



UNECE INVITATION

FROM SCIENCE TO INNOVATION –

NURTURING SCIENCE-BUSINESS LINKAGES TO TRY OUT NEW IDEAS

Second UNECE Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO) policy dialogue

Background

The Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus (EESC) UNECE sub-region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine) has considerable potential for sustainable growth and development. Innovation, or broad experimentation with new ideas, is crucial to making the most of this potential – and for public policy to play an effective role in enabling and promoting this dynamic by strengthening the national innovation system to allow for innovation to happen systematically across the economy. Science-Business Linkages (SBL) are an important structural element of a functional innovation system to maximise the advantages of research, featuring the effective interaction and exchange of scientific and practical knowledge between the science and business sector. The provision of different knowledge stocks and technologies from publicly funded research organizations like universities and non-university research institutes to external organizations, mainly private companies, is an important source of higher productivity and competitiveness for specific industries, countries and regions. Businesses can use the pool of publicly available research in a variety of ways, including the effective commercialization of research to create new products and processes, the provision of a qualified labour force, knowledge transfer and networking.

Tuesday, 25 January 2022

10.00-13.30 (CET)

11:00-13:30 (MLD, UKR)

12.00-14.30 (BEL)

13.00-15.30 (ARM, AZE, GEO)

*Microsoft Teams. To join,
please register via [this link](#).*

The Sub-regional Innovation Policy Outlook (IPO) 2020, a pilot United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) flagship publication launched in November 2020, with generous extrabudgetary support from the Government of Sweden, supports efforts in the EESC region to respond to this requirement through a concerted, systematic and comprehensive assessment and through comparison of the scope, quality, and effectiveness of innovation policies, institutions and processes. Findings of the IPO 2020 show that, while EESC countries continue to invest in public research – albeit at low levels – these efforts have almost no systematic effect on innovation as SBL are still in an initial stage of development, with fragmented policy instruments in place to stimulate cooperation, collaborative work and mobility between businesses

and academia. Activity at public research institutions often occurs in isolation from market needs, and researchers do not actively take part in local labour markets. Industry-research networks are underdeveloped, supported mainly by ad hoc collaborative projects at universities.

In 2022, UNECE will launch an *interim IPO publication*, which will further investigate specific innovation policy challenges in SBL in the sub-region to ensure public investment in research target potentially catalytic effects on innovation and entrepreneurship.



Participation

This IPO policy dialogue on science-business linkages brings together EESC focal points, government and private sector experts and stakeholders from EESC countries, international partner organisations, such as the Joint Research Centre and Horizon Europe programme, international experts and the UNECE Secretariat to examine current trends, as well how to build a system of dynamic interaction that can create the momentum needed to boost experimentation with different ideas around technology and research results from the region and beyond.

Please note that the times indicated below are based on the central European time (CET) zone.

I. DRAFT AGENDA

POLICY DIALOGUE – SCIENCE-BUSINESS LINKAGES

Tuesday, 25 January 2022, 10.00-12.30 (CET), 11.00-13.30 (MLD, UKR), 12:00-14:30 (BEL), 13.00-15.30 (ARM, AZE, GEO)

09:55 – 10:00 CET	LOG-IN TO MS TEAMS
10:00 – 10:10 CET	I. OPENING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Elisabeth Tuerk, Director, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division, UNECE• Ms. Sanna Leino, Program Specialist and Advisor, Private Sector Collaboration and Market Development, Department for Europe and Latin America, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
MODERATOR: Mr. Jakob Fexer , Economic Affairs Officer, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE	
10:10 – 10:50 CET	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• POLICY DIALOGUE <p><i>Based on their research and projects, experts will provide presentations on current trends, as well as challenges and opportunities for strengthening science-business linkages for innovation in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus. An expert from the Swedish Entrepreneurship Forum will discuss main trends, opportunities and challenges, as well as best practices in enhancing science-business linkages in Sweden. Following the presentations participants have the chance to ask questions and comment.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Eva Baltar, Policy Officer, Intellectual Property and Technology Transfer at the Directorate General Joint Research Centre (DG JRC), European Commission (EC)• Ms. Silvia Bojinova, Team Leader ENP countries, Horizon Europe Association, European Commission (EC)• Mr. Joakim Wernberg, Research Director of the Structural Change and Megatrends program, Swedish Entrepreneurship Forum (Entreprenörskapsforum) (tbc)
MODERATOR: Mr. Slavo Radosevic , Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies, School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies (SSEES), University College London (UCL)	

