



Implementing Mission-Oriented / Challenge-Driven innovation policies

Call for Special Themed Track and Plenary Panel (*Deadline 4th March*)

Grand challenges, be they *Sustainable Development Goals* or *Grand Societal Challenges*, capture societal needs that are currently unmet and require often international and multisector solutions. Research and innovation policies targeted at societal grand challenges rather than purely economic growth has been argued to be a new type of policy for transformative change (Gassler et al. 2008, Weber and Rohracher 2012) where policies contribute to facilitating innovation and socio-economic impact in a particular *direction* towards desirable transformative change (Mazzucato 2013, Kallerud, 2013, Schot and Steinmueller, 2016, Lindner et al. 2016).

There have been calls for a return to mission-oriented policies as a way to facilitate this, for example the recent “Mazzucato Report” to inform European Commission policies, particularly around future funding programmes such as FP9 (Mazzucato 2018). However, with the increasing interest in mission oriented **policies** around challenge-based **objectives** it is becoming recognised that **“implementation”** of missions is becoming a key issue for STI policy and for organisations wishing to apply mission-oriented approaches (Robinson and Mazzucato *forthcoming*).

Implementation requires taking into consideration the existing sectors, regions, nations and socio-technical systems along with the various forms of innovation. What forms of implementation strategies and Implementation structures are needed? Can we learn from previous instances of targeted STI policies? What can be said about the variety of loci of innovation¹ and the relation to mission implementation strategies and structures? Will they vary for different sectors of activity? Mission-oriented policies will not be implemented in a vacuum, how do they link up with existing policy mixes with their own implementation structures (Rip and Nederhof) and how will they be tailored for different sectors and landscapes (Geels 2004) which have their own existing regimes of behaviour, and incumbent infrastructures.

This special themed paper presentation track invites papers that address (and expand on) these questions relating to implementation of mission-oriented / challenge driven policies. Contributions that explore implementation structures and strategies, and contributions that draw on historical cases of applying “targeted policies” in existing policy mixes would be very welcome.

SUBMISSION INFO

Deadline for abstracts minimum 500 to a maximum of 3000 words should be uploaded to the EU-SPRI easychair website, adding IMPLEMENTING MISSIONS at the end of the title. Abstracts can be submitted are the following link: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=euspri2018>

¹ For example, innovation in hospitals, on farms, user-driven innovation, innovation within firms, in public-private partnerships and other forms of “creative corporatism” (Kuhlmann and Rip *forthcoming*)

For any questions or comments regarding the Thematic Track or dedicated Panel, or those who have already submitted abstracts and wish to be considered for this track, do not hesitate to contact Douglas Robinson at contact@douglas-robinson.com.

CONVENORS

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