

International Forum on Regions in Industrial Transition



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 23 November 2022

 13:00 – 17:30 pm CET (Paris time)

 Zoom Conference

Please register in advance for this meeting [here](#).



What's the issue?

Regions in industrial transition face **significant structural challenges** in retrieving past dynamism and improving resident prosperity. Failure to do so will certainly affect their economic productivity and growth, as well as the well-being of residents. It might also have an incidence in the degree of citizen trust in government, which can be linked to long-term economic performance, short term labour market outcomes, and access to quality public services.

The **International Forum on Regions in Industrial Transition** brings together policy-makers, practitioners, and experts for action-oriented discussions on development in industrial transition regions. The Forum will:

- Provide insights and perspectives on the **objectives, governance tools, and challenges of industrial transition in Europe and North America**.
- Highlight **advantages and disadvantages** of designing and implementing policies to support industrial transition through an **experimental governance approach**.
- Identify **policy levers** for industrial transition regions, promote an **exchange of good practice**, and disseminate **lessons learned from experimentation**.

Why participate?

This Forum is an opportunity to explore traditional and new approaches to transforming industrial transition regions, including the role of policy experimentation in driving transition. It also offers insights into practical tools policy makers have at their disposal to address current and future industrial transition challenges, such as activating the innovation and digitalisation potential of local businesses, upgrading the regional innovation ecosystems through smart specialisation, and engaging local residents in transition processes.

Background Information

The Forum highlights the lessons and insights gained from a multi-year project on industrial transition. In 2018, the European Commission/DG REGIO with support from the OECD launched the pilot action 'Regions in Industrial Transition' to support ten regions and two countries in industrial transition prepare their Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) and innovation policies for the 2021-2027 programming period. Findings from this work can be found in the OECD project synthesis report, *[Regions in Industrial Transition: Policies for People and Places](#)*. The OECD is continuing its work with DG REGIO on this topic with the aim to identify additional ways to support industrial transition – from recent experience with experimental governance to practical and actionable policy levers.

Contact

For more information, please contact: Sandra Hannig, Policy Analyst, OECD (Sandra.Hannig@oecd.org).

AGENDA

13:00 – 13:20	<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicola de Michelis, Deputy Director-General for Implementation and International Relations, Smart and Sustainable Growth and Programme Implementation IV (REGIO), European Commission • Nadim Ahmad, Deputy Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD <p>Keynote remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Morgan, Professor of Governance and Development, School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University, UK
13:20 – 14:10	<p>Panel discussion: Transforming industrial transition regions: insights and perspectives</p> <p>The panel will explore industrial transition challenges in different geographic contexts, and what policies and approaches are effective at supporting transition, including through effective smart specialisation strategies.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catherine Wendt, Head of Unit, Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG REGIO, European Commission <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marko Hren, Secretary, Development and Management Division, Government Office for Development and Cohesion Policy Slovenia • Jorge Muyo, General Director of Innovation, Technological Development and Industrial Entrepreneurship Government of Cantabria, Spain • Kaspar Richter, Head of Unit, Sustainable Growth and Business Reform, DG REFORM, European Commission <p>Discussion and Q&A</p>
14:10 – 15:00	<p>Panel discussion: The value of and challenges of experimental governance in driving industrial transition</p> <p>The panel will discuss how policy experimentation can help or hinder industrial transition, the role of tolerance for risk and failure in regional policymaking environments, and promising ideas for further experimentation and development.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Varinia Michalun, Head of Unit, Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anders Olsson, Manager of Research and Innovation at Region Värmland, North-Middle Sweden • Eira Varis, Regional Development Manager, Regional Council of North Karelia, East and North Finland • Jean-Jacques Bernardini, Responsable Pôle Affaires Européennes, Grand-Est, France • Andy Westwood, Professor, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK <p>Discussion and Q&A</p>
15:00 – 15:15	<p>Break</p>
15:15 – 16:15	<p>Panel discussion: Transatlantic perspectives on industrial transition</p>

	<p>Perspectives on how regions outside the EU are addressing industrial transition, identifying “how-tos” of effective place-based strategies that work on both sides of the Atlantic, and key differences in the European policy framework.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandra Hannig, Project Co-ordinator, Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Austin, Director, Michigan Economic Center, Ann Arbor, Michigan, US • Florence Hennart, Attaché - Economist, Department of Economic Policy, Region of Wallonia, Belgium • Tiziana dell’ Olmo, Head of Unit, Regional Competitiveness Department, Region of Piedmont, Italy • Mark Muro, Senior Fellow, Brookings Metro, U.S. <p>Discussion and Q&A</p>
16:15-17:15	<p>Closing plenary and interactive Q&A: Industrial transition going forward</p> <p>Remarks focusing on potential challenges confronting regions in industrial transition in the future, possible tools for shaping future opportunities, and where regions in industrial transition see themselves 10 years from now.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Varinia Michalun, Head of Unit, Regional Development and Multi-level Governance Division, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD <p>Plenary Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Berkowitz, Director, Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy, Policy (Regio B), DG Regio, European Commission <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ieva Valeskaite, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Economy and Innovation, Lithuania • Dominique Foray, Professor, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland • Adrian Toland, Local Industrial Strategy Principal, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Manchester, UK <p>Discussion and Q&A</p>
17.15-17.30	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dorothee Allain-Dupré, Head of Division, Regional Development and Multi-level Governance, CFE, OECD • Nicola de Michelis, Deputy Director-General for Implementation and International Relations, Smart and Sustainable Growth and Programme Implementation IV (REGIO), European Commission