

Dear Sir,

The IPE - Association of Industrial-, Technology-, Science and Innovation Parks, Hungary welcomes the draft document and the early public consultation, launched by you.

Our recommendations to the draft are the following:

In point 1. more emphasis should be put on the research and industry relations and the capacities and institutions which intermediate between those actors.

We call the attention to the role of industrial, science innovation and technology parks of the EU and their potential in job creation, greening the economy and contributing sustainable growth.

In point 3. when speaking about modernising of the industrial sectors of the EU the role of the industrial, technology innovation and science parks is also unquestionable.

Incorporating the above into the EU 2020 document, the European Union should play an active role in promoting the establishment and development of industrial and technological parks as innovation poles in EU Member States and regions, thus enabling full integration of new and old Member States in the enlarged single market, which is one of the key elements of the new partnership for growth and development envisaged by the re-launched Lisbon strategy. The ultimate goal is:

- to boost the competitiveness of the new Member States and to reduce regional disparities, thus ensuring better overall economic performance in the EU;**
- to boost competitiveness at regional and local levels, enabling more effective management of industrial restructuring, of the re-use of natural, financial and human resources, and of a strategy capable of responding to the complex nature of the economic and technological opportunities and challenges presented by European integration and the global market;**
- to ensure that full use is made of the opportunities offered by completion of the enlarged European single market, for example through networking of technology parks and industrial parks at trans-regional levels based on their global goals;**
- to raise general standards in research and innovation, and commercial application and market launches of research results, by means of even closer links between SMEs, the scientific sphere and research, training of highly qualified personnel at both operational and organisational levels, modernisation of public administration and the accompanying legislative**

framework, and capacity building for all players participating in the parks' decision-making

- **to use European networks of technology and industrial parks to stimulate interaction between industry, the services sector and the financial sector, at the same time as enhancing technological links and building up the capacity to take on and propagate new knowledge, thus boosting innovation and competitiveness and ensuring that objectives such as growth, competitiveness, employment, sustainable development and equal opportunities are compatible with one another and achievable through interaction and consensus;**
- **to monitor and evaluate the performance, effective technical capacities, actual achievements and other beneficial effects of industrial and technology parks; this should be done on a regular basis and in reference to standardised criteria laid down in advance;**
- **to ensure compliance with the EU legislative framework, including competition and state aid rules, while taking into consideration the continuing development of such rules.**

The Lisbon Strategy identified promotion of the dissemination of innovation and technology, as well as the application and commercial exploitation of R&D results as priority tasks, in the interests of growth, employment and sustainability. Industrial parks and the accompanying organisational structures are playing an increasingly important role in helping to fulfil the organisational, financial and legal conditions for this to happen.

Industrial parks have a key role to play in promoting innovation. For this reason, it is not enough for industrial parks to form networks on the basis of purely industrial or agricultural considerations; it is becoming increasingly important to mobilise the intellectual resources of universities, if economic objectives are to be achieved. It will only be possible to enhance competitiveness, make the economy more flexible and tap the benefits of human resources by mobilising intellectual resources and promoting innovation.

In legislative texts and terminology, such organisations are variously designated; industrial park, science park, technology park, technopole, research park, business park, innovation centre and technology incubator are some of the terms most frequently used. However, the basic idea remains the same: facilitating interaction between science, technology and economic development and creating synergies through cooperation between business and research institutions, thus facilitating market access. In addition, parks operate by providing high-quality, specialised services, with particular emphasis on business incubation, spin-off activities and networking.

Based on international experience, and also on the preceding remarks, it can be concluded that no two industrial parks are alike. It is also natural for a particular park to undergo constant change over time. The networks which are developing are a clear demonstration of this **diversity** of parks and their **adaptability** to changing needs. With the above remarks in mind, in the following analysis the activities of "**innovation poles**" are understood not only in the stricter sense relating to innovation in industry, technology, science or other areas, but as encompassing a **spectrum of activities generating added value**.

This approach ties in with the **European Commission's definition of innovation and competitiveness poles** as close cooperative association between enterprises, training centres and public- or private-sector research institutes within a defined geographical area. Such poles run innovation-centred joint projects generating various synergies between local players. Such cooperation is concentrated in particular fields of technological or scientific activity and is intended to create a critical mass enabling competitiveness and international visibility to be achieved.

Our suggestions are also in line with the opinion of the European Economic and Social Committee /EESC/ opinion CCMI/025.

Hope you find the above useful and we are at your disposal for any further communication.

Truly yours
Dr. János TÓTH
president
IPE

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