee. The tenth session of the Forum started on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

### Full members (as of June 2022) are:

1. Université Paris-Est, Institut Francilien Recherche Innovation Société (IFRIS), founding member.
2. Copenhagen Business School (CBS), founding member.
3. University of Twente, Institute of Innovation and Governance Studies (IGS), founding member.
4. Instituto de Gestión de la Innovación y el Conocimiento (INGENIO), Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos (IPP) CSIC, founding member.
5. Institute of Research on Economic Sustainable Growth, IRCrES-CNR, founding member.
6. Politecnico di Milano, Dipartimento di Ingegneria Gestionale, founding member.
7. AIT, Austrian Institute of Technology, founding member.
8. CIRCLE, Lund University, Sweden, founding member.
9. Manchester Institute of Innovation Research, AMBS; The University of Manchester, founding member.
10. NIFU, Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education, Norway (accepted on 27 October 2010), founding member.
11. Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research, ISI, Karlsruhe, Germany, since academic year 2011/2012.
12. VTT, Innovation Systems and Innovation Policy (in collaboration with) Helsinki Institute of Science and Technology Studies, HIST, since academic year 2011/2012.
13. Innovation Studies, Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Universiteit Utrecht, since academic year 2011/2012.
14. TIK, Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture, University of Oslo, since 2013.
15. SPRU - Science Policy Research Unit (University of Sussex), since 2015.
16. TNO Netherlands Organisation of Applied Scientific Research, Expertise Group Strategy and Policy, member since 2016.
17. Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM) and Accenture, re-joined 2017
18. Sozialforschungsstelle Dortmund ZWE of TU-Dortmund, joined 2018
19. Rathenau Institute, joined 2020

### Associate member:

Helsinki Institute of Science and Technology Studies (HIST) in collaboration with VTT, since academic year 2011/2012.

### General Assembly

The tenth General Assembly (GA) was a virtual meeting, held over Zoom on 8th June 2021.

## Executive Committee Members 2021/2022

President 2021-present	Emanuela Reale	CNR-IRCrES, Italy
President 2016 -2021	Jakob Edler	Fraunhofer ISI and Manchester Institute of Innovation Research, AMBS; The University of Manchester
Vice President from June 2016 (ExCo member from 2014)	Gaston Heimeriks	Innovation Studies, Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Universiteit Utrecht
Treasurer from June 2010	Philippe Larédo	IFRIS (Paris) and Manchester Institute of Innovation Research, MBS; University of Manchester
ExCo Member from 2019	Susana Borrás	CBS, Denmark
ExCo member from June 2019	Emanuela Reale	IRCrES-CNR, Italy
ExCo Member from June 2016	Matthias Weber	AIT, Austria
ExCo member 2019- 2021	José Guimón	UAM, Spain
ExCo member From December 2021	Stephanie Daimer	Fraunhofer ISI, Germany

In June 2021, the General Assembly elected Emanuela Reale as President of the Forum. Professor Susana Borrás, José Guimón, Gaston Heimeriks were re-elected to the Executive Committee (ExCo) and Carlos Montalvo was elected to the Committee. The Executive Committee held 7 meetings in 2021. These were held at regular intervals in January, March, April, June, September, November and December and all were conducted by Zoom. The April Executive Committee meeting included a presentation by OpenAire.

**Eu-SPRI Treasurer** is Philippe Larédo, IFRIS.

### Eu-SPRI Forum Secretariat

The Eu-SPRI Forum Secretariat is managed by Debbie Cox, from The University of Manchester.

### Stakeholder Advisory Board

The Eu-SPRI Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB) was recently created to help improve the policy relevance of the Eu-SPRI community, building upon its unique interdisciplinary nature. The SAB was assigned the following missions:

- To provide advice on strategic direction of Eu-SPRI based on latest policy developments
- To act as ambassadors of Eu-SPRI, promoting its work and events.

The SAB is composed by the following members.

- Philippe Larrue, Policy Analyst, OECD (Chair)
- Tatiana Fernandez Sirera, Head of Economic Promotion at the Government of Catalonia's Ministry of Economy and Finance.
- Christian Naczinsky, Head of Department for EU and OECD Research Policy, Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Research
- Antti Pelkonen, Science Specialist at Prime Minister's Office in Finland
- Sylvia Schwaag Serger, Professor and Deputy Vice Chancellor at Lund University in Sweden.

## Communication

### Eu-SPRI Forum website

The website is currently located at <http://www.euspri-forum.eu/> and it is updated regularly by the Secretariat. In 2021 Jakob Schiele, a Junior Lecturer at the University of Utrecht, Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development was appointed to specifically assist with social media, the website and helping to foster the network. In 2020 we set up a YouTube channel that is accessed from the website. Members are encouraged to provide high quality digital content from their events to populate the channel. Please contact Jakob for help with promoting your event via Eu-SPRI [j.schiele@uu.nl](mailto:j.schiele@uu.nl)

### Eu-SPRI Forum Listserv mailing lists

Eu-SPRI Forum has 2 Listserv mailing lists:

Eu-SPRI-NEWS, for news items of general interest and Eu-SPRI-INFO, a discussion list for Eu-SPRI Forum members only. To post items to either list please send messages to [Debbie Cox](mailto:Debbie.Cox).

### Eu-SPRI Forum Twitter account

In 2020 we set up a Twitter account which is proving to be a popular means of communication amongst the Eu-SPRI community. This can be found at [https://twitter.com/Euspri\\_Forum](https://twitter.com/Euspri_Forum). All Eu-SPRI members are invited to follow us on Twitter for the latest news and updates. The Twitter feed has 780 followers (at the time of writing). The Eu-SPRI Twitter feed, main contact, is Jakob Schiele, [j.schiele@uu.nl](mailto:j.schiele@uu.nl).

## Eu –SPRI Forum Activities

### Eu SPRI Forum Calls for proposals

During the pandemic there was an open call for ECRs and the timetable for ECR Calls was not posted as per the normal routine. One call for Proposals for Early Career Researcher Conferences (ECC) was posted on the website in December 2021 with a deadline of 31st March 2022 for hosting conferences to end of December 2023.