10:50 – 12:20 CET	<p>II. SCIENCE-BUSINESS LINKAGES IN EESC</p> <p><i>Prof. Radosevic will elaborate on the overall objective of the interim IPO chapter on science-business linkages, as well as provide an overview of the findings from his previous work on science-business linkages in the sub-region. Based on discussion questions, IPO national focal points will then have the opportunity to provide an update on main developments, opportunities and challenges, and recent policy efforts in support of strengthening science-business linkages in the EESC sub-region.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Slavo Radosevic, Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies, University College London (UCL), School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies (SSEES) <p><i>Guiding questions for discussion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What is the orientation and what are the strategies of universities and public research organisations (PROs) towards the business sector? What types of linkages are the most developed? [teaching skilled graduates; contracts for solving technical problems or joint development; testing and certification services; informal networking and social interaction; and/or other]</i> • <i>What are the most significant institutional (organisational) forms of cooperation between science and business? [individual contracts; informal forms of cooperation between individual members of staff; innovation centres; science parks; spin offs; and/or other]</i> • <i>Which domestic firms cooperate the most with universities and PROs? What are their attitudes and strategies towards cooperation with PRO and universities? Are foreign firms involved in the cooperation with universities and PROs?</i> • <i>Who is driving science business cooperation in the country? [Firms or universities and PROs?] In which areas is science business cooperation the most developed? Why?</i> • <i>What are the major instruments for supporting science business linkages in your country? What is their impact?</i>
12:20 – 12.30 CET	<p>III. CLOSING AND SUMMARY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Anders Jönsson, Chief, Innovative Policies Development Section, UNECE

REGISTRATION

This meeting will be held via Microsoft Teams.

To receive the link to join the meeting, please register via [this link](#).

For further information, please contact: Immanuela Badde at Immanuela.Badde@un.org



RECOMMENDED LITERATURE

Albuquerque, Eduardo, and others (eds.) (2015). Developing National Systems of Innovation. University–Industry Interactions in the Global South. Chapter 1: Introduction. International Development Research Centre. Available at <https://www.idrc.ca/en/book/developing-national-systems-innovation-university-industry-interactions-global-south>

Johnston, Andrew and Huggins, Robert (2021). University–industry collaboration: why it matters. Chapter in: Networks, SMEs, and the University. The Process of Collaboration and Open Innovation. Available at: <https://www.elgaronline.com/view/9781789903379.00008.xml>

Kwadwo Atta-Owusu, Rune Dahl Fitjar, Andrés Rodríguez-Pose (2021). What drives university-industry collaboration? Research excellence or firm collaboration strategy? *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*. Vol. 173.

Perkmann, Markus, and others (2013). Academic engagement and commercialisation: A review of the literature on university–industry relations. *Research Policy*. Vol. 42, No. 2, pp. 423-442.

Radosevic, Slavo (2011). Science-industry links in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States: Conventional Policy Wisdom Facing Reality. *Science and Public Policy*. Vol. 38, No. 5, pp. 365–378. Available at <https://doi.org/10.3152/030234211X12924093660435>



BIOGRAPHY OF EXPERTS



Prof. Slavo Radosevic, Professor of Industry and Innovation Studies, School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES), University College London (UCL)

Prof. Radosevic' research is in the area of economics of technological change and innovation studies with special emphasis on countries of central and Eastern Europe. He conducts research from neo-Schumpeterian perspective in particular exploring issues of growth and structural change through innovation systems, entrepreneurship, international business and innovation policy perspectives.

Prof. Radosevic has supported UNECE on several workstreams in the area of science-business linkages, most recently as the author of an elective chapter in the Innovation for Sustainable of Georgia and Moldova.

For more information on Prof. Radosevic' research is available [here](#).



Ms. Eva Baltar, Policy Officer, Joint Research Centre (JRC), European Commission

In her role as a policy officer, Ms. Baltar focuses on technology commercialisation, innovation ecosystem analyses and management of implementation programmes to support technology transfer capacities. She has 17 years of international experience in this domain.

Ms. Baltar has previously worked at technology transfer offices at the University of Oxford, the University of Santiago de Compostela and the Spanish National Research Council, where she managed and delivered technology transfer consultancy and training programmes worldwide, was an investment analyst at the university's venture capital society and managed the commercialisation of technologies through the creation of spin-offs.

For more information on JRC's work on technology transfer is available [here](#).



Ms. Silvia Bojinova, European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) Team Leader, DG Research & Innovation, Horizon Europe Association

Silvia Bojinova is an expert in European Union policies, law, European integration, and research and innovation funding programmes with more than 20 years of relevant professional experience.

Ms. Bojinova has worked for the European Commission since 2007 and is currently Senior Policy Officer and a team leader for the European Neighbourhood countries with a special focus on the Eastern Partnership regional cooperation and association of Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine. She is also responsible for the Southern Mediterranean Research and Innovation cooperation.

For more information on Horizon Europe's work is available [here](#).

