



Aims and Objectives

- To find determinants of smart growth and the related concept smart specialization
- To contribute to policies for smart (rural) development.
- To contribute to the creation of place-based policies embedded in the regional knowledge-, resource and entrepreneurial base.

Methodology

The results and conclusions of WP 1 are based on theoretical and empirical studies using firm-, local and regional level data across Europe. This includes use of registered (firm-level) micro data and regional data obtained from sources such as ORBIS and EUROSTAT. The conceptual studies included in the WP forms the basis and the framework for the empirical studies conducted within this WP. The empirical studies employs category-wise estimations, based on the EDORA urban-rural typology.

Contribution to smart development

Contributes to a deeper understanding of the concept of smart growth and the related concept smart specialization by i) demonstrating what smart development implies for intermediate and rural peripheral regions, ii) arguing that determinants of smart growth can be linked to technological relatedness across and within industries and knowledge interconnections, iii) showing that determinants of smart specialization have different impact on its intended goals depending on the size of regions, iv) arguing that externalities that are not directly related to the smart growth logic can be expected to play a significant role and create different preconditions for smart rural development.



Smart Growth
Smart Specialization
Europe 2020
Urban-Rural
Place-based

Results

The study concludes that determinants of smart growth and the related concept smart specialization likely have different impacts on the intended goals depending on regional characteristics. A central argument is that the underlying logic of smart specialization can be expected to offer only limited possibilities for the most rural regions, due to lack of scale arguments and distance decay effects. Industry relatedness, which underlies the smart growth concept, is shown to be beneficial for firms in urban and rural diversified regions, and not for firms in Agrarian regions. Hence, for the strategy to be able to support growth in more rural regions may require complementing political measures that address other regional preconditions.

Conclusions / Recommendations

This WP shows the importance of decomposing not only the meaning of space but also the different components that are included in the broad concept of place-specific characteristics when investigating the potential for smart growth and smart rural development. This, in turn, allows one to consider the various linkages and the knowledge spillovers from a broader perspective and from the perspective of rural regions, which are at the center of smart rural growth.

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