

Conference Retrospective

"Latin American and European Perspectives on the Social Science – Policymaking nexus in the evolving knowledge society"

Parallel Roundtable

"Digital Ecosystems, Knowledge Networks, and Enterprise Networks for Development and Innovation in Europe and Latin America"

Lorena Rivera León and Paolo Dini

The parallel Roundtable on the 2nd day was dedicated to Digital Ecosystems (DEs) research as a new approach for sustainable regional development. The session was initially divided in two parts: a rather internal discussion presenting the initial results of research undertaken within the EULAKS project; followed by a discussion on the policy relevance and implications on socio-economic development. Nevertheless, the Roundtable was very dynamic and resulted in a combination of informal presentations, research dialogue and commentary by researchers, guest speakers and discussants.

The first speakers focused on the presentation of the preliminary results of a Case Study dealing with the introduction of the Digital Ecosystems concept in Argentina. Dr Paolo Dini gave an introduction on the DEs research agenda, giving a historical overview of the vision of DEs research and introducing the characteristics of DEs as a socio-technical system that constitutes a new approach for sustainable development catalysed by ICTs. Lorena Rivera Leon introduced the different strategies for DEs deployment based on European and international experiences and the potential deployment plans for the Argentinean case. She also discussed the policy implications of DEs deployment and explained the different existing 'tools' for planning the deployment of DEs at the local and regional level. Rodrigo Kataishi followed with a presentation of the preliminary results of a study undertaken in the municipality of Moron, province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, which studies the business and institutional networks of the locality from a complex systems perspective, in order to evaluate the viability of implementing a Digital Ecosystem. He concluded with a discussion of the characteristics of Moron's firms and institutions and the role of government as a catalyser of ICT adoption and use among local stakeholders.

The second set of presentations included the testimony of three key stakeholders involved in the deployment of Digital Ecosystems around Europe and internationally. Javier Val, from the *Instituto Tecnológico de Aragon* in Spain explained the experience of the European region in deploying a DE for the tourism sector. His presentation also included practical advice and the main obstacles his institution encountered in the referred process. Andrea

Nicolai introduced the case of the Italian region of Lazio with a special focus on methodological approaches for analysing local readiness related to the deployment of DEs. He also discussed the importance of achieving political support and consensus in the benefit of an effective deployment strategy. Finally, Saulo Barreto introduced the case of Brazil and the application of DEs to culture and public administration, discussing mainly the potential of DEs in enhancing social links and promoting and preserving cultural identity.

The dynamic session was overall moderated by Dr Paolo Dini. The Discussants, Olga Memedovic and Gabriel Yoguel contributed actively with valuable comments, notably related to the dissemination of the concept among other researchers and policymakers, the socio-economic benefit of DEs deployment and the development of new theoretical tools and models for their analysis at local level.



Lorena Rivera León (London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom), Andrea Nicolai (T6, Italy), Rodrigo Kataishi (Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Argentina), Verónica Robert (Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Argentina), Javier Val (Instituto Tecnológico de Aragón, Spain), Paolo Dini (London School of Economics and Political Science, United Kingdom)



Discussant: Olga Memedovic (UNIDO, Vienna), Discussant: Gabriel Yoguel (Universidad Nacional de General Sarmiento, Argentina), Saulo Barreto (Instituto de Pesquisas em Tecnologia e Inovação, Brazil)