

## Innovation Strategies for System-Level Transformation

### Workshop 3: Looking forward: Learnings and Recommendations

The final workshop in our series was held on 16<sup>th</sup> May at SUII, involving international partners from Sweden, the Basque country and Denmark, as well as participants from across Scotland, from the enterprise agencies, from innovation centres, from Scottish Funding Council, from economic development consultancies, local authorities and researchers.



To kick off the day we heard perspectives from the EU and Scotland. Firstly Peter Wostner from Institute for Macroeconomic Analysis and Development in Ljubljana, shared his experience of shaping the Smart Specialisation strategies in Slovenia, and his recent research on transformative innovation policy. His key messages included the imperatives

of experimentation in policy making, in clear aims and directionality, and in collaboration and collective action. This was followed by Alasdair Macleod from Scottish Government describing the thinking behind the Innovation Strategy and the programmes now being taken forward into delivery. This set the scene well for our discussions for the day.

From the previous two workshop sessions the team had drafted some key principles for successful Innovation Strategies aiming for system-level transformation across five themes (Learning; Understanding context, assets, and needs; Leadership; Development Structures; Cultivating Partnerships). The morning session interrogated these principles, identified any missing elements and prioritised the most important from across each of the five themes. In the afternoon a panel from Scotland and Europe fielded questions about what difference



these principles would make. The participants then build a perfect innovation journey, and described the actions and collaborations they wanted to take forward.

As well as a final report, the findings and principles generated from the workshop series will be shared with Scottish and European partners (for examples through the EoRPA seminar series, the TCI network, and EDAS) to try and embed this approach in future innovation policy delivery.

