

**2ND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY STAKEHOLDERS´ CONFERENCE OF
COUNTRIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
“BEST PRACTICES IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION POLICIES”**

MOSCOW, APRIL 7-8, 2010

In the context of the

“XI INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT”

MOSCOW, APRIL 6-8, 2010

<http://conf.hse.ru/lingua/en/2010/>

Following the first Science and Technology Policy Stakeholders´ Conference of the European Union, Eastern European and Central Asian Countries held in June 2009 in Athens <http://www.inco-eeca.net/en/219.php> , the second **S&T Policy Stakeholders´ Conference on “Best Practices in Science, Technology and Innovation Policies”** was held in Moscow on **April 7th and 8th, 2010.**

The conference organisers were **University – Higher School of Economics (HSE)** and **IncoNet EECA¹ project consortium**, funded within the 7th EU RTD Framework Programme. This conference was addressed to S&T policy makers as well as scientific community in the European Union, Associated Countries (AC), Eastern European and Central Asian (EECA) countries.

This Stakeholders´ Conference was embedded as dedicated session in the HSE **11th International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development** entitled **"Economic Modernization: markets, firms, and structural changes"** and **"Preserving the Nation: demographic, socioeconomic, and political context"**. The conference co-organizers are the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The **2nd Stakeholders´ Conference objectives** were:

- to highlight selected challenges in science, technology and innovation (STI) policy;
- to present and discuss contribution of scientific communities of EU, AC and EECA countries to development of STI policy;
- to analyze EU-EECA S&T cooperation framework and outline the way forward.

The conference programme comprised the following sessions:

- Present Challenges in STI Policies;

¹ S&T International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries <http://www.inco-eeca.net/>

- Setting Priorities for STI Policies;
- Institutional Reforms in the Public S&T Sector;
- New Approaches to Innovation Policies: Forward-Looking Strategies;
- New Approaches to Innovation Policies: Knowledge Based Exploitation of New Markets;
- Internationalisation Strategies as an Integral Part of STI Policies;
- Critical Analysis of the EU-EECA S&T Cooperation Framework and the Way Forward.

A critical analysis of the EU-EECA S&T cooperation framework was made by partners of the EECA consortium from Austria, Germany, Moldova, Russia, as well as a representative from the Russian national research centre Kurchatov Institute, a partner in ERA.Net RUS partner. The speakers explored the existing instruments (FP, ENPI, etc.) and potential cooperation patterns of EC-EECA S&T cooperation.

In the framework of the **Round table discussion of policy makers “The Way Forward: a Shared Vision for Enhanced EU-EECA Cooperation”** participants covered issues related to cooperation in the sphere of S&T and innovation and coordination of S&T policies. Other issues, such as development of cooperation infrastructure and instruments for academic mobility were also covered.

Ideas and opinions on enhanced EU-EECA S&T cooperation were shared by leading researchers and representatives of national ministries and agencies from EU Member States, AC and EECA countries as well as from the European Commission responsible for development and execution of STI policy.

In the course of the sessions and roundtable discussions participants came to the following **conclusions** outlined below.

The conference made valuable contribution to achievement of one the main deliverables of IncoNet EECA project handled by the EC in terms of quality, integral discussion and coverage of policy issues of the interest of all participants.

It was stressed that the world becomes more global and complicated and this reflects on STI area. In the context of presentations made during the conference many different examples showed variety spheres related to STI policy which need specific approaches in designing of new instruments or reform of existing instruments of STI policies. Basic and applied research, education, industry, various branches of economy belong such spheres. As a result of up-to-date approaches application, new technology and classifications are shaping, such as: new 6 channels for knowledge flow between research and economy (scientific discovery and publication; production of trained people; development of instrumentation and methods; cumulative expertise available for problem-solving; entry ticket to networks and access to external knowledge; commercialisation and spin-offs), priorities in the field of STI, several branches of economy that needs development of STI policies, a number of Foresight methods which might be used for identification of S&T priorities, several types of innovation behavior of enterprises.

At the conference the following key elements that are common for all countries concerned have mentioned: consensus of political decisions for research and innovation policy should be considered by the countries; common use of research systems that should be more open, more



organized and more directive towards innovation linked to rather complexity of research and innovation processes. There are a broad variety of patterns and instruments meeting the criteria and objectives of research and innovations. These patterns are in dependence on historical background, on specificity of the economy of each country. Converging opinion on the best practices is the need of transparency, granting financing on the base of competitive mechanism, support research in the areas of excellence of the countries trying to target market niche and industry. All these elements are common for Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Central Asia, Russia and other countries. It is necessary to analyze more deeply the problems specific for countries, sectors and fields of science.

International cooperation is stimulating knowledge exchange around the world specifically through mobility of researchers. From the political point of view international cooperation is a means of boosting competitions in research communities. Association to EU Framework programme is not the only way to cooperate with the EU Member States but gives the opportunity to open research systems of associated countries and make them more competitive, more innovative. The conference showed the necessity to perform benchmarking of STI policies, to work up common procedures for carrying out such exercise, to develop best practices on collecting statistical data and analysis. These instruments are useful for better understanding of research systems performing in different countries.

The need to develop more complex policy in STI that should be addressed to particularly issues has been concluded by the conference participants. In this respect it is relevant to consider policies composition and develop such instruments like policy platforms and others that can be integrated in STI sphere. In terms of the best world experience exchange the recent event is of great importance for policy makers, scientists, and other stakeholder in EU and EECA. Such discussions can be continued in the framework of other forthcoming events.

Annexes:

Programme

Presentations

List of participants

Photos

