



JRC-Seville/DG CONNECT Conference

European Innovation Policies for the Digital Shift

Tuesday 22 November 2016

Room VML02

Rue Van Maerlant 2, Brussels, Belgium

Conference objective

The objective of the conference is to discuss innovation policies for the Digital Single Market. The discussions will take as starting point the most important results from the Joint Research Centre (JRC) project 'European Innovation Policies for the Digital Shift' (EURIPIDIS) and the policy messages deriving from these results. This event is the final conference of the project.

The conference discussions will focus on:

- Digital innovation and entrepreneurship
- The role of standards and intellectual property rights for digital innovation
- Financing of innovation in the digital age

Participants are expected to actively contribute to the conference, by challenging the approaches presented and by participating to the debate.

Conference outline

- The conference will start with an introduction by DG CNECT and JRC presenting the project 'European Innovation Policies for the Digital Shift'.
- In the context of 'Start-up Europe' and the 'Digital Single Market', this first panel on digital innovation and entrepreneurship will discuss policy options that can help European innovators and entrepreneurs to overcome barriers to capitalise on their innovative ideas and expand in the global market. Despite progress in recent years, accessing human, technological and financial resources across national borders remains cumbersome. This creates significant barriers to the internationalisation and scaling-up of European businesses.
- A second panel discussion will focus on the role of standards and intellectual property rights (IPRs) for digital innovation. The panel will start with the most important IPR challenges in the digital age, as they have been identified by the IPR-related studies under the EURIPIDIS project, namely the impact of patent assertion entities on IP markets and role of FRAND licensing for the ICT industry. Starting from there, the panel will move towards a discussion about the future importance of proprietary knowledge systems in a world of increasing interoperability.
- Financing is seen as the major external bottleneck to exploitation of innovation. A third panel session will follow on financing of innovation and entrepreneurial activity. The discussion will address questions such as: Are the private and public sources of funding innovation efficiently allocated? How well do they cover the needs of innovators and entrepreneurs at each stage of innovation commercialisation? How efficient is the interplay between them?

Participants

The conference main targeted audience is representatives from the ICT industry, European Commission staff and academia working on issues related to the Digital Economy. Several industry representatives, policy analysts and academics with recognised expertise in the fields covered by the conference will be invited to attend.

The EURIPIDIS context

This conference is organised in the context of the three-year research project on *European Innovation Policies for the Digital Shift* (EURIPIDIS) jointly launched in 2013 by JRC-Seville and DG CONNECT in order to improve understanding of innovation in the ICT sector and of ICT-enabled innovation in the rest of the economy.

EURIPIDIS aims to:

- Better understand how digital innovation works, both at the level of actors such as firms, and at the level of the ICT “innovation system” in the EU
- Analyse the main ICT innovation drivers and barriers in the EU
- Assess the EU's current ICT innovation performance, by attempting to measure ICT innovation in Europe
- Explore and suggest how policy makers could make ICT innovation in the EU work better.

EURIPIDIS has developed several studies on models of ICT innovation, on ICT innovation drivers and barriers, and on measurement of ICT innovation. Results of several of these studies will be discussed during the conference. Reports on these studies are published on the project web page.¹

¹ <http://is.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pages/ISG/EURIPIDIS/EURIPIDIS.index.html>