During 2021 the Eu-SPRI Forum operated an open call to all Member Organisations for the hosting and organisation of Early Career Researcher and Doctoral Researcher Training Schools. This is due to the inexpensive nature of running on-line events.

As we move beyond the pandemic, we will reinstate the ECR and ECS Call timetable. However, in the open calls we will maintain the possibility to propose virtual events for special reasons.

### Eu-SPRI Early Career Researcher Conferences (ECC)

One early career conference was held in Paris, in October 2021. This was a hybrid event co-organised by the Université Gustave Eiffel (UGE) - Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Sciences, Innovations, Sociétés (LISIS) and the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) - Center for Innovation Systems & Policy; in collaboration with University of Vienna, Department of Geography and Regional Research and the Urban Europe Research Alliance (UERA). The conference was held at ESIEE Paris, situated at the campus of Université Gustave Eiffel. The guiding theme of the conference was *Transformative Innovation Policy: Concepts, Methods and Policy Practices*. A comprehensive report on the conference can be found in [Annex 3](#).

### Future ECCs

- In May 2022 an ECC on *Rethinking Innovation Policy: Creating Resilience in Times of Uncertainty* was held in Manchester, UK. The event was organised by MIOIR and a full report will be available for the 2022 annual report.
- In September 2022 TU Dortmund in collaboration with Fraunhofer ISI will run an ECC on the topic of *Social Innovation Policy, Concepts, Methods and Policy Practices*. The call document can be found on the [Eu-SPRI website](#).
- In 2023 Ingenio (CSIC-UPV) will organise and deliver a conference on *Addressing Old and New Social Challenges: Knowledge, Policies and Inclusion*, 8-10 February 2023, Valencia, Spain.

### Early Career Research Training Schools (ECS) in 2021

As previously agreed we decided to host a series of complementary schools to offer a coherent and coordinated programme.

One Early Career Research Training Schools was held in 2021. This was on the topic of *Advancing Mission-oriented Innovation Policy*. It took place 25-27<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and was organised by Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. Further details can be found in [Annex 1](#).



The following member organisations have committed to hold training schools in 2022:

- CIRCLE at Lund University held a Winter School on the *Geography of Innovation*, 7-11 February 2022. A report will be available in the 2022 annual report.
- POLIMI will hold a Summer School on *Research Methods, Theories and Policies for Navigating the Complexities of the Digital Age*, 25-29 July 2022, Como, Italy.

### Eu-SPRI Forum ECR & PhD Circulation awards

Selection of ECR & PhD circulation awards is determined by Kate Barker at MIOIR.

Due to the pandemic the normal scheduling of calls was disrupted. It became very difficult for people to try and organise research visits due to the restrictions being implemented in different countries in a variety of ways and during varied periods.

In 2021 one call (32<sup>nd</sup>) was issued in April with a deadline of 11 September 2021.

See [Annex 4](#) for details of the 2 successful candidates.

### Eu-SPRI Forum Annual conferences

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual conference of the Forum *Challenging Science and Innovation Policy* will be held in Utrecht, 1-3 June 2022 and is hosted by the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University.

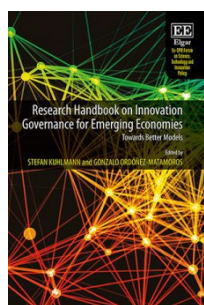
The table below shows the planned schedule of the organisation and host of the Eu-SPRI annual conference going forward. Organisations willing to host the Eu-SPRI Conference in 2026 and 2027 are invited to send an expression of interest.

### Schedule of conferences

Year	Country	Organiser(s)	Title
<b>2022</b>	Netherlands	Copernicus, Utrecht University	Challenging Science and Innovation Policy
<b>2023</b>	UK	SPRU	Innovation Policy for Transformative Change
<b>2024</b>	Netherlands	Twente	Governing Science, Technology and Innovation for Better Worlds – Questioning Certainties
<b>2025</b>	Germany	Dortmund	To Be confirmed

## History of conferences

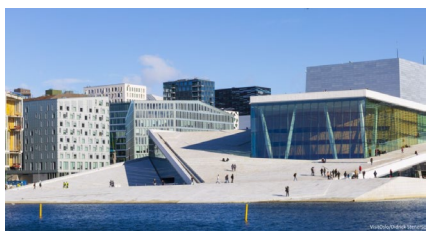
Year	Country	Organiser(s)	Title
2021	Norway	NIFU and TIK-University of Oslo	Science and Innovation – an Uneasy Relationship? Rethinking the roles and relations of STI policies ( <i>virtual conference</i> )
2020	Netherlands	Utrecht University	<i>Postponed to 2022 due to Covid-19 pandemic, although some sessions were held online</i>
2019	Italy	IRCrES-CNR	Science Technology and Innovation Policies for Sustainable Development Goals. Actors, Instruments and Evaluation
2018	France	Université Paris-Est	Governance and relevance: towards a new generation of research and innovation policies
2017	Austria	AIT	The Future of STI – The Future of STI Policy
2016	Sweden	Lund University	Exploring New Avenues for Innovation and Research Policies
2015	Finland	VTT	Innovation Policies for Economic and Social Transitions: Developing Strategies for Knowledge, Practice and Institutions
2014	UK	University of Manchester	Science and Innovation Policy: Dynamics, Challenges, Responsibility and Practice
2013	Spain	UAM and INGENIO	The Management of Innovation Policies: New Forms of Collaboration in Policy Design, Implementation and Evaluation
2012	Germany	Fraunhofer ISI	Towards Transformative Governance? Responses to Mission-oriented Innovation Policy Paradigms
2010	Netherlands	University of Twente	Tentative Governance in Emerging Science and Technology – Actor Constellations, Institutional Arrangements and Strategies



### Eu-SPRI Book series with Edward Elgar

The Edward Elgar Eu-SPRI series aims at promoting forefront research in the field of STI policy. An agreement for Eu-SPRI Book series with Edward Elgar was signed in 2013.

There were no new books in the series in 2013 and ideas for new books in the series are welcome from General Assembly members.



## Annex 1: Eu-SPRI 2021 Conference Science and innovation – an uneasy relationship?

June 9-11, 2021, Oslo

<https://www.euspri2021.no>

The tenth annual Eu-SPRI conference was entitled *Science and innovation – an uneasy relationship?* We aimed at inviting conference participants to a more critical and reflexive discussion of the linkage between science and innovation. To achieve this the conference was organised in three main themes:

- Addressing the Role of Research and Innovation in Times of Crises
- Impact, Excellence and Beyond: Reframing the Science-Society Relationship
- Technology Push or Societal Change – the Widening Scope of STI Policies in Sustainability Transitions.

The conference was held from June 9 until June 11 and jointly organised by the Nordic Institute for Studies of Innovation, Research and Education (NIFU) and Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture (TIK-Centre), University of Oslo. It was originally planned as an in-person conference in Oslo but because of the COVID-19 pandemic it was converted to a digital conference in virtual Oslo using Hopin as the conference platform.

In autumn 2020, we invited participants to submit proposals for tracks related to one of the three main themes. Those who submitted track proposals would also be the track organisers and we had three options for track types: full paper, speed talk and round table. Each of these tracks could have several sessions depending on the number of papers that were submitted to their track. In total, we had 23 tracks and 70 sessions.

Theme	Number of Tracks	Number of Sessions
Assessing the Role of Research and Innovation in Times of Crises	4	12
Impact, Excellence and Beyond: Reframing the Science-Society Relationship	7	22
Technology Push or Societal change - the Widening Scope of Policies in Sustainability Transitions	12	36

On reflection, allowing for full papers was a good choice. The papers had to be submitted a week before and had dedicated opponents. This contributed to interesting and constructive discussions on the papers and the topics. Accepting speed talks was also important as this decreased the threshold for participating in the conference. In addition to the track sessions, we had a plenary session each day of the conference that was related to one of the three main themes.

Further information about the conference can be found on the [website](https://www.euspri2021.no).

Theme	Plenary Speakers and Panel Members
Assessing the Role of Research and Innovation in Times of Crises	<p>Main speaker: Professor John-Arne Røttingen, Ambassador for Global Health at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway.</p> <p>Panel</p> <p>Dr. Peter Singer, Assistant Director General of the World Health Organization</p> <p>Professor Maureen McKelvey, University of Gothenburg</p> <p>Dr. Vasee Moorthy, World Health Organisation</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Magnus Gulbrandsen, TIK-centre, University of Oslo</p>
Impact, Excellence and Beyond: Reframing the Science-Society Relationship	<p>Main speaker: Dr. Gemma Derrick, Lancaster University</p> <p>Panel:</p> <p>Dr. Steven Hill, Research England UKRI</p> <p>Dr. Marc Zbinden, Swiss National Science Foundation</p> <p>Professor Diana Hicks, Georgia Tech, School of Public Policy.</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Gunnar Sivertsen, NIFU</p>
Technology Push or Societal change - the Widening Scope of Policies in Sustainability Transitions	<p>Main speakers:</p> <p>Professor Paula Kivimaa, Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)</p> <p>Dr. Iris Wanzenböck, Utrecht University</p> <p>Professor Susana Borrás, Copenhagen Business School</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Taran Mari Thune, TIK-centre, University of Oslo</p>

There were an additional, two, parallel sub-plenaries. One was organised by RISIS: *New Resources for Researchers and Policymakers: ESID and ISI-Trademark*. The other was organised by TIPC: *Creating a “Transdisciplinary, Accessible and Sustainable Knowledge Infrastructure (TASK-I) for Transformative Innovation Policy*. We wanted to involve policymakers in the conference and organised two, parallel, policy panels where researchers and scientists could discuss: *STI Policies and Sustainability Transitions* and *Who is Responsible for Societal Impact*. The Eu-SPRI Forum also organised the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary plenary session to reflect upon the 10 years of existence of the Forum and envisage a future of the Forum.

In total, 445 persons registered for the conference and 97 percent of those registered visited the conference. Fifty eight percent of the persons who registered were from Germany, Norway, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. The remaining registrations were from all continents except for Africa.

The highest number of participants at the same time during the conference was 251 and on average the participants spent 13 hours and 56 minutes attending the conference. It seems that the digital conference format allowed for more people to attend the conference, but a disadvantage of this format is that it limits the possibility of socialising during the conference. We also believe that a low conference fee (65 Euros) contributed to a high number of participants. We tried to schedule events for socialising, but these events were only visited by a few people throughout the conference. The participants seemed satisfied with the choice of digital platform and how the conference was organised despite it not being an in-person conference as we had originally planned.

## Annex 2: Advancing Mission-oriented Innovation Policy, ECR Summer School

25-27th August 2021

Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development, Utrecht University,  
The Netherlands

### Utrecht University Organising Committee

Koen Frenken (Chair), Gaston Heimeriks, Marko Hekkert, Matthijs Janssen, Iris Wanzenböck, Joeri Wesseling.

### Teaching Staff

Anna Bergek (Chalmers University), Kevin Morgan (Cardiff University), Ismael Rafols (Leiden University), Karoline Rogge (SPRU & Fraunhofer ISI), Matthias Weber (Austrian Institute of Technology). From Utrecht University, Frank Biermann, Gaston Heimeriks, Mattijs Janssen, Joeri Wesseling.

This was a popular summer school. Ten lecturers and thirty six early career researchers participated in the summer school. Sixteen observers listened to some of the lecturers.

### Summary of event

Against the background of societal challenges (climate change, biodiversity loss, ageing, cyber- insecurity), innovation policy has changed markedly during the last decade. Governments are shifting the emphasis in innovation policy from generic R&D and triple-helix support to new programs and instruments to target specific problems following the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Europe's Green Deal and Digital Agenda, or more specific challenges rooted in national or regional contexts.

