

2017 Event of the Eastern Partnership Panel on Research and Innovation

**Conference „FROM INNOVATIVE IDEAS TO SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES: promoting the national systems of early stage financing of innovative companies in EaP countries”**

**21 September 2017**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel (‘King’ hall), 13, Kyrova str., Minsk, Belarus**

**Agenda**

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| 09:00 - 09:30  | <b>Registration and welcome coffee</b>   |
| 09:30 - 09:50  | <p><b>Conference Opening</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Sergey SHCHERBAKOV</b>, Deputy Chairman, State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus</p> <p><b>Ms. Andrea WIKTORIN</b>, Head, EU Delegation to Belarus</p> <p><b>Mr. Andrea CARIGNANI-DI-NOVOLI</b>, Head of Unit European Neighbourhood, Africa and the Gulf, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission</p>   |
| <p><b>Session I: Disclosing challenges – discussing the needs</b><br/>Moderator: Ms. Maiia DEUTSCHMANN (Research Center Jülich GmbH)</p> |  |
| 09:50 - 10:15  | <p><b>Keynote Speech</b></p> <p><b>SMEs and innovation in transition economies</b></p> <p><b>Prof. Dominique FORAY</b>, Chair of Economics and Management of Innovation, Federal Polytechnic School of Lausanne, Switzerland</p>   |
| 10:15 - 11:15  | <p><b>Panel discussion „Challenges in early stage financing of innovative firms: national context“</b></p> <p><i>Participants: representatives of the EaP countries public bodies responsible for support of business and innovation and funding agencies and organizations providing financial support to start-ups, spin-offs and wider innovative businesses, as well as of the UN Economic Commission for Europe</i></p> <p><b>Mr. Karen GEVORGYAN</b>, Deputy Executive Director, SME Development National Centre of Armenia</p> <p><b>Mr. Mammad KARIMOV</b>, CEO, Khazar Ventures, Azerbaijan</p> <p><b>Mr. Dmitry KALININ</b>, Director, Belarusian Innovation Fund, Belarus</p> <p><b>Ms. Mariam SHARANGIA</b>, Strategic Development Specialist, Georgian Innovation and Technology Agency, Georgia</p> <p><b>Ms. Diana GROZAV</b>, Head, Moldovan Office for Science and Technology in Brussels, Academy of Sciences of Moldova</p> <p><b>Mr. Victor SHOVKALIUK</b>, Director, Department of Innovation Activity and Transfer of Technology, Ministry Of Education and Science of Ukraine</p> |

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|                     | <b>Mr. Anders JONSSON</b> , Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section,<br>Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE  |
| 11:15 - 11:45       | <i>Coffee Break</i>  |
| <b>Session II:</b>  | <b>EU instruments for supporting the innovative business available for EaP SMEs</b><br>Moderator: Mr. Vardan SAHAKYAN (State Committee of Science of Armenia)  |
| 11:45 - 13:15       | <b>Supporting SME development in EaP countries</b><br><b>Mr. Igor SEVERINE</b> , Program Analyst, Advice for Small Businesses Belarus, SME Finance and Development, EBRD   |
|                     | <b>HORIZON 2020: support for innovative SMEs</b><br><b>Mr. Iker AYERBE</b> , SME Unit, DG R&I, EC  |
|                     | <b>InnovFin</b><br><b>Mr. Marc D'HOOGE</b> , InnovFin Programme Manager, European Investment Bank  |
|                     | <b>Subgrant scheme and innovation hubs within FI-ADOPT and DIATOMIC EC-funded projects</b><br><b>Mr. Babis IPEKTSIDIS</b> , Delivery Manager, INTRASOFT Intl. S.A., Luxemburg  |
|                     | <b>The EaP PLUS Project instruments in support for innovation</b><br><b>Mr. George BONAS</b> , Coordinator of EaP PLUS, Managing Director, CeRISS, Greece  |
| 13:15 - 14:15       | <i>Networking lunch</i>  |
| <b>Session III:</b> | <b>Best national practices of the EU Member States</b><br>Moderator: Ms. Olga MEEROVSKAYA (BellISA)  |
| 14:15 - 15:45       | <b>Country experiences in funding start-ups, spin-offs and innovative SMEs</b><br><i>Speakers are requested to present not only a successful scheme but also to analyze specific conditions that, in their view, are needed for its effective implementation in case of a transfer to another country.</i> |
|                     | <b>Experience from Germany:</b><br><b>Mr. Thomas REINEKE</b> , Senior Scientific Officer, DLR Project Management Agency<br><b>Ms. Maiia DEUTSCHMANN</b> , Researcher, Department of Start-up, Transfer and Innovation Support, Research Center Jülich GmbH   |
|                     | <b>Experience from Poland:</b><br><b>Mr. Daniel SZCZECZOWSKI</b> , Head of Unit, Department of Programmes Supporting Innovation and Development, Ministry of Economic Development of Poland  |
|                     | <b>Experience from France:</b><br><b>Ms. Sylvie COGNEAU</b> , Head of international consulting activities, Bpifrance   |
|                     | <b>Experience from Lithuania:</b><br><b>Mr. Kęstutis ŠETKUS</b> , Director, Agency for Science, Innovation and Technology  |
|                     | <b>Experience from Austria:</b><br><b>Mr. Christian STEIN</b> , Head of Equity, Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mbH  |
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| 15:45 - 16.15       | <i>Coffee Break</i>  |
| <b>Session IV:</b>  | <b>How to better use the EU and national best practices in the EaP countries?</b><br>Moderator: Mr. George BONAS (CeRISS)  |
| 16:15 - 17:15       | <b>Mixed panel with participation of the audience</b><br><b>Discussion along the pre-defined questions</b>   |

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|               | <p><i>The goal of the discussion is to exchange views on the possibility to transfer effective instruments for funding innovative business to the EaP countries, and to explore whether the existing EC mechanisms for supporting the EaP countries could be used for that transfer.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Mixed panel of experts from the EaP/EU countries and European Commission;</i></li> <li>– <i>Short voluntary interventions from the panel members and the audience, in line with the guiding questions</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Mr. Iker AYERBE</b>, Policy Officer, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission</p> <p><b>Ms. Sylvie COGNEAU</b>, Bpifrance, France</p> <p><b>Ms. Maiia DEUTSCHMANN</b>, Research Center Jülich GmbH, Germany</p> <p><b>Mr. Igor SEVERINE</b>, EBRD</p> <p><b>Mr. Vardan SAHAKYAN</b>, State Committee of Science of Armenia</p> <p><b>Mr. Victor SHOVKALIUK</b>, Ministry Of Education and Science of Ukraine</p> <p><b>Mr. Daniel SZCZECZOWSKI</b>, Ministry of Economic Development of Poland</p> <p><b>Guiding questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Which are the most pressing needs in terms of early stage financing of innovative companies in the EaP countries?</li> <li>– Which of the existing EC mechanisms of support for EaP countries could be used for adapting to the best EU/EU MS practices and how?</li> <li>– How to boost participation of EaP SMEs in H2020?</li> <li>– Are there any recommendations that could be addressed at regional level?</li> <li>– Could the EaP PLUS project and activities be of help?</li> </ul> |
| 17:15 – 17:30 | <p><b>Wrap-up and closure</b></p> <p><b>Mr. Thierry DEVARIS</b>, International Relations Officer, DG Research and Innovation, EC</p> <p><b>Ms. Olga MEEROVSKAYA</b>, Head of Unit, BellSA</p> <p><b>Mr. George BONAS</b>, Coordinator of the EaP PLUS project, CeRISS</p>  |