Workshop on Investment Vehicles and Financial Instruments supporting Technology Transfer and Innovation

Focus on the Danube Region and the Western Balkans countries

1-2 March 2017, Belgrade, Serbia

Programme
In Collaboration with:

Background

Many of the challenges in funding technology transfer and innovation are common across the Western Balkans countries and the broader Danube region. Several issues have been identified, in particular during the Macro-Regional Innovation Week held in Trieste, 26-30 September 2016 and this workshop is one of the first follow-up activities.

Furthermore, it will set the scene for the upcoming innovation workshop, part of the Berlin Process Summit, by exploring one of the most crucial elements of research and innovation – the funding component.

Content

The objectives of the workshop are to identify existing financial instruments to support innovation and technology transfer activities in the region, explore where the evident gaps exist and explore ways to address currently unmet demand with synergistic solutions. The workshop also aims to strengthen and cement an emerging community of practice on these issues that should help to maximise impact on regional innovation.

The workshop should stimulate exchange and discussion on the nature, features and the general suitability of existing financial instruments for the financing of different innovation and tech transfer projects (including start-up creation, joint ventures, licensing transactions etc.). The final results will be a definition of the type of financing instruments necessary for the region (in the form of vouchers, financial products, enhancements of features of existing innovation funds etc.) and a plan to accelerate their creation.

The second day of the workshop will give attention to access to finance in four specific sectors of particular importance to the region, including:

- Agri-food industry – focusing on rural development and social innovation
- Biotech – focusing on medical and life sciences projects and innovation
- Creative industries – focusing on social entrepreneurship and social innovation
- Eco-industry – focusing on innovation with environmental impact in the region

The Counterparties

The workshop is organised by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in collaboration with the European Investment Bank, World Bank, European Investment Fund and the EU Delegation in Serbia.

The European Investment Bank (along with the Fund) plays a major role in the region through, among others, the Western Balkans Enterprise Development & Innovation Facility (WB EDIF).

The World Bank and their Trade and Competitiveness Unit for Europe and Central Asia focuses on the areas of investment climate assessment, innovation and competition policies, and private participation in infrastructure. The organisation has done extensive work in assessing the environment for Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) in all Berlin process countries and has also devised a strategy for cooperation and development in RDI.

The JRC and Unit (I.4) are in possession of operational and technical expertise in the domains of Technology and Knowledge Transfer. Our flagship activities and tools (training, capacity building, studies) are highly relevant to the harmonisation and development of RDI in the Western Balkans.

The agenda should respond to the purpose of the workshop which is to:

- Provide participants with an opportunity to learn more about the existing investment vehicles (innovation vouchers, innovation funds, proof of concept funds, venture capital funds, etc.) and financial instruments (grants, equities, debts, guarantees, etc.) that can support innovation in their respective countries and organisations.
- Explore other relevant financing mechanisms and financial instruments in Europe, existing or potential, in support of innovation.
- Foster the sharing of experiences in using financial instruments, enabling dialogue and learning between stakeholders in the region.

The target audience are technology transfer practitioners, investors, innovation practitioners from both the supply and demand sides, agencies and bodies managing investment funds, financial intermediaries, corporate venture funds, science parks, SMEs, business associations, managing authorities and financial institutions directly involved in the design, operation and promotion of financial instruments.
Wednesday 1 March 2017
Belgrade, University of Belgrade, Solemn hall

Programme

EU and International Initiatives

09:30 – 10:00
Registration and Welcome coffee

10:00 – 11:00
Welcome address

Moderator: Giancarlo Caratti, Head of IPR and Technology Transfer Unit, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission

Giovanni De Santi
Director for Competences, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Steffen Hudolin
Head of Operations II, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia

Vladimir Bumbaširević
Rector, University of Belgrade

Gordan Danilović Grković
Director, Science and Technology Park of Belgrade

Marko Čadež
President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia

Ivana Petričević
Senior Advisor, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

11:00 – 12:30
Introductory discussion – overview of local challenges

Moderator: Dejan Šuvakov
Programme Manager for SMEs, Competitiveness, Innovations – Operations II, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia

Viktor Nedović
Assistant Minister for International Relations and European Integrations, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Serbia

Clément Brenot
Project Manager, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Giovanni Nicola Pes
Deputy Secretary General of the Italian National Government Agency for Microcredit

Lisa Cowey
Key Expert for Technology Transfer. Project “Capacity Building for Technology Transfer for the Western Balkans - EU4Tech” (Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations)

