

SmartEIZ – H2020-TWINN-2015

Strengthening scientific and research capacity of the Institute of Economics, Zagreb as a cornerstone for Croatian socioeconomic growth through the implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategy

Work package:	WP6 Dissemination of results
Deliverable Title:	D6.3 International Dissemination conference
Task 6.2:	Organization of conferences and round tables on topics of Innovation in Croatia
Lead Beneficiary:	EIZ
Participants:	EIZ, CRIOS, UCL, UNU-MERIT.
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Authors:	Božić, Ljiljana (EIZ) Aralica, Zoran (EIZ)
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SmartEIZ Conference “Smart Specialization Strategies: Contemporary Challenges of its Design and Implementation” held in Zagreb from September 25 to 26, 2018 is the main public event organized in order to present key project’s results to a broad audience, both academic and non–academic.

Call for papers (see Appendix 1) was published on-line on March 9th, 2018. Information on the conference and call for papers was available on following web pages:

- SmartEIZ <http://www.smarteiz.eu/news-category/research-area/call-papers-smarteiz-conference/>
- EIZG <https://www.eizg.hr/smarteiz-conference/2873>
- UNU-MERIT <https://www.merit.unu.edu/events/event-abstract/?id=1782>
- ICRIOS
<https://www.unibocconi.eu/wps/wcm/connect/Cdr/Icrios/Home/NewsEvents/Conferences/Smart+Specialization+Strategies>
- ERSA <http://ersa.org/events/croatian-section-smarteiz-conference/>

Focus of the conference was on four main areas:

1. Design and implementation of the Smart Specialization Strategy
2. Topics relevant for the Smart Specialization Strategy
3. Innovation system and its interaction with different categories of actors
4. Globalization, internationalization, and innovation systems

Deadline for extended abstracts submission was July 15, 2018. By that date 26 extended abstracts were received. All received submissions were read thoroughly by members of Programme Committee:

- Slavo Radošević - University College London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), UK
- Franco Malerba - Bocconi University, Milan, Italy
- Nicolleta Corrocher - Bocconi University, Milan, Italy
- Bart Verspagen - UNU MERIT, Maastricht, Netherlands
- Andrea Morrison - Bocconi University, Milan; Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands
- Ivana Rašić Bakarić - The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
- Irena Đokić - The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
- Ivan-Damir Anić - The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
- Marina Tkalec - The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
- Dubravka Jurlina Alibegović - The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
- Alasdair Reid - European Future Innovation System Centre, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

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- Micheline Goedhuys - UNU MERIT, Maastricht, Netherlands
- Roberto Mavilia - Bocconi University, Milan, Italy
- Maria Luisa Mancusi - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy
- Nebojša Stojčić - University of Dubrovnik, Croatia
- Marina Dabić - Faculty of Economics, Zagreb; Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK
- Dragana Radičić - Lincoln International Business School, University of Lincoln, UK
- Edvard Orlić - Bournemouth University Executive Business Centre, Bournemouth, UK
- Lorenzo Zirulia - Bocconi University, Milan; University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

Following positive feedback from all Programme Committee members provided by August 3rd, 2018, authors of submitted abstracts were informed about outcomes of selection process. Preliminary program was published on September 4, while the final program was available on-line on project web site on September 21, 2018. Conference presenters and participants were informed about the programme via e-mails. In addition, information on the conference was distributed in SmartEIZ newsletters No. 15 and No. 19.

The SmartEIZ conference was officially opened by Darko Horvat (Minister of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts), Tome Antičić (State Secretary at the Ministry of Science and Education) and Maruška Vizek (Director of the Institute of Economics, Zagreb) who gave welcome speeches on September 25, 2018.

There were two key note speakers:

- First day: **Bart Verspagen** from UNU MERIT, Maastricht, Netherlands whose speech was entitled “Is job automation risk traded in the European Union?”
- Second day: **Alasdair Reid** from European Future Innovation System Centre, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium with speech entitled “Where to Now for Smart Specialisation: Is Sustainable the Only Smart Direction?”.

