

Jean Monnet Module Newsletter No. 1 (January 2020)

Newsletter 1

Welcome to 2020, and welcome to the Jean Monnet Module Newsletter! It's a great pleasure to have you as reader.

Without further ado, let's have a look at the projects we have been working on, invite you to future events, and introduce new publications and events on regional development research in the EU.

I. Past events of this JMM:

1) Kick-off event:

We kicked off the Jean Monnet Chair (JMC) and the Jean Monnet Module (JMM) with a small international symposium on rural revitalisation on November 27th, 2019.

Researchers from Germany and Japan presented their findings to students, academics and representatives from local governments.

A short summary of the event can be found here:

https://www.kwansei.ac.jp/cms/kwansei_i_industrial/pdf/2020_01/Kickoffeventreport.pdf

2) Undergraduate lecture on 'EU Economic and Monetary Integration':

During the fall semester 2019/2020, Dr Schrade taught 79 undergraduate students on the EU, focusing on the economic and monetary integration and EU policy areas as part of her JMM teaching activities. The students had a chance to study about the EU in English, widening their knowledge on international economics, finance and the political economy of Europe.

3) High School Symposium (*Kōkōsei Tōronkai*) on migration in Japan on January 25th, 2020:

As part of this JMM, Dr Schrade helped organise the yearly High School Symposium hosted by KGU, inviting representatives from the German Consulate General and the US Consulate General Osaka-Kobe to discuss migration with students from four high schools in Hyogo Prefecture. The four school teams presented their views on whether Japan should accept more immigrants, analysing the topic from an economic, business, culture and social perspective.

Dr Werner Köhler, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, and Ms Alicia Edwards, Public Affairs Officer at the US Consulate General Osaka, provided insights into Germany's and the US' experience with immigration.

Over 120 interested students, parents, teachers and the general public attended this event, which was well-received by the participants.

For more information, see the link below:

https://whatfor.kwansei.ac.jp/cms/kwansei_koudai/pdf/koudai_0125.pdf

4) **Intensive seminar (EU 合宿 2019) on the future of European cities and regions** (January 27th and 28th) at Sengari camp.

Supporting the Jean Monnet Chair (Prof. Holger Bungsche), Dr Schrade gave a lecture on the future of rural areas in the EU and Japan, providing examples of how Japan could learn from the EU in terms of increasing their attractiveness. She thereby focused on social policies, entrepreneurship and community-building.

During the event, 11 students worked in three teams to analyse the potential for making rural regions more future-proof, focusing on the economy/energy, tourism, and social policies before interviews in nearby Sasayama.

II. Forthcoming events of this JMM:

1) **Teaching:** During the spring semester of 2020, Dr Schrade will conduct an interactive course on **Declining Regions in the EU** at the School of Economics. Using different case studies, students will analyse the social and economic impacts of population decline, learning how EU regions are coping with negative population growth.

She will furthermore teach a seminar on **Labour Mobility and Population Imbalance in the EU** at the School of Policy Studies. Students will learn about the (social, economic, fiscal) benefits and risks of labour mobility in the EU, and analyse the costs population imbalance and a rapid population decline in rural areas pose.

Interested undergraduate students from all faculties are welcome to attend this course.

The syllabus will be online on the KG website in March 2020.

III. Recently published regional development research & upcoming events and conferences:

Events:

The European Commission, the EU-Japan Regional Cooperation Helpdesk and the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation will jointly organise the **EU-Japan Clusters and Regions/Prefectures Cooperation Event** on **27-29 April 2020** in Strasbourg, France.

This event is open to the general public.

For more information, see the link below:

<https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/node/13795>

Publications:

1) At the end of 2019, the European Cluster Collaboration published a new **Smart Guide to Cluster Policy**, analysing “how to make better use of clusters for promoting regional industrial modernisation, supporting the growth of SMEs and encouraging smart specialization”. An interesting read not only for practitioners but also for academics.

It can be downloaded for free from the link below:

<https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/eu-initiatives/reports/smart-guide-cluster-policy-tool-cluster-policy-makers-and>

2) The European Observatory for Clusters and Industrial Change (EOCIC), funded by the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW), just published its findings on 10 EU regions in transition. The case studies provide ideas to foster regional economic transformation and industrial transition.

The individual results for all 10 regions are accessible as PDF from the link below:

<https://www.clustercollaboration.eu/eu-initiatives/reports/policy-briefings-10-european-regions>

That’s it for now. Good luck with your research, and thanks for reading!

For more information on our projects, visit the SANKEN website below, which also contains the latest news on this JMM:

https://www.kwansei.ac.jp/i_industrial/i_industrial_019753.html (JMM 英語ページ)

https://www.kwansei.ac.jp/i_industrial/i_industrial_019752.html (JMM 日本語ページ)

For more information, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Dr Anna Schrade via email to schrade@kwansei.ac.jp

Best regards,

Anna Schrade & the KGU JMM Team