Most of the new policies can be grouped under the heading of '**Mission-oriented Innovation Policy**', where policies are directed towards a societal challenge and articulated in specific targets and timelines. Missions should guide the policies and actions by the stakeholders involved and can be used as a yardstick for continuous evaluation.

While this type of policy is gaining ground in policy circles around the world, many open questions remain regarding its rationales, design, implementation and evaluation. What is more, as various mission-types of innovation policies are now embraced at regional, national and European levels, questions arise about subsidiarity and multi-level coordination. Finally, to further our understanding, we are in need of more empirical research on the experiences and effectiveness of various forms of mission-oriented innovation policy in tackling societal problems.

This course aimed to provide PhD-students and early-career scholars insights **into the state-of-the-art research and practice in mission-types of innovation policies**. We covered the following topics:

- The rise of challenges, missions and SDGs in innovation policy
- System perspectives on Mission-oriented Innovation Policy
- Regional innovation policy in times of grand societal challenges
- Quantitative mapping of knowledge and innovation for grand societal challenges
- Governance of Mission-oriented Innovation Policy
- Mission-oriented Innovation Policy in practice. Experiences across Europe (policy roundtable)

In addition to lectures and a policy roundtable, we organised parallel paper sessions for young scholars to discuss and receive feedback on their research. We also offered a social event on Wednesday evening. The ECRs attending presented their own papers in parallel sessions with junior and senior discussants. The School closed with an interesting policy panel with participation of Larrue (OECD), Penne (Serv), Stierna (EC) and Thune (Univ Oslo).

### **Programme of the Training School**

#### **25 August 2021**

##### **12h00-13h15 Setting the scene.**

Lectures by Mattias Weber (AIT) & Frank Biermann (Utrecht University)

##### **13h45-15h15 Paper feedback.**

Parallel sessions A1-F1 with 15-minute paper presentations and feedback

##### **15h45-17h00 System perspectives on Mission-Oriented Innovation Policy.**

Lectures by Anna Bergek (Chalmers University) & Joeri Wesseling (Utrecht University)

##### **17h10-19h40 Social event.**

**17.10-17.45:** Getting to know each other a bit better

**18:00-19.00 / 18.40-19.40:** Real-life escape room (online).

#### **26 August 2021**

##### **12h00-13h15 Regional innovation policy in times of grand societal challenges.**

Lectures by Rick Delbridge (Cardiff Business School) & Iris Wanzenböck (Utrecht University)

##### **13h45-15h15 Paper feedback.**

Parallel sessions A2-F2 with 15-minute paper presentations and feedback

##### **15h45-17h00 Mapping challenges, missions and SDGs.**

Lectures by Ismael Rafols (Leiden University) & Gaston Heimeriks (Utrecht University)

#### **27 August 2021**

##### **14h00-15h15 The Governance of Mission-Oriented Innovation Policy.**

Lectures by Karoline Rogge (SPRU/Fraunhofer ISI) & Matthijs Janssen (Utrecht University)

##### **15h45-17h00 Policy roundtable**

## Annex 3: Transformative Innovation Policy Concepts, Methods and Policy Practices, Early Career Conference

21-23 October 2021, Paris, France

From 21st-23rd October 2021 an Eu-SPRI Early Career Conference (ECC) 2021 took place in Paris, France, addressing the guiding theme *Transformative Innovation Policy: Concepts, Methods and Policy Practices*. The event was co-organised by the Université Gustave Eiffel (UGE) - Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Sciences, Innovations, Sociétés (LISIS) and the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) - Center for Innovation Systems & Policy; in collaboration with University of Vienna, Department of Geography and Regional Research and the Urban Europe Research Alliance (UERA). The conference was held at ESIEE Paris, situated at the campus of Université Gustave Eiffel.

Out of the more than 50 applications, 41 participants were selected based on their quality of the abstract, their motivation and their link to the conference theme. Due to difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic the event was held in hybrid form; 23 participants joined the ECC in person in Paris and 18 participants joined online. The participants came from 17 different countries and 27 different research institutes. In total, 15 participants were Eu-SPRI members. Participants could choose to participate with a speed talk or a full paper.

This ECC was organised into 5 streams on *Transformative Innovation Policy*. The starting point is the observation that STI policies have changed, over the past decade, in terms of the rationales and conceptual models through which change is understood to happen in economy and society, while recognising the need to address not only the magnitude but also the direction of change (stream 1). This overarching perspective on the evolution of STI policies can be further differential in terms of the types of innovations addressed (stream 2) and the spatial context in which these policies are embedded (stream 3). Cutting across these three perspectives, the range and the configurations of actors considered relevant to transformative STI policy diversify, and therefore also the institutional and other interfaces between them (stream 4). In order to support more ambitious transformative policy approaches, new forms of strategic intelligence are also needed to guide policy strategies, monitor their implementation and enable processes of collective learning (stream 5).

### Overview of the Conference

The conference offered a diverse program, and was subdivided in various sessions:

- Keynote presentations
- Speed talk sessions
- Full paper sessions (parallel sessions)
- Science-to-Policy training
- Policy panel
- Networking and social events

All plenary sessions were held in hybrid form, whereby we stimulated active participants of both online and in person participants. The parallel sessions (full paper sessions) were held either fully online or fully in person. The conference was opened with welcome speeches on

behalf of: Douglas Robinson (LISIS and UGE), Matthias Weber (AIT), Philippe Laredo (Eu-SPRI) and Gudrun Haindlmaier (UERA)

### **Keynote presentations**

On the first day of the conference, we had the pleasure to have two keynote speakers. Prof **Dr Susana Borrás** (Copenhagen Business School) as the first speaker, held her keynote online, focusing on some of her ongoing work on capacity-building for transformative innovation policy. Prof Dr Karoline Rogge (Fraunhofer ISI/SPRU) presented a keynote on *'Reflections on Transformative Innovation Policy from a Transformative Policy Mix Perspective'*. She participated in person at the conference.