Two-day conference included 16 presentations in total organized in five sessions (Two papers included in the final programme were not presented due to absence of their authors). The ppt presentation can be found on the following link <http://www.smarteliz.eu/events-category/smarteliz-conference-held-zagreb/>

List of all conference papers is available in the final program in Appendix 2. It is worth noting that conference included also presentations of papers authored and co-authored by SmartEIZ project members that were previously presented on Training Workshops and/or are related to their STSM. Authors of these papers presented final (or significantly improved) versions of their work that incorporate comment and inputs received throughout project activities:

- Micheline Goedhuys, Eleonora Nillesen, Marina Tkalec; Economic Consequence of War: Evidence from Firm Level Panel Data
- Roberto Mavilia, Zoran Aralica; International Collaboration in Inventive Activities: Technology and Regional Specificities in the Balkan Countries

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- Nordine Es Sadki; The Impact Of University Quality, Competition and the Regional Environment on the Knowledge Transfer Outcomes of Universities
- Damir Anić, Nicolleta Corrocher, Andrea Morrison, Zoran Aralica; The Development of Clusters of Competitiveness in Croatia: A Survey-Based Analysis
- Stjepan Srhoj, Bruno Škrinjarić, Sonja Radas; Bidding against the Odds? The Impact Evaluation of Grants for Young Micro and Small Firms during the Recession
- Marijana Sumpor, Ljiljana Blažević, Irena Đokić; Boosting Vukovar's Economy through Local and Sectoral Production Systems
- Zoran Aralica, Marko Lučić, Slavo Radošević; Orientation of Research & Innovation Policy in EU 'Super-Periphery': Stakeholders' Perspective
- Dubravka Jurlina Alibegović, Željka Kordej-De Villa, Mislav Šagovac; Current Experience and Challenges of Croatian Cities in Implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies

These papers testify efforts to improve research capacity of EIZ made during SmartEIZ project.

Closing session was a round table entitled "How to Implement Smart Specialisation in EU New Member States". The round table participants were Ales Cantarutti (State Secretary of Economy, Slovenia), Đuro Kutlača (Institute of Mihailo Pupin, Serbia), Agnieska Krasicka (European Commission Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy) and Tomislav Pinter (Ministry of Regional Development and EU Fund, Head of Service). Discussion was moderated by Zoran Aralica. Round table participant discussed implementation of Smart Specialization Strategy in Croatia, Slovenia and Serbia. They shared current experiences and discussed challenges faced so far in implementation of S3. Regarding implementation of S3 in Croatia it seems that the key question how to initialise new topics. Frequently development of programmes requires introduction of new topics. The introduction of new topics is connected with stronger engagement of representatives from various sectors such as business sector, science sector, civil sector and governance in S3 policy programme implementation. Regarding the implementation of S3, main policy lesson from the round table for Croatia's policy bodies is try to promote S3 new drivers from the various sectors.

Organizational issues were arranged by members of organizing committee (Zoran Aralica, Valerija Botrić and Ljiljana Božić) from the Institute of Economics, Zagreb. Conference was a joint effort of all project partners who were involved at different stages as Programme Committee members, key note speakers and session chairs.

The SmartEIZ conference was the main public event of the project. This two-day event included participation of representatives from academic, policy and business sectors from 7 countries including Croatia. 63 participants attended the first day, and 46 the second day of the conference. Approximately 50 percent of conference participants were from academia sector. Rest of them were representatives of business sector and policy makers. Most of the conference participants were affiliated with organisations located in Croatia. Participants also came from the UK, Italy and the Netherlands, as well as from Slovenia, Serbia, and Belgium.

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The conference had a positive impact on strengthening connections among project partners and other interested stakeholders. Having opportunity to discuss project topics in both formal and informal settings during the conference contributed to the quality of the project outcomes. In his opening remarks, the Minister of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts (MEEC) Mr. Darko Horvat pointed out that the Institute of Economics, Zagreb is an important partner of this ministry in the field of innovation policy, industrial policy and evaluation public policies.

