

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION:

“ADVANCING MISSION-ORIENTED INNOVATION POLICY”

EU-SPRI Early Career Research Training School, Utrecht University, 25-27 August 2021 (online)

1. OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

Against the background of societal challenges (climate change, biodiversity loss, ageing, cyber-insecurity), innovation policy has changed markedly during the last decade. Governments are shifting the emphasis in innovation policy from generic R&D and triple-helix support to new programs and instruments to target specific problems following the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Europe’s Green Deal and Digital Agenda, or more specific challenges rooted in national or regional contexts.

Most of the new policies can be headed under ‘**Mission-oriented Innovation Policy**’ where policies are directed towards a societal challenge and articulated in specific targets and timelines. Missions should guide the policies and actions by the stakeholders involved and can be used as a yardstick for continuous evaluation.

While this type of policy is gaining ground in policy circles around the world, many open questions remain regarding its rationales, design, implementation and evaluation. What is more, as various mission-types of innovation policies are now embraced at regional, national and European levels, questions arise about subsidiarity and multi-level coordination. Finally, to further our understanding, we are in need of more empirical research on the experiences and effectiveness of various forms of mission-oriented innovation policy in tackling societal problems.

This course aims to provide PhD-students and early-career scholars insights **into the state-of-the-art research and practice in mission-types of innovation policies**. We will cover the following topics:

- The rise of challenges, missions and SDGs in innovation policy
- System perspectives on Mission-oriented Innovation Policy
- Regional innovation policy in times of grand societal challenges
- Quantitative mapping of knowledge and innovation for grand societal challenges
- The Governance of Mission-oriented Innovation Policy
- Mission-oriented Innovation Policy in practice. Experiences across Europe (policy roundtable)

Next to lectures and a policy roundtable, we organize parallel paper sessions for young scholars to discuss and receive feedback on their research. Participants should send in a full draft in advance (see details below). We also offer a social event on Wednesday evening.

2. GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

Target audience for this course are PhD-students and early career researchers in innovation policy, and is part of the series of training activities sponsored by [Eu-SPRI](#). The course is also open to participants not affiliated to any Eu-SPRI member organization and outside Europe. We expect participants to have basic knowledge of innovation policy upon entering the course.

3. SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATIONS

Send an email to k.frenken@uu.nl with (1) your CV, (2) abstract of your paper (max. 1,000 words) and (3) motivation letter (max. 500 words). Deadline for submission: **June 1, 2021**.

4. SELECTION

The maximum number of participants for the course is 36. Participants will be selected on the basis of their interests and CV. Notification of acceptance and request of confirmation will be sent at June 10, 2021.

Participation is **conditional** upon sending your paper (5,000-10,000 words) to k.frenken@uu.nl before **August 10, 2021**.

5. FEES AND PAYMENTS

No fees.

6. SCHEDULE FOR THE COURSE

The course will take place online from 25-27 August 2021 (afternoon sessions only).

7. VENUE

Online (Zoom).

8. TEACHING STAFF (T.b.c.)

Anne Bergek (Chalmers University)
Frank Biermann (Utrecht University)
Gaston Heimeriks (Utrecht University)
Matthijs Janssen (Utrecht University)
Kevin Morgan (Cardiff University)
Ismael Rafols (Leiden University)
Karoline Rogge (Fraunhofer ISI)
Iris Wanzenböck (Utrecht University)
Mattias Weber (Austrian Institute of Technology)
Joeri Wesseling (Utrecht University)

9. LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Koen Frenken (Utrecht University) (chair)
Gaston Heimeriks (Utrecht University)
Matthijs Janssen (Utrecht University)
Iris Wanzenböck (Utrecht University)
Joeri Wesseling (Utrecht University)