Supporting Smart Specialisation Strategies and Technology Transfer in South-East Europe

Tuesday 18 June 2019
Politehnica University of Bucharest (Romania)
**OVERVIEW**

**08:00 - 09:00**
- Registration & welcome coffee

**09:00 - 09:30**
- Welcome addresses

**09:30 - 11:45**
- Advancing Innovation Policies in South-East Europe through Smart Specialisation Strategies and Technology Transfer
  - Initiating Smart Specialisation Strategies and the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process
  - Promoting Technology Transfer as an implementation tool of Smart Specialisation

**11:45 - 11:50**
- Family photo

**11:50 - 12:15**
- Coffee break

**12:15 - 13:45**
- Smart Specialisation as a driver of Innovation in South-East Europe
- Lunch break

**13:45 - 14:45**
- Parallel sessions
  - Engaging the actors of the innovation ecosystem in smart specialisation in the Western Balkans
  - New Emerging Trends in Technology Transfer
  - Facilitating access to finance for High-Growth Innovative Enterprises (HGIE) do’s and don’ts

**14:45 - 16:00**
- Coffee break

**16:00 - 16:30**
- Parallel sessions
  - Challenges and achievements in the economic transformation of the SEE economies
  - Tech Transfer: Supporting promising ideas with Proof of Concept
  - Assessing the Regional Innovation Impact of Universities

**16:30 - 17:45**
- Closing remarks

**17:45 - 18:15**
- Networking cocktail
WELCOME ADDRESSES

From 9:00 to 09:30

Moderator: Miheana Costoiu, Rector University Politehnica of Bucharest

Nicholas Hurduc, Minister of Research and Innovation, Romania
Charlina Vitcheva, Deputy Director General, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

ADVANCING INNOVATION POLICIES IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE THROUGH SMART SPECIALISATION STRATEGIES AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

From 09:30 to 11:45

Moderator: Charlina Vitcheva, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Following a keynote, scene-setting introduction by the Moderator, this panel will then address, in two parts:

- Initiating Smart Specialisation Strategies and the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process
- Promoting Technology Transfer as an implementation tool of Smart Specialisation

Redi Shtino, Deputy Minister of Education, Sports and Youth, Albania
Adil Osmanović, Minister of Civil Affairs, Bosnia-Herzegovina
Karina Angelieva, Deputy Minister for Research and Structural Funds, Bulgaria
Tome Antičić, State Secretary, Ministry of Science and Education, Croatia
Sotiris Pavleas, Special Advisor to the Secretary General for Research and Technology, Greece
Shyqiri Bytyqi*, Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Kosovo**
Sanja Damjanović, Minister of Science, Montenegro
Petar Atanasov, Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Republic of North Macedonia
Adrian Curaj, Former Minister of Education, Science and Innovation, Romania
Viktor Nedović, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Serbia
Iztok Purič*, Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Republic of Slovenia

Enhancing the effectiveness of research, development and innovation in South-East Europe requires appropriate action both on the strategy and implementation level. This panel discussion involving high-level representatives from the relevant Ministries in the region will explore common challenges from their different perspectives on designing and implementing smart specialisation strategies in combination with technology transfer capacity building activities fostering place-based innovation and regional growth.

*Not confirmed
**This designation, and all other designations in this programme, is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
SMART SPECIALISATION AS A DRIVER OF INNOVATION IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

From 12:15 to 13:45

Moderator: Nicola Aimi, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General For Regional And Urban Policy, European Commission

Panel discussion

Challenges for smart specialisation in the South-East Europe
Slavo Radosevic, Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies, UCL London

Financing smart specialization sectors for a smart future
Mihaela Toader, State Secretary in the Ministry of European Funds, Romania

Connecting research with market innovation needs through dynamic entrepreneurial discovery in Greece
Sotiris Pavleas, Special Advisor to the Secretary General for Research and Technology, Greece

S3 as an operational plan facilitating the shift to high-productivity economy
Peter Wostner, Head of the S3 Coordination Division, Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Slovenia

Romanian S3 experience in setting the 2021–2027 financial period
Radu Gheorghiu, Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (EUFISCDI)

The session will aim at highlighting common growth and innovation challenges in the SEE to address path dependency patterns in the economic structures and overcome industrial legacies of the past, and the role of smart specialisation as a driver of regional and national innovation ecosystems to address them. Key dimensions of RIS3 will be addressed, incl. the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process, governance, monitoring and evaluation, inter-regional and international cooperation, as well as institutional capacity-building.
PARALLEL SESSION I-1
ENGAGING THE ACTORS OF THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM IN SMART SPECIALISATION IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

From 14:45 to 16:00

Moderator: Manuel Palazuelos Martinez, Team Leader, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Keynote Presentation

Manuel Palazuelos Martinez, Team Leader, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Panel discussion

Viktor Nedović, Head of the S3 Working Group, State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, Serbia

Darko Petusic, Head of the S3 Working Group, Director General, Ministry of Science, Montenegro

Linda Pustina, Head of the S3 Working Group, Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, Albania

Jasmina Majstoroska, Head of the S3 Working Group, Head of the Industrial Policy and Competitiveness Unit, Ministry of Economy, North Macedonia

Vedat Sagonjeva, Head of the S3 Working Group, Director of the Strategic Planning Office, Office of the Prime Minister, Kosovo**