Bringing together project participants and other experts to share their views on Smart Specialisation Strategy and innovation systems had a positive impact on achieving project objectives. The conference was also an opportunity to disseminate and present some of the work that was a result of project activities, as already pointed out in this report. This had a significant impact on the visibility of the project outcomes.

One of the results of the SmartEIZ conference is a special issue of Croatian Economic Survey, a scientific journal indexed in SCOPUS and Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI WoS). After the conference, the final versions of 5 presented papers were submitted to the special issue edited by Bart Verspagen, Franco Malerba and Slavo Radošević. The special issue of the journal will ensure visibility of the results of SmartEIZ conference beyond the event itself. Our plan is to publish the Special Issue during the first half of the year.

The feedback we received from the participants during the conference testifies their satisfaction with the conference quality, and especially with the opportunity to meet and discuss their ideas with distinguished speakers. Representatives from the policy bodies pointed out the importance of listening high quality presentations about the topics which will be relevant for their future activities in the context of S3. Some of the participants from the foreign countries who presented their papers on the conference were grateful that they had the opportunity to receive comments on their papers from the audience which will definitely improve their research.

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Appendix 1: Call for papers

**Horizon 2020 Twinning project ‘SmartEIZ’
SmartEIZ Conference**

**“Smart Specialization Strategies: Contemporary Challenges of its Design and
Implementation”**

September 25–26, 2018

The Institute of Economics, Zagreb

BACKGROUND

The global financial crisis was a trigger that had an influence on the economic policy on a national level all over the globe. EU sent a unique message to national economies emphasizing the strengthening of the industry. Smart Specialization Strategy (S3), as a new industrial and innovation policy approach, tries to boost innovation performance and systems so that they are better equipped to respond to competitive pressures or societal challenges. This message is especially important for EU and neighboring countries, such as the South Eastern European countries, where a weak manufacturing sector exists, mainly outside the European production and technology networks, which are only partly integrated into the global economy through buyer-driven value chains.

The conference will be partly based on knowledge accumulated during the SmartEIZ project ***Strengthening scientific and research capacity of the Institute of Economics, Zagreb as a cornerstone for Croatian socioeconomic growth through the implementation of Smart Specialization Strategy***. What is certain from this project is that the success of S3 depends on the recognition of the relevance of the context of a national economy where S3 is implemented, as it also depends on the strength of institutional frameworks in these economies, which are able to properly analyze its implications.

THE OBJECTIVE

The aim of the SmartEIZ conference is to address contemporary challenges of designing and implementing the Smart Specialization Strategy across Europe. Even though S3 is a promising approach, which in the EU is supported by the Structural Funds, there is not a lot of evidence on neither how S3 is being implemented nor on its effects. In addition, the issue of adequacy of priorities, chosen by different countries, may in itself lead them to suboptimal outcomes. The conference will explore the influence of an institutional framework on the implementation of S3, the influence of S3 on the development of industry 4.0., as well as the influence on future industry. What does an analysis of the implementation of programs within the S3 framework in Europe tell us? Even more, the conference will explore topics that emerge from the S3 framework and which are important in the context of functioning of industrial policy and innovation policy in national economies. These are: the importance of

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innovation and technological change and its influence on the general level of well-being and distribution of income; how does the innovation system work in terms of interactions between different categories of actors, and how does globalization and international interactions affect the working of the innovation system?

By bringing together distinguished academics together with senior policy makers and young researchers from the partner institutions on SmartEIZ project—University Bocconi, UNU MERIT and UCL—the conference will explore contributions which emerged during the implementation of this project. Also, conference planning will bring contributions which reflect new findings related to the Smart Specialization Strategy, as well as findings relevant for future industrial and innovation policy.

LIST OF TOPICS

1. DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SMART SPECIALIZATION STRATEGY

- Assessing R&D/innovation programs in the Smart Specialization Strategy
- Governing in the Smart Specialization Strategy and its effects
- Fostering strategic alliances for the Research and Innovation Strategy
- Smart skills.

