

BEYOND 4.0

● Policy paper: digital transformation and regional policy options for inclusive growth. Executive summary

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Document description

This deliverable presents the policy recommendations formulated by stakeholders of the different ecosystems that participated in our project. The policy recommendations are developed in several steps: development of these recommendations in three sets of workshops. This last workshop needs to be conducted in October 2022, so an update of this report will follow. The recommendations are deducted from comparing the measures used in the different entrepreneurial ecosystems. The first workshops compared recommendations at the level of each of the separate ecosystems. The second set of workshops delivered a future perspective on entrepreneurial ecosystem development. Participants have been asked how to re-steer ecosystem policies to deal with the changing contexts using the two future ecosystem scenarios. The objective for the participants was to secure more desirable inclusive-growth futures. They were also asked to highlight regional and EU policy options. A particular aspect of this second workshop was that participants from two countries discussed what policy recommendations were needed. Workshops 1 and 2 delivered policy recommendations to be discussed in workshop 3 at the EU level.

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BEYOND4.0 partners

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Executive summary

The report “Policy paper: digital transformation and regional policy options for inclusive growth” presents the policy recommendations formulated by stakeholders of the different ecosystems that participated in our project. The policy recommendations are developed in several steps: twelve separate workshops in each of the six countries on the emergent and incumbent ecosystems about the past and the present (Round 1); six combined workshops with two of the six countries on the emergent and incumbent ecosystems about the present and the future (Round 2); one workshop at the EU level about policy recommendation for the future (Round 3). This last workshop needs to be conducted in October 2022 (an update of this report will follow after that date).

The recommendations are deduced from comparing the measures used in the different entrepreneurial ecosystems. The first round of workshops compared recommendations at the level of each of the separate ecosystems. The second round of workshops delivered a future perspective on entrepreneurial ecosystem development. Participants have been asked how to re-steer ecosystem policies to deal with the changing contexts using the two future ecosystem scenarios. The objective for the participants was to secure more desirable inclusive-growth futures. They were also asked to highlight regional and EU policy options. A particular aspect of this second round of workshops was that participants from two countries discussed what policy recommendations were needed. Workshops Round 1 and Round 2 delivered a set of policy recommendations to be discussed in Workshop Round 3 at the EU level.

The first round of workshops was largely based on interviews and desk research that was carried out to characterise each ecosystem economically and in terms of inclusiveness. It gave insight how these ecosystems had developed over time. The workshops were meant to validate those insights and assess which elements of the entrepreneurial ecosystem played a strong or weak role. For the second round of workshops we developed two scenarios about the future of digitalisation, namely a positive and a negative one in terms of insights. Each scenario combined the extent of control about future digitalisation and the extent of societal upheaval and collaboration: the positive ‘common ground scenario’ and the negative ‘contested terrain scenario’. It was discussed what kind of actions and policy support were needed in either scenario to secure economic growth and inclusiveness for the future in each of the regional entrepreneurial ecosystems.

The recommendations for emergent ecosystems largely overlap with those for incumbent ecosystems, but the prioritisation is different. For each recommendation, there is a need to assess the inclusive outcome, the productive entrepreneurship aspect, what should be improved and who is responsible, and if there is an EU dimension. In Workshop Round 3, we will present and discuss the following recommendations to secure productive and inclusive outcomes:

Incumbent ecosystems:

1. Talent: there is a shortage of skills among employees and also entrepreneurs which demands more cooperation.
2. Formal institutions: collaboration is needed to align policies and programmes and improve social cohesions.

3. Finance: funds should be used more effectively to invest in digitalisation in more streamlined manner.
4. Networks: inter-firm collaboration is needed to make better use of digitalisation and deal with ongoing change and restructuring.
5. Leadership: leaders must develop narratives to align needed actions in a region.

Emergent ecosystems:

1. Networks: as emergent systems are less robust network building is essential.
2. Formal institutions: governmental and regional organisation must give guidance to unexperienced entrepreneurs.
3. Leadership: a vacuum exists which require stepping in of stakeholders.
4. Finance: unexperienced entrepreneurs need guidance to acquire finance and the system requires a coherent development strategy.
5. Talent: to attract talent to less known companies businesses and educational organisations and employment offices must team up.

This is on headline the agenda for the upcoming Workshop Round 3.

References

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