

OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

# OECD Spatial Productivity Lab

Policy sessions at the  
5<sup>th</sup> GEOINNO Conference

30 January 2020 | Stavanger, Norway

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## AGENDA



## ■ The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

The OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities (CFE) provides comparative statistics, analysis and capacity building for local and national actors to work together to unleash the potential of entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), promote inclusive and sustainable regions and cities, boost local job creation, and support sound tourism policies. [www.oecd.org/cfe](http://www.oecd.org/cfe)



## ■ The OECD Spatial Productivity Lab

The OECD Spatial Productivity Lab (SPL) is a dedicated research laboratory that works with local and global partners to improve our understanding of the spatial dimension of productivity growth, the relevance of links between different types of areas and how regional policy can facilitate productivity growth, creation of better jobs and increased well-being.

The OECD Spatial Productivity Lab at the OECD Trento Centre for Local Development is an integral part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities. The mission of the Trento Centre is to build capacities for local development in OECD member and non-member countries, working directly with policy makers at all levels of government.

## ■ Venue of the meeting

Clarion Hotel Energy  
Ishockeyveien 2, 4021 - Stavanger, Norway

## ■ Language

The meeting will be held in English.

## ■ Website

OECD Trento Centre: [www.trento.oecd.org](http://www.trento.oecd.org)

OECD Spatial Productivity Lab: [oe.cd/SPL](http://oe.cd/SPL)

## ■ Contact

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## OECD SPL Partners



Fakultät für Wirtschaftswissenschaften  
Facoltà di Economia  
Faculty of Economics and Management



BANCA D'ITALIA  
EUROSISTEMA



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI BRESCIA



SWEDISH ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
FORUM



productivity  
insights  
network



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
SWANIK PROGRAM IN RURAL-URBAN POLICY

## 10.50-12.30 **Innovation diffusion, industrial landscape and spatial productivity**

**Moderator:** *Alexandra Tsvetkova*, Economist and Policy Analyst, OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

Innovation is the most important contributor to long-term economic growth. It is not just about “pushing the frontier”, but also about the spread of ideas and technologies throughout the economy. Innovation diffusion (the uptake of innovation by firms and other institutes) is an important mechanism of regional catching-up that leads to more productive regional economies.

While innovation diffusion, industrial upgrading and productivity performance of a region are all closely linked, academic attention and policy efforts rarely focus on all elements. The insights from academic research can be too general and not applicable in all places. Local policy initiatives can be heavily shaped by past experiences, possibly poorly suited to the new realities. A dialog between scholars and policy practitioners is paramount for the successful design and implementation of local and regional growth strategies that work for all.

*How to translate innovation into productivity growth and industrial change?  
Why place matters for innovation diffusion, industrial upgrading and productivity?*

*Alessandra Faggian*, Director of Social Sciences, Gran Sasso Science Institute (GSSI), Italy

*Kjartan Lindland*, Advisor, Department of Culture, Business and Innovation, Rogaland, Norway

*Jen Rae*, Policy Advisor on Innovation and Economic Growth, Nesta, UK

*Elvira Uyarra*, Reader in Innovation Policy and Strategy, University of Manchester, UK

QUESTIONS FOR  
DISCUSSION

## 13.30-15.10 **Towards a broad-based innovation policy for all cities and regions**

**Moderator:** *Rudiger Ahrend*, Head of Unit, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities

To ensure that technological and knowledge diffusion reaches all types of regions a broader approach to innovation policy might be required. There is an increasing body of evidence that weaknesses in technology and knowledge diffusion in the OECD are weighing on productivity growth and innovation, particularly in firms that are distant from the technological frontier (whether global or national). This weakens the capacity of OECD countries to adapt to meet future challenges and undermines inclusive growth. To empower firms in all types of regions to benefit from global trends and technological change, a broad based innovation policy also needs to be flexible enough to adapt to the different capacity and innovation eco systems in different regions and cities. develop

Innovation policy that adapts to local needs requires a broader approach than a focus on excellence in academic research or firms R&D activities. Universities and firms in some places are pushing the national or global knowledge frontier, but for most regions and cities innovation and upgrading of local firms is driven through other means. Some regions can leverage pockets of excellence, e.g. firms that are highly competitive (often in specific niches) or specialised research centres or academic departments. For other regions, the path towards excellence comes through imported knowledge and links with other regions and multi-national enterprises that (can) help upgrade local firms' production, their product or service space, etc..

*How can policy makers tailor innovation policy to their city or region to help their firms?*

*Ron Boschma*, Professor in Regional Economics, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

*Kari Holmefjord Vervik*, Managing Director, Innovation Norway Rogaland, Norway

*Denisa Perrin*, Policy Analyst, European Commission, Belgium

*Anna-Majja Sunnanmark*, Senior Innovation Adviser, Nordic Innovation, Norway

QUESTION FOR  
DISCUSSION

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## VENUE

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Stavanger, Norway

## INFORMATION

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**@OECD\_local #spatialproductivity**

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## OECD Trento Centre for Local Development

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This event is part of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities activities.

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