2. TOPICS RELEVANT FOR THE SMART SPECIALIZATION STRATEGY

- Technology, growth and productivity, including KET
- Skills and technological change: Policy issue
- Technology, skills, and employment
- Companies' innovation and productivity
- Pattern of deindustrialization and its effects on national/regional competitiveness.

3. INNOVATION SYSTEM AND ITS INTERACTION WITH DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF ACTORS

- Clusters and their interaction with the national/regional innovation system
- Science-industry link
- Facilitating key enabling technology in the national/regional innovation system
- Entrepreneurship and knowledge-based economy
- Evaluation of individual R&D, innovation policy instruments.

4. GLOBALIZATION, INTERNATIONALIZATION, AND INNOVATION SYSTEMS

- Global Value Chains (GVCs)
- Various aspects of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI)
- Public policies in the attraction of FDI
- Global industry 4.0.
- Internationalization of innovation/industrial policy.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

- Bart Verspagen - UNU MERIT, Maastricht, Netherlands

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- Alasdair Reid - European Future Innovation System Centre, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

IMPORTANT DATES:

- Extended abstracts of the papers should be submitted by **July 15, 2018**, whereas the final version of the paper should be submitted by **October 15, 2018**.
- Please submit your abstracts to info@smarteiz.eu

SUBMISSION FEE:

- No

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES:

- Bart Verspagen, Franco Malerba and Slavo Radošević will be guest editors of the journal *Croatian Economic Survey*, where the best papers from the SmartEIZ conference will be published. Papers published in *Croatian Economic Survey* are listed in SCOPUS and Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI WoS).

SMARTEIZ SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- Slavo Radošević - University College London, School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), UK
- Franco Malerba - Bocconi University, Milan, Italy
- Nicolleta Corrocher - Bocconi University, Milan, Italy
- Bart Verspagen - UNU MERIT, Maastricht, Netherlands
- Andrea Morrison - Bocconi University, Milan; Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands
- Ivana Rašić Bakarić - The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
- Irena Đokić - The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
- Ivan-Damir Anić - The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
- Marina Tkalec - The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
- Dubravka Jurlina Alibegović - The Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
- Alasdair Reid - European Future Innovation System Centre, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
- Micheline Goedhuys - UNU MERIT, Maastricht, Netherlands
- Roberto Mavilia - Bocconi University, Milan, Italy
- Maria Luisa Mancusi - Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan, Italy
- Nebojša Stojčić - University of Dubrovnik, Croatia
- Marina Dabić - Faculty of Economics, Zagreb; Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK
- Dragana Radičić - Lincoln International Business School, University of Lincoln, UK
- Edvard Orlić - Bournemouth University Executive Business Centre, Bournemouth, UK
- Lorenzo Zirulia - Bocconi University, Milan; University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

Appendix 2: Final conference programme

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Horizon 2020 Twinning project 'SmartEIZ'
SmartEIZ Conference
“Smart Specialization Strategies: Contemporary Challenges of its Design and
Implementation”

Final Programme

25th –26th September, 2018

The Institute of Economics, Zagreb
at
Hotel Dubrovnik
Ban Jelačić Hall
1st Floor

DAY 1 – 25/09/2018

9:00-9:30 REGISTRATION

9:30-10:00 WELCOME SPEECH

Darko Horvat, Minister of the Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts

Tome Antičić, State Secretary at the Ministry of Science and Education

Maruška Vizek, Director of the Institute of Economics, Zagreb

10:00-11:00 Keynote Speech

Bart Verspagen, *Is job automation risk traded in the European Union?* UNU
MERIT, Maastricht, Netherlands

11:00-11:15 COFFEE BREAK

11:15-12:45 FIRST SESSION

Chair: Nicoletta Corrocher

Micheline Goedhuys, Eleonora Nillesen, Marina Tkalec; *Economic Consequence of War:
Evidence From Firm Level Panel Data*