Contribution to the enhancement of the innovation potential can come from diverse, often neglected sources. Stakeholders need to be identified and mobilised for participating at the smart specialisation process. Montenegro and Serbia should have RIS3 strategies adopted by mid-2019, while Albania, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo** have started the smart specialisation process in 2018 and by mid-2019 at least two should be prepared to enter the Entrepreneurial Discovery Process. Following the comparative mapping presentation at the beginning of this panel the Western Balkan policy makers will address the biggest challenges that the countries might face in the process and provide possible solutions for overcoming them.
PARALLEL SESSIONS I-2
NEW EMERGING TRENDS IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

From 14:45 to 16:00

Moderator: Giancarlo Caratti, Head of Unit, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Presentations

EC Competence Centre for Technology Transfer
Alessandro Fazio, Team Leader, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

The Romanian Laser Valley Mega Project
Adrian Curaj, Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding

Insights into a study on the use of Public-Private Partnerships for Science Parks and Innovation Districts
Hardy Schmitz, Member of the Advisory Council of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation (IASP)

Emerging Trends in Technology Transfer
Henric Rhedin, ASTP-Proton

Round table discussion

The domain of Innovation Ecosystems (IE) is one of the three main pillars of the JRC’s Competence Centre for Technology Transfer (the other two being capacity building and financial instruments). The Centre provides on-demand policy and operational support for the structuring, development and management of IE, including science parks, technology transfer offices, incubators and accelerators. A number of countries in the SEE plan and/or already construct IE to modernise and boost their national and regional economies and fight brain drain. The session will also present the results of a study on the trends in the utilisation of PPP models for creating or regenerating urban innovation areas.
PARALLEL SESSIONS I-3
FACILITATING ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR HIGH-GROWTH INNOVATIVE ENTERPRISES (HGIE): DO'S AND DON'TS

From 14:45 to 16:00

Moderator: James P. Gavigan, Policy Officer, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Keynote presentation

The HGIE study
Aurélien Genty, Policy Officer, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Panel discussion

Mihai Darzan, CEO, Ringhel
Sergiu Negut, Co-Founder, Fintech OS
Luigi Amati, President, Business Angels Europe
Andrea Brasili, Senior Economist, European Investment Bank
Rudy Aernoudt, Professor, Corporate finance & European Enterprise Policy, UGent

This session will discuss how to facilitate the access to finance for young innovative companies and which policy measures contribute to their growth. The aim is to discuss with experts, practitioners and stakeholders the role and impact of public schemes in facilitating the access to finance of this type of companies. Particular attention will be drawn to the efficiency of different types of instruments based on a study conducted by JRC and comparing equity, grants and guarantees. The main lessons on policy design and implementation will be presented and discussed.
PARALLEL SESSIONS II-1
CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF THE SEE ECONOMIES

From 16:30 to 17:45

Moderator: Nikola Radovanovic, Economic and Policy Analyst, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Cohesion Policy and Smart Specialisation in the EU – Achievements, Challenges, Perspectives
Nicola Aimi, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General For Regional And Urban Policy, European Commission

Innovation matters: the need for good quality data as an input for mapping economic specialisation domains
Hugo Hollanders, Senior Researcher, UNU-MERIT

Capacities to monitor and evaluate the implementation of Smart specialization
Ramojus Reimeris, Head of innovation policy Unit, MOSTA

S3 as a Catalyst for Regional Innovation Systems – Insights from the "Targeted Support to S3 in Lagging Regions" project (with emphasis on BG, HR and RO)
Marina Ranga, Scientific / Technical Project Officer, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Mapping and Alignment of S3 Priorities in the Danube Region – A basis for enhanced R&I cooperation in the SEE
Ales Gnamus, Project Officer, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

The enhancement of the governance in the area of developing efficient innovation frameworks in the SEE economies came as the result of increased capacity building activities in the region, as well as of the real needs emerging as a result of social and economic transformation. In this process, research and innovation systems need to continue shifting their focus towards private sector in order to yield more promising results in terms of competitiveness of the economies. This panel will provide results of the analyses of the governance structure for smart specialisation process and beyond, and reveal the key challenges in the process as well as provide some outlook on the smart specialisation developments towards the next Multiannual Financial Framework.
Proof of Concept is the first step of the technology transfer process. It consist of granting relatively small funds to researchers that aim to facilitate the validation (prototype, demonstrator, etc.) and explore avenues for the commercialisation of technologies developed within Public Research Organisations (PROs), start-ups and micro-enterprises. This session will present best practices in the area of Proof of Concept and discuss most appropriate models for SEE.
PARALLEL SESSIONS II-3
ASSESSING THE REGIONAL INNOVATION IMPACT OF UNIVERSITIES

From 16:30 to 17:45

Moderator: James P. Gavigan, Policy Officer, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Presentations

Presentation of the framework and comparative case study analysis
Koen Jonkers, Deputy Head of Unit, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Case study 1 – Ruse University
Svilen Kunev, Ruse University

Case study 2 – Rovira i Virgili
Francesc Xavier Grau Vidal, Secretary General for Universities of the Catalan Government

Kiril Geratliev, Executive Director, Executive Agency OP Science and Education for Smart Growth (SESG)

Tudor Prisecaru, Vice Rector, University Politehnica of Bucharest

Panel discussion (to address the challenges in drafting, usefulness of the exercise both for the universities and for policy makers)

In 2018 JRC published a report which provides a framework to assess the impact of universities on their regional innovation ecosystem. The assessment objective is to set a path for an additional institutional funding stream for universities based on the contribution they can have on their regional innovation systems. The presentation will give an insight into the first outcomes. JRC will also conduct a comparative analysis based upon two case studies.

CLOSING REMARKS

From 17:45 to 18:15

Adrian Curaj, Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding

Charlina Vitcheva, Deputy Director-General, Directorate-General Joint Research Centre, European Commission