



Call for Papers

Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Workshop

Overcoming the innovation divide in Europe: policy learning and innovation in the new member states

24th September 2019
Prague, Czech Republic
Department of European Studies, FSV, Charles University

Workshop organizers:
Mitchell Young, Charles University
Rómulo Pinheiro, University of Adger

The gap between the most 'competitive' Member States, i.e. those leading in science, education, technology and innovation, and those identified as weaker performers, is both wide and clearly delineated between old and new Member States. The new Member States are all below the EU average falling into the bottom two categories of the EU's Innovation Scoreboard tool. This situation threatens to become a self-reinforcing and perpetually-worsening structural inequality between the Member States. The EU has attempted to bridge this divide through the cohesion policy, framework programmes, and other policy initiatives in research, higher education, smart specialization and innovation. Despite these efforts, a major gap still exists.

This workshop looks both critically and constructively at the current situation in Europe. We understand innovation performance as rooted in national knowledge systems that can be analysed by way of science, higher education, and innovation policies, institutions, and systems. We welcome papers which address these fields either individually or in combination.

Papers may take on one of the topics below or address this issue in other ways. Broadly, we are interested in papers that seek to explain the continuance of this divide and/or provide evidence of how it can be addressed. What are its root causes and how can those be overcome?

Topic area 1: Metrics and scoreboards. Quantified tools have become central to policymaking in this area. We invite critical contributions, which address the anticipated, unintended, and constitutive effects of these tools on the innovation systems of weaker innovation performers. Is there evidence of improvement or regression in innovation performance as a result of these types of policy instruments?

Topic area 2: EU instruments. How have EU policy instruments (framework programs, widening and twinning initiatives) and policy ideas (smart specialization) shaped national policymaking? Can a country catch up by following the same path another country took to establish a leadership position? To what extent should countries learn from others and to what extent should they be innovative in their policy creation?

Topic area 3: Examples of success and failure. We invite case studies detailing unique policy initiatives (both positive and negative) coming from the new MS. We also seek cases from other countries and contexts that might be applicable. Innovation divides exist not only between states, but also within them, and regional studies which examine how sub-national regions have addressed and overcome innovation divides are welcome from both old and new MS.

This small workshop is organized under the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence NIECE (New Ideas for Europeanisation from Central Europe) in the department of European Studies of Charles University. Further details on the Centre of Excellence may be found here: <https://ims.fsv.cuni.cz/en/node/256>

Application procedure:

Please submit an abstract of maximum 500 words to Mitchell Young young@fsv.cuni.cz for consideration by **May 15th, 2019**.

Key dates:

May 15th – deadline for abstracts

June 1st – results announced

September 15th – papers uploaded

September 24th – workshop in Prague, 9am to 4pm

Travel and accommodation:

Funding is available to cover travel (within Europe) and accommodation (September 23rd) for accepted participants. More details will be provided when the results are announced.