### **Speed talk session**

There were three speed talk sessions during the conference, with 11 presentations in total. These sessions were organised plenary and in hybrid form. Each participant was given 5 minutes to present their research. To ensure an equal division of presenting and discussion time, the presentations would follow one another directly. Each session was finished by questions and discussion of about 15 minutes.

### **Full paper sessions (parallel sessions)**

The participants of the full paper sessions were asked to send in their (original) full paper two weeks prior to the conference – which were shared among participants. All participants were divided into four groups, which remained the same during the conference. This had the advantage that we created smaller discussion groups and participants were able to listen to and discuss the research of all group members. In total there were 3 full-paper parallel sessions of 1.5 hours, each divided into the four parallel groups. These parallel sessions were not hybrid: 2 groups were fully in person and 2 groups were fully online. This was not only to facilitate the technical and logistical organisation, but also to allow in-depth participation for all participants.

Each session was chaired by a senior discussant and the sessions were organised based on research topics/themes. Each session had 3 presenters, who each had a 30 minutes slot. Participants were invited to present their research in 15 minutes, this was followed by 5 minutes of comments from a fellow participant, 5 minutes of comments from the senior discussant and 5 minutes questions and discussions from the audience.

### **Science-to-Policy training**

The Science-to-Policy training is an awareness raising and capacity building format that was developed for the first time for the ECC. The overall aim of the training was to build the early career researchers' awareness and capacity to better support policy processes with their research. Early career researchers were asked to apply for the training with a short motivational statement. In total, 17 early career researchers applied for the training. The training was made up of 3 parts:

The first part of the training was conducted online (3 hours). It took place on the 06.10.2021, two weeks prior to the conference. The aim of the online workshop was to attune early career researchers to the practicalities and daily realities of policy making and



how to make their work more relevant, impactful and supportive of policy making. Speakers for this part of the training were:

- Matthias Weber (Head of Center, AIT)
- Mireille Matt (Research Director, INRAE)
- Dan Andréé (Special Advisor, Stockholm Trio)
- Susanne Meyer (Special Advisor to the General Director of Innovation and Technology, Austrian Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Austria)
- Olga Kordas (Director, Viable Cities)
- Cristian Matti (Head of Strategic Research, EIT Climate KIC)

The second part of the training was also conducted online (3 hours) and took place on 08.10.2021. The aim of this part of the training was to improve early career researcher's ability to effectively communicate and engage policy makers about the work they do as well as improve participant's knowledge on theories of policy processes and policy change. Speakers for this part of the training were:

- Peter Biegelbauer (Senior Scientist, AIT)
- Mark Reed (Professor, SRUC)

The third part took place between the online training sessions and the conference itself. Participants had to prepare policy pitches (i.e. a presentation of their research for a policy maker audience) in groups prior to the conference and to pitch this at the conference to a panel of policy makers. The aim of this part of the training was to synthesize what was learned in the online training sessions into a concrete output and to allow participants to network and collaborate with colleagues prior to the conference. Policy pitches were evaluated by the panel and the group with the best policy pitch received an award. The six panellists were as follows:

- Lene Topp (European Commission's Joint Research Center)
- Olga Kordas (Viable Cities)
- Philippe Larue (OECD)
- Dan Andréé (Stockholm Trio)
- Neville Reeve (European Commission)
- Matthias Weber (AIT)
- Mireille Matt (LISIS)

### **Policy Panel**

As the conference theme was around 'Transformative Innovation Policy', a policy panel was organised to get expert and practical insights into the theme. This 1.5 hour session was animated by Matthias Weber. We were very pleased to welcome 5 policy makers to this panel, which give insight into their work in relation to 'Transformative Innovation Policy':

- Olga Kordas (Viable Cities)
- Philippe Larue (OECD)
- Dan Andréé (Stockholm Trio)
- Neville Reeve (European Commission)
- Annet Varet (ADEME)

## **Networking and Social Events**

Networking was an important aspect of this conference. In between the sessions we tried to schedule long breaks, for which we had a large private room available. Also, social events were organised on 21 and 22 October. For many early career researchers this was their first 'in person' conference and it provided a good opportunity to connect with other (early career) researchers in the field. The senior discussants, keynote speakers and policy panellists joined several of these breaks and events and engaged with the early career participants.

## **Follow-up activities**

As an outcome of the conference, several follow-up activities were started:

- Participant survey was sent out for feedback on the ECC2021 (see results in section 3.3);
- Full papers written by participants have been shared among attendees;
- (Internal) dissemination of the Science-to-Policy Training concept and its further elaboration into a presentation to the Transformative Innovation Policy Conference in January 2022;
- Report to UERA steering board about the key elements of the conference;
- Dissemination of conference highlights via AIT news;
- Dissemination of conference highlights in the LISIS newsletter;
- Research exchanges and collaborations of PhD and Post-doc researchers.

## **Lessons learnt**

### **Hybrid conference format**

Organisational perspective:

- Technical support for each online room is necessary (testing, troubleshooting).
- Briefing for moderators is helpful (both online and in person); have a checklist for moderators of the sessions.
- Online moderators need to take care of the chat, too, which is challenging in large groups (in this case, a co-moderator is helpful, share responsibilities).
- Technical set-up with multiple equipment necessary (participants in the room need to be able to see the online participants AND vice versa – this needs at least one in-room camera and an additional laptop etc.).

Content-related learnings and interaction between participants:

- Joint presentations of online and in-person participants are challenging and need to be well-prepared (time lags, needs a good storyboard, hand-over to the other person actively etc.).
- Welcome participants in the room and online explicitly, take care to involve the online participants equally (directly asking them for statements etc.; not having passive viewers).
- Organisation of social activities for both online and in-person participants would have been appreciated.

