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Clusters as policy instruments for smart specialisation

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Abstract

Territories are facing an uncertain and complex context, characterized by globalization and economic, social and environmental challenges. Regarding these context conditions and the role of territories on competitiveness and innovation, clusters have become progressively a spreading phenomenon all around the world. Nowadays, the importance of clusters has been mixed with the concept of smart specialization, a territorial development model that seeks to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of economic systems. Nevertheless there are certain gaps in smart specialisation to be covered, especially when referring to the role of clusters. The aim of this article is to analyse the concept of both cluster and smart specialization from a twofold perspective: the economic development theoretical approach and the policy perspective.

Keywords: smart specialisation, entrepreneurial discovery strategies, clusters, cluster policy