12:30 – 13:30
Lunch

13:30 – 15:00
On-going EU initiatives

Moderator: Alessandro Fazio, Policy Officer, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Patrick McCutcheon
Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, European Commission

Jean-Luc Reveruela
Head of Strategy, Advisory Services Department, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Dragan Šoljan
Advisor, Western Balkan Enterprise Development & Innovation Facility (WB EDIF), European Investment Bank (EIB)

Andrea Bua
Head of Unit, Financial Instruments Adriatic Sea Department, European Investment Bank (EIB)

Piyush Unalkat
Head of Technology Transfer Investments, European Investment Fund (EIF)

Marco Giuliani
Mandate Manager, European Investment Fund (EIF)

15:00 – 15:30
Coffee Break

15:30 – 17:00
On-going international initiatives

Moderator: Olga Spasić
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Paulo Guillerme Correa
Practice Manager, Trade and Competitiveness, World Bank

Olga Spasić
Counselor, Knowledge Transfer and IP Commercialization, SMEs and Entrepreneurship Support Division, Department for Developed and Transition Countries (TDC), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Fabio Serri
Regional Head for SME Finance and Development in the Western Balkans, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

Christophe Yvetot
Head, Liaison Office to the European Union, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

17:00 – 17:30
Closing

20:30
Networking dinner
Thursday 2 March 2017
Belgrade, Science and Technology Park

Programme

Regional Ecosystems and Actors

09:00 – 09:30
Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:30 – 09:35
Welcome Address
Ms Gordana Danilović Grković
Director, Science and Technology Park

09:35 - 11:00
Industry-public research partnerships
Moderator: Mattias Dinnetz
Policy Officer, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
Stephen Taylor
Director of Marketing, Communications and Business Development, AREA Science Park
Nedeljko Milosavljević
TTO Director, University of Belgrade, Serbia
Anwar Aridi
Innovation Specialist, World Bank
Ljiljana Ršumović
Project Coordinator, Science and Technology Park of Belgrade
Blagoy Stamenev
Policy Analyst, Knowledge for Finance, Innovation & Growth Unit, Joint Research Centre European Commission

11:00 – 11:30
Coffee Break

11:30 - 13:00
Regional Investors
Moderator: Elena Andonova
Policy Officer, Joint Research Centre European Commission
Ivan Rakonjac
Interim Managing Director, Innovation Fund, Serbia
Aleksandar Tasev
Managing Director, Balkan Unlimited Foundation
Jasmina Popovska
Director, State Fund for Innovation and Technological Development, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Marijana Hamanova
Co-Founder and Director Cleantech Bulgaria
Luigi Amati
President, CEO & Co-Founder of META
Boris Golob
CEO at STEP RI Science & Technology Park, University of Rijeka

13:00 – 14:00
Lunch and a group photo

Christophe Yvetot
Head, Liaison Office to the European Union, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

14:00 - 16:00 Parallel Roundtables

Agro-food industry round table
Moderator: Massimiliano Rudella
Coordinator of the working group on innovation and rural development, AREA Science Park

Biotech industry round table
Moderator: Maria Luisa Fichera
Chief, Legal and Administration Department, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) with contribution from:
Martina Viviani
Head, Fund Raising, Technology Transfer and Innovation, ICGEB

Nataša Skoko
Staff Research Scientist, Biotechnology Development Unit, ICGEB
Mersiha Alkić-Subašić
Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences of the University of Sarajevo
Veљko Mihajlović
Founder, Novel IC Company

Creative industries round table
Moderator: Michela Magas
Founder of Stromatolite, a Design Innovation Lab and a finalist in the European Union Women Innovators Prize 2017 with contribution from:
Neven Tubić
Founder, Dotas Company

Eco-industry round table
Moderator: Jelena Plavanski
Head, Centre for Ecology, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia (Belgrade office) with contribution from:
Marijana Hamanova
Co-Founder and Director Cleantech, Bulgaria

16:00 – 17:00
Presentations of results from group activities and conclusions

17:00 – 18:00
Closing cocktail
Practical information

Venues
1 March 2017
University of Belgrade, Solemn hall
Studentski trg 1, 11000 Belgrade

2 March 2017
Science and Technology Park
Veljka Dugoševića 54, 11060 Belgrade

Dinner, 1 March at 20:30
"Dva Jelena" Restaurant
Skadarska 32, 11000 Belgrade

Getting to the Science and Technology Park

By organised bus transfer from the city centre
Address: Studentski trg 1, in front of the University main building - Departures at 8:15, 8:30 and 8:45

By public transport: bus 66

By car
Address: Veljka Dugoševića 54, 11060 Belgrade
free parking is available
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