- An organiser should ensure the smooth set-up and start of all session, specifically online.
- The separation of online and in-person sessions for paper presentations is recommended to ensure the in-depth participation in discussions of all participants. This also simplifies the organisational set-up of these sessions.

### **Science-to-policy training**

The Science-to-policy training was generally well received by the participants. Their interest and feedback reflect a keen interest in expanding their knowledge on policy making processes in practice and developing their skills for better engaging with policy makers. The following lessons learned stood out:

- The combination of content knowledge (i.e. policy making in practice) and soft skill training (i.e. communication & engagement) was useful. For many participants it was the first time that they have received such information/capacity building.
- The scaffolding approach (i.e. online training prior to the conference) was useful as it helped to connect participants with each other and helped to build relationships between participants in the lead up of the conference.
- Similarly, the team-work approach (i.e. developing policy pitches together) strengthened this relationship building aspects. It also helped in creating a better understanding of each other's research topics and supported interdisciplinary exchange.
- Overall, all parts of the training as well as their sequencing was rather dense. More time in between sessions, a better integration of the different parts of the training as well as better supporting the groups in terms of developing policy pitches would increase the training benefits.

Several aspects were identified for potential improvements to the training. Selected aspects are:

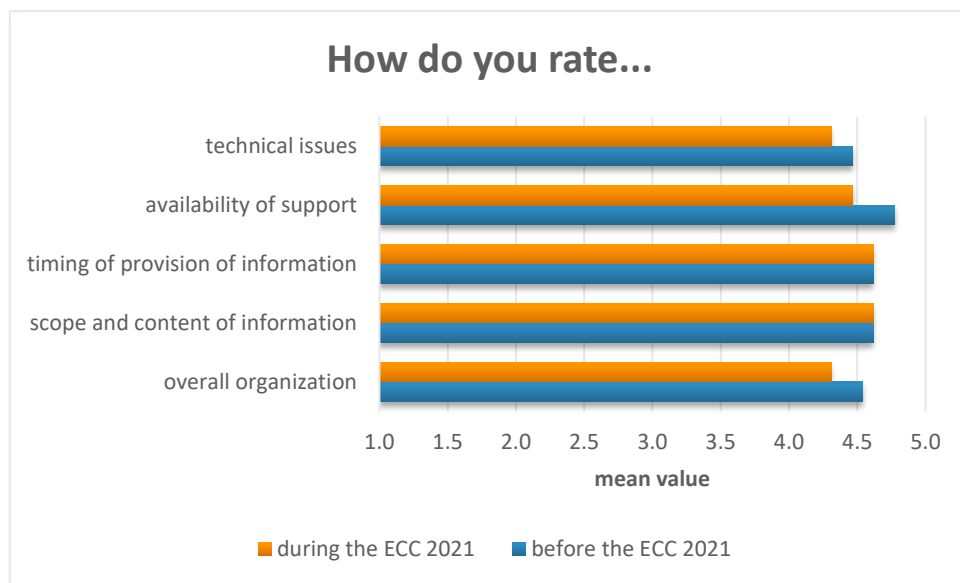
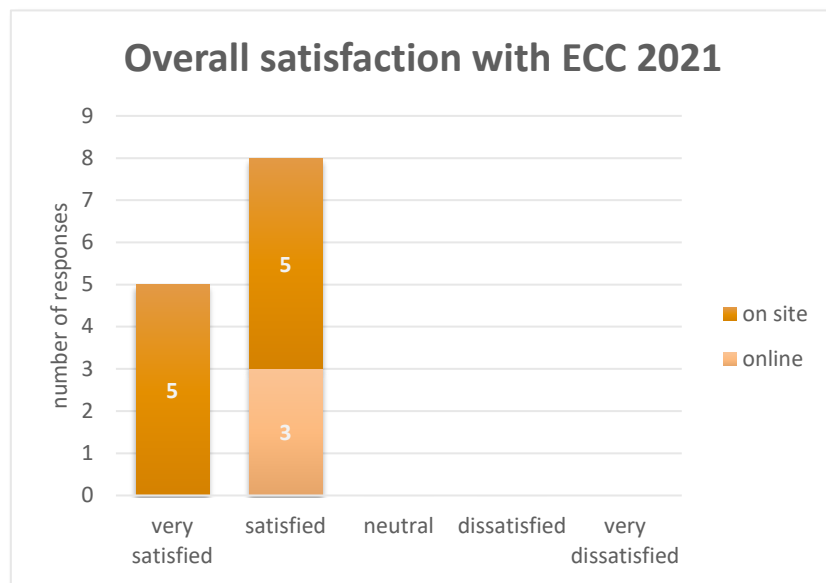
- More time for interactions and discussion in the online training session, potentially also with the policy experts to also help ECR build relationships with them.
- The online training was generally perceived as rather dense. Spreading it over several session with interactive work in between would improve training outcomes.
- Integration between the online training session and the policy pitching exercise would need to be improved so that the online training directly supports the pitching exercise.
- The role of the mentors was crucial in supporting the groups for their policy pitches. They need better briefing and guidance to better support the groups.
- While the pitch was useful other forms of engagement and communication should be explored in more depth that would also target different contexts.
- Communication about the trainings should be harmonised (language and concepts) and centralised (key contact for all aspects of the training).

*A more detailed compilation of feedback and suggestions for improvements of the Science-to-Policy Training is available on request from the conference organisers.*

## Participant survey

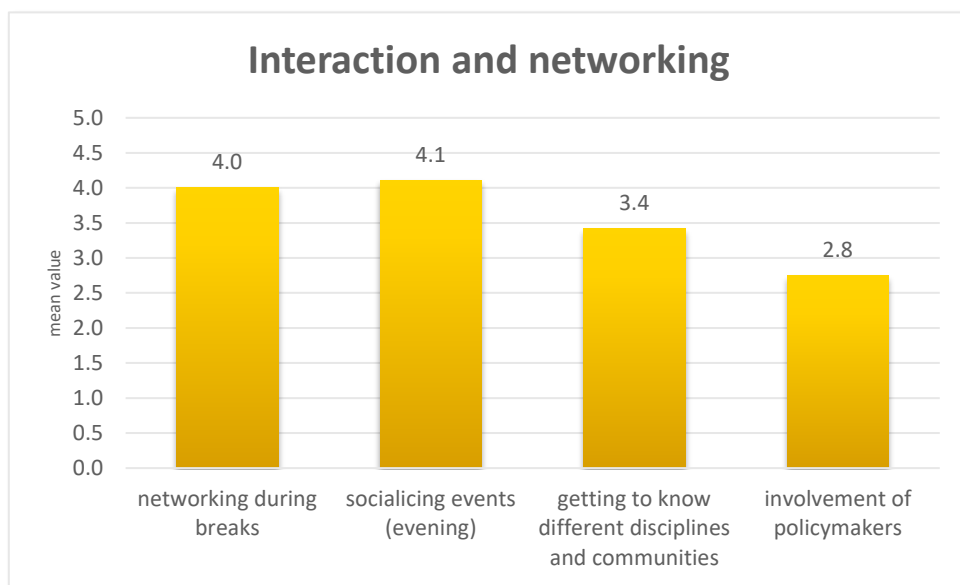
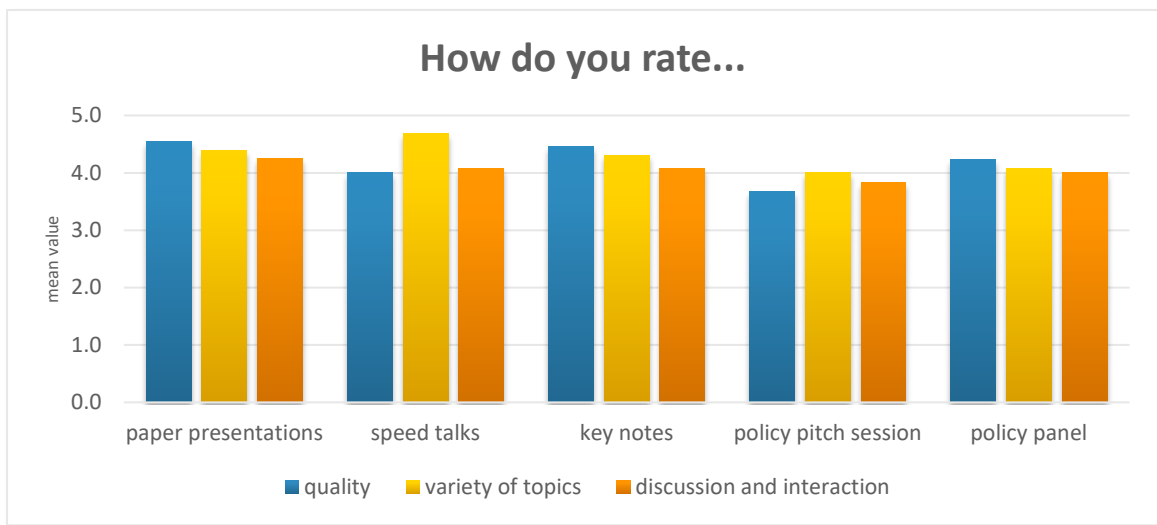
In order to evaluate the organisation as well as the topics and formats of the ECC 2021, a survey was distributed among the participants of the conference. This questionnaire was available from 2<sup>nd</sup> November until 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 and received 13 completed responses (3 from online participants, 10 from participants on site).

Overall, the participants were satisfied with the organisation of and information about the ECC both before and during the event, as the following figures show. The participants highlighted the excellent availability of support as well as timing and content of information shared at the ECC 2021.



The mix of formats provided by the conferences was rated as sufficient by all of the respondents; some of the suggestions by participants mentioned a further enhancement of

the hybrid setting (*“Perhaps, the hybrid format can be further developed to create possibilities for on-line and on-site participants to interact during the conference”*) as well as more options for in-depth discussions (*“I liked the provided formats; could be complemented by some workshops on i.e. research methods (especially in early career contexts)”*). As the figure below illustrates, all five formats received high evaluations. ECC 2021 participants were most satisfied with the variety of topics within the speed talks, the quality of paper presentations and keynotes as well as the policy panel discussion overall. The participants also liked the policy pitch session, although some found it a bit challenging (*“the pitch should be more low-key”; “It wasn't easy to work, digitally, on something with people we didn't know. The time to prepare something was quite short and the rules a bit unclear.”*).



The interaction and networking scored highly; both during break and evening events, however, the involvement of different disciplines as well as networking with policymakers could be improved during future ECCs (see figure below). For future ECC events, 8 out of 13

survey participants opted for a hybrid version, 4 would prefer an on-site conference and only 1 of the 13 respondents preferred the online-only format.

### **Financial Report**

Beyond the contribution of Eu-SPRI, we received a financial contribution from LISIS, AIT and EURA. ESIEE offered to host the event and provided us with meeting rooms free of charge. As the conference took place in hybrid form, we decided not to charge conference fees. Eu-SPRI member participants were offered accommodation. Non-Eu-SPRI participants had to cover their own accommodation costs.

## Annex 4: Early Career Researcher and PhD Circulation Scheme

Successful Candidates from Eu-SPRI Forum 32<sup>nd</sup> call for ECR & PhD Circulation  
Due to the pandemic the call timetable was disrupted.

Summary Table: ECR and PhD Circulation 2021 Awards

Name of Applicant	Home Institution	Host Institution
<u>32nd Eu-SPRI Forum ECR &amp; PhD Circulation call</u>		
Marcia Verla	UAM	Circle, Lund University, Sweden
Renée Van Dis	IFRIS, Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Sciences Innovations, Sociétés (LISIS)	Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT), Centre for Innovation Systems and Policy

## Annex 5: Eu-SPRI Early Career Researcher (ECR) Webinar Series

One of the EU-SPRI key missions is to support the next generation of researchers in the fields of Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Science and Technology Studies (STS), Business Administration, Geography and History. In order to try and mitigate some of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions on mobility and international research experience for early career researchers, Eu-SPRI set up and ran a monthly webinar series for ECRs.

For interested early-career researcher (PhD students and post-docs), the EU-SPRI webinar series is an excellent opportunity to present on-going and/or new research in the area of innovation and policy to an international audience. The Webinar series is thematically open within the boundaries of the affiliated EU-SPRI institutions' topics. Our aim is for seminars to reflect the diversity of research topics and interests in our community.

In order to be considered as a presenter, researchers have to submit an extended abstract (1000 words approx.), plus a short bio (and expected date of thesis defence in the case of PhD candidates) to the organising committee. Researchers who are accepted are asked to send a full paper two weeks prior to the webinar. Webinars run on every **third Thursday of the month from 3.30 to 5pm (CET) using Zoom** and accommodate two presentations. The expected length of the talk is 15-20 minutes to fit the online format, followed by the discussion from a junior and senior colleagues (max. 15mins.) and Q&A from the audience. Total length of the webinar will be 1.30 hours, 45 minutes per participant.

The Webinars Organising Committee:-

- Mabel Sanchez Barrioluengo, MIOIR/The University of Manchester, [msbarrioluengo@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:msbarrioluengo@manchester.ac.uk)
- Gaston Heimeriks, Utrecht University, [g.j.heimeriks@uu.nl](mailto:g.j.heimeriks@uu.nl)
- Rhiannon Pugh, CIRCLE/Lund University, [rhiannon.pugh@circle.lu.se](mailto:rhiannon.pugh@circle.lu.se)
- Torben Schubert, CIRCLE/Lund University & Fraunhofer ISI, [torben.schubert@circle.lu.se](mailto:torben.schubert@circle.lu.se)
- Henning Kroll, Fraunhofer ISI, [henning.kroll@isi.fraunhofer.de](mailto:henning.kroll@isi.fraunhofer.de)

Calls for the webinar series are announced via the Eu-SPRI mailing list, on the [Eu-SPRI website](#) and on the Eu-SPRI Twitter feed.



## **EUSPRI Webinars 2021-22**

Since it started in April 2021, we have hosted 9 EUSPRI webinars with speakers and discussants from EU-SPRI (17 speakers, 17 reviewers) and non-EU-SPRI institutions. Details have been compiled by Mabel and are described below.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Speakers</b>	<b>Discussants</b>
<b>15 April 2021</b>	Does Green Public Procurement Trigger Environmental Innovations?	Bastian Krieger ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research	Jon Mikel Zabala Associated Researcher at CIRCLE
	Characterizing Innovation Policy Mixes in Innovation Systems	David Howoldt Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research	Kieron Flanagan MIOIR, University of Manchester
<b>20 May 2021</b>	National Science and Innovation Policy: Between Curiosity, Market and Mission	Aixa Alemán-Díaz Copenhagen Business School	Carolina Castaldi Utrecht University
	An Agent of Change Against all Odds? The Case of Ledger in Vierzon, France	Arnault Morrison University of Bern, Switzerland	Markus Grillitsch CIRCLE, University of Lund
<b>17 June 2021</b>	Challenge-driven Innovation Policy and Public Procurement of Innovation: Implementing Functional and Outcome-based Procurement	Matti Pihlajamaa VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland	Elvira Uyerra MIOIR, University of Manchester
	Institutional Explanations for Frictions in Public Procurement	Oishee Kundu MIOIR, University of Manchester	Mart Laatsit CIRCLE, University of Lund
<b>21 October 2021</b>	Are Startups the Better VCs? Evidence from Startups Investing in Other Startups	Carolina Ioramashvili LSE and City-REDI, University of Birmingham	Claudio Fassio CIRCLE, Lund University
	Technological Invention and Local Labour Markets: Evidence from France, Germany and the UK	Julian Giessing Politecnico di Milano	Åsa Lindholm Dahlstrand CIRCLE, Lund University

Date	Title	Speakers	Discussants
<b>18 November 2021</b>	Novel Classification of Companies' Innovative Activities Based on their Website Content: An Expansion of NACE Classification with Microsoft Academic Graph Hierarchical Topic Modelling	Arash Hajikhani VTT	Peter Neuhäusler Fraunhofer ISI
	Evaluating the Impact of a Mix of Subsidies on Firms' Innovation Effort and Performance	Enrique Acebo University of Leon	Khaleel Malik MIOIR, University of Manchester
<b>16 December 2021</b>	Interregional Innovation Corridors	Claudio Lazo TNO	Nick Clifton Cardiff Metropolitan University
<b>13 January 2022</b>	Navigating Inclusive Innovation: The What, the How and the Why of the Role of Institutional Entrepreneurs in Inclusive Innovation Initiatives	Mario Pinzon STEPS, University of Twente	Mika Kautonen Tampere University
	Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Towards Inclusive Knowledge Co-production in a Global North-South Sustainable Entrepreneurial Ecosystem	Kathleen Burke Stockholm School of Economics	Sandra Boni Ingenio (CSIC-UPV)
<b>17 March 2022</b>	The Struggle of Regions for Smart Specialisation - Tensions and Challenges in the Regional Innovation System of East Netherlands	Joost Kuijper STEPS, University of Twente	Iris Wanzenböck Copernicus Institute for Sustainable Development, Utrecht University
	Technology Adoption and Upskilling in the Wake of Industry 4.0	Mattia Pedota Politecnico di Milano	Davide Consoli Ingenio (CSIC-UPV)
<b>19 May 2022</b>	Heterogeneous Regional University Funding and Firm Innovation - An Empirical Analysis of the German Excellence Initiative	Bastian Krieger ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research	Ron van Maurik TNO
	Determinants for Sharing Citizens' Location Data with Public Institutions in Pandemic Context	Valeria Maria Urbano Politecnico di Milano	Iryna Susha Utrecht University

**Many thanks to all event organisers who submitted the event reports**