



Science Forum South Africa 2020
“Still igniting conversations about science”
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Description of Parallel Sessions organised by Partners for Online Publication

Session Title:

Smart Specialisation policies for green industrial and territorial transformations in Sub-Saharan Africa: evidence gaps and institutional requirements

Date: Thursday December 10th

Time: 15.30-17h (Pretoria time, GMT+2)

Session organiser(s):

European Commission, Joint Research Centre (JRC) (Séville, Spain)

Contact : Dr Mafini Dosso, Mafini.dosso@ec.europa.eu (JRC.B.3)

African Union Commission, African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI) (Malabo, Equatorial Guinea)

Contact : Dr. Bi Irie Vroh Vroh@afrika-union.org

- Welcome by **Ms Liliana PASECINIC** Liliana.PASECINIC@ec.europa.eu, Deputy Head of Unit JRC.A.3 at the European Commission, Joint Research Centre

- Background, Panel debate + Q&A, led by JRC Moderator

- Key conclusions and closing

by **Mr Alessandro RAINOLDI** Alessandro.Rainoldi@ec.europa.eu, Head of Unit JRC.B.3, European Commission, Joint Research Centre

& Dr. Bi Irie VROH Vroh@afrika-union.org, Acting Executive Director of the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI)

Moderator: **Dr. Mafini DOSSO** : Mafini.dosso@ec.europa.eu

Dr Dosso (Ms), is Economist and Policy Analyst and Leader of the project 'Smart Specialisation Strategies with sub-Saharan Africa' at the European Commission Joint Research Centre in Seville, Spain. She holds a Masters' degree in Industrial Economics and a PhD in Economics of Innovation from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon Sorbonne (France). She has co-authored several international statistical reports and peer-review articles on thematic such as innovation performances of top innovative firms, industry dynamics and technological developments, evidence-informed innovation policies, smart specialisation, Industry 4.0 policies and readiness both on Europe and sub-Saharan Africa.

SPEAKERS (including a Youth scientist)

- **Prof. Ricard ESPARZA MASANA** (Mr), Ricard.Esparza@uab.cat Professor of economic analysis at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. He holds two MSc in Specialised Economic Analysis by the Barcelona Graduate School of Economics and the Pompeu Fabra University, and a PhD in Innovation policy by the Technical University of Catalonia. He also served as head of the international department of the university's S&T park and has undertaken research in the field of innovation policy, with a large range of collaborations and contracts with several institutions worldwide, in more than 30 countries in 6 continents, including the European Commission, the World Bank, the Government of Peru, the Government of Catalonia, and EU and foreign national and regional governments and agencies.
- **Prof. Roberta RABELLOTTI** (Ms), roberta.rabellotti@gmail.com is Professor of Economics in the Department of Political and Social Science, Università di Pavia and Assigned Professor at the University of Aalborg, Denmark. She holds a Master of Science in Development Economics at the University of Oxford and a Doctor of Philosophy at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. Her research focuses on development economics, regional economics, innovation in developing countries, clusters and small enterprises, multinationals and GVCs. She worked with Orkestra, Inter-American Development Bank, EC, UNIDO, ILO, ECLAC-UN, UNCTAD. More information about Roberta's work is available at <https://robertarabellotti.it>
- **Dr. Mathias SPALIVIERO** (Mr) mathias.spaliviero@un.org is an Environmental Scientist with a PhD in Geography, who has spent the last 18 years working for the UN-Habitat in Africa on more than 20 countries. Before UN-Habitat he was lecturer and researcher at the Geoinformation Science and Earth Observation Faculty (ITC) of Twente University in the Netherlands. He is currently Senior Human Settlements Officer in the Regional Office for Africa, task manager for 10 active country programmes, and the focal point for risk reduction, climate change adaptation and urban resilience for the region. Importantly, he has promoted the formulation of

national urban policies and spatial development frameworks in several countries such as Angola, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Rwanda, Sudan (Darfur) and Zambia

- **Prof. Ivan TUROK** (Mr) Iturok@hsrc.ac.za is currently Executive Director: Economic Performance and Development at the Human Sciences Research Council and was Chairman of the Durban City Planning Commission. He holds the Research Chair in City-Region Economies at the UFS and has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed publications and 11 books/monographs. He holds an NRF B1-rating and is the former Editor-in-Chief of the top international journal, *Regional Studies*. He was formerly Professor of Urban Economic Development, and Director of Research: Department of Urban Studies at the University of Glasgow. He is an occasional adviser to the United Nations, OECD, African Development Bank, UNECA, and several national governments. His recent books include *Transitions in Regional Economic Development* (2018, Routledge), *Value Chains in Sub-Saharan Africa* (2019, Springer), and *Restoring the Core: Central City Decline and Transformation in the South* (2020, Elsevier). PhD from the University of Reading.
- **Parfait YONGABO** (Mr, Young scientist), yoparfait@gmail.com, University of Lund and University of Rwanda (UR). Assistant Lecturer at UR, Parfait holds a Master of Science in Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resources Management and he is completing a PhD Degree in Research Policy at Lund University, Sweden. His research interest is on innovation studies, policy analysis and research impact evaluation. His recent research focuses on the development and operationalization of policy instruments for knowledge-based development. He is also involved in research on the Rwandan Agriculture Innovation System and has published several scientific articles, conferences, scientific and technical reports. He has performed international research with institutions such as FAO, Sida, Belspo and EU-JRC.
- *(tbc for short message)* **Dr Bi Irié VROH** (Mr), Vroh@africa-union.org is the Acting Executive Director of the African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI). He holds a PhD in agronomic sciences and bioengineering from the University of Liège (Belgium). He worked as geneticist at Cornell University (New York) in the area of genomics and genetic improvement of crop species. He joined AOSTI in 2012 as Senior Expert (Science and Technology Policy). Prior to joining AOSTI, Dr Vroh was the Head of a research for development (R4D) program for West and Central Africa at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA).