Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Work since the 8th Session

Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

Presentation by the secretariat

Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration - 8th session

Geneva
3 September 2015
TOS-ICP Strategy

Exchanges of Experience → Good Practices & Policy Recommendations → Policy Advice & Capacity Building

Evaluation & learning
Exchange of Experience and Development of Good Practice
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Too often, innovation policy and entrepreneurship policy live lives apart

Best results where they are aligned and coordinated since disruptive innovation needs entrepreneurship and most dynamic entrepreneurial firms are innovative
Good Practices
Innovation in the Public Sector

The public sector accounts for between 25 and 50 pct of employment and GDP in UNECE economies

Large impact as regulator of private economic activity, but also as provider of goods and services

Innovation drives prosperity => we cannot afford for ¼ to ½ of the economy not to innovate

But innovation in the public sector is different: incentives, accepting risks, aborting failures, scaling up successes

Public sector innovation can lead to more citizen satisfaction and better business sector performance
Smart Specialization is a relatively new approach to regional innovation policy

Assesses existing strengths and weaknesses

Develops a shared vision on future specialization

Coordinates public policies to facilitate development of new comparative advantages building on existing strengths
Good Practices to come: Accelerating the Adoption of Innovations

There is often a significant gap between the introduction of an innovation in the market and its broad-based adoption by consumers and/or companies.

As a result, average performance often remains far below the technological frontier.

This “adoption gap” can be particularly pronounced in areas critical for sustainable development.

The next TOS-ICP conference will look at policies to accelerate adoption of critical innovations.
Policy Recommendations – Innovation Performance Reviews

- Based on int’l good practices
- On request from countries
- Repeat visits by int’l expert teams
- Tailored recommendations
- Peer review and gov’t feedback
Policy Recommendations – Review of Tajikistan

• Very challenging environment

• Innovation constrained by a substantial lack of skills, knowledge, resources, incentives and opportunities for innovative business development

• focus on issues that are critical for the functioning of the national innovation system and which would produce visible results quickly without requiring substantial financial and human resources
Policy Recommendations – Review of Tajikistan

1. Increase investment in education and training, including vocational and on-the-job training, and in academic R&D which is focused on improving absorptive and adaptive capacities.

2. Facilitate access to foreign knowledge and innovative products, services and solutions that have already been proven to work in foreign markets.


4. Reduce bureaucratic obstacles to business activity and improve the general business environment.
5. Streamline, rationalize, and coordinate existing innovation policies in order to reduce waste and improve effectiveness.

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7. Focus policy support on existing industries, particularly on tradable goods and labor-intensive industries, with a view to support productivity improvements in these sectors which can then form the basis for additional investment and economic diversification into related activities.
Policy Advice/ Capacity building

Follow-up to the IPRs of Belarus, Kazakhstan and Armenia

Belarus
- Innovation policy and environmental challenges
- Public-private partnership in innovation activities

Kazakhstan
- International technology transfer
- Draft Strategy for International Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation
- Public support to venture capital financing

Armenia
- Launch of the Armenia Review
- MoU under consideration
Capacity Building

- High-level Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development in SPECA countries & session of the SPECA Project Working Group on Knowledge-based Development, Ashgabat Turkmenistan June 2014

- Sessions at