Alex Surpatean, Ad Notten, Bulat Sanditov and Jojo Jacob; *Geographical Divergence in
ICT Research*

Roberto Mavilia, Zoran Aralica; *International Collaboration in Inventive Activities:
Technology and Regional Specificities in the Balkan Countries*

Nordine Es Sadki; *The Impact Of University Quality, Competition and the Regional
Environment on the Knowledge Transfer Outcomes of Universities*

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12:45-13:45 LUNCH BREAK

13:45-15:15 SECOND SESSION

Chair: Slavo Radošević

Damir Anić, Nicolleta Corrocher, Andrea Morrison, Zoran Aralica; *The Development of Clusters of Competitiveness in Croatia: A Survey-Based Analysis*

Stjepan Srhoj, Bruno Škrinjarić, Sonja Radas; *Bidding against the Odds? The Impact Evaluation of Grants for Young Micro and Small Firms during the Recession*

Marijana Sumpor, Ljiljana Blažević, Irena Đokić; *Boosting Vukovar's Economy through Local and Sectoral Production Systems*

Arnaut Morrison; *The Role of the Knowledge Gatekeeper for Path Development in the Knowledge Periphery: The Case Of Ruta N In Medellin, Colombia*

15:15-15:30 COFFEE BREAK

15:30-17:00 THIRD SESSION

Chair: Valerija Botrić

Jorge Martins; *Knowledge Collaboration Routines at the Organisation-Region Boundary: A Community of Practice Approach*

Kirill Osaulenko; *From Failure to Success. Relevance of Corporate Governance for International New Ventures. Case Study: Kaspersky Laboratory*

Ernest Vlačić; *Enhancing Sustainable National Tourism Industry by Instituting Principles of Fourth Industrial Revolution*

Magdalena Miceva; *The Opportunities And Perspective of a Knowledge Based Economy in Logistics*

DAY 2 – 26/09/2018

8:30-9:00 REGISTRATION

9:00-10:00 Keynote Speech

Alasdair Reid; *Where to Now for Smart Specialisation: Is Sustainable the Only Smart Direction?* European Future Innovation System Centre, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

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10:00-10:15 COFFEE BREAK**

10:15-11:45 FIRST SESSION

Chair: Ljiljana Božić

Đuro Kutlača; *Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation of the Republic Of Serbia: Selection of the Priorities and Dialogue – Challenges From Methodologies to Reality*

Mona Ramon, Henry Varga, Alasdair Reid, Vladimir Cvijanović; *Quadruple Helix Models for Territorial Entrepreneurial Discovery Process: How to Engage the Civil Society in the Participatory RIS3?*

Matjaž Vidmar; *The €10 million Question How Innovation Intermediaries Support Smart Specialisation*

11:45-13:15 SECOND SESSION

Chair: Roberto Mavilia

Velibor Mačkić, Domagoj Račić, Vladimir Cvijanović; *The Role of the State in Building a Competitive Economy: Political Economy of Innovations*

Will Bartlett, Besnik Krasniqi, Jasmina Ahmetbasic; *Attracting FDI to the Western Balkans: Does Government Support for Special Economic Zones Inhibit Smart Specialisation?*

Zoran Aralica, Marko Lučić, Slavo Radošević; *Orientation of Research & Innovation Policy in EU 'Super-Periphery': Stakeholders' Perspective*

Dubravka Jurlina Alibegović, Željka Kordej-De Villa, Mislav Šagovac; *Current Experience and Challenges of Croatian Cities in Implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategies*

13:15-14:30 ROUND TABLE – CLOSING SESSION

How to Implement Smart Specialisation in EU New Member States

Moderator: Zoran Aralica

Ales Cantarutti – State Secretary of Economy, Slovenia

Đuro Kutlača – Institute of Mihailo Pupin, Serbia

Agnieszka Krasicka - European Commission Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy

Tomislav Pinter – Ministry of Regional Development and EU Fund, Head of Service

14:30-15:30 LUNCH BREAK