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Governance For Linking Innovation Policy And Sustainable Development In Flanders (Belgium)

This working paper on ‘integration of innovation policy and sustainable development policy’ deals with the structural mismatch of industrial lock-in of the Flemish innovation system in material and energy intensive production systems. The way out in ‘system innovation’ demands a long-term horizon of transition to a new less resource intensive and more knowledge intensive economy. The establishment of the Environmental Technology Platform (MIP) by the Flemish government can be a decisive institutional lever for changing the governance structure for the ‘management’ of this process in more coherent sense, in particular in achieving greater coherence between supply (stimulating excellence in research and innovation) and demand (procurement policies etc.). MIP can become an instrument in fostering the development of visions and cooperation among different actors in the relevant innovation system. Whether this will materialize, depends however on a set of conditions that still have to be fulfilled.

This working paper was prepared for OECD-TIP, in the context of the MONIT project. MONIT (Monitoring and implementing horizontal Innovation Policy) aims at improving Innovation Policy governance and creating a more coherent horizontal Innovation Policy. MONIT offers a stimulating environment to advance explorative research and international policy learning for Third Generation Innovation Policy in Flanders. We therefore hope this paper can contribute to policy discussions on the governance structure for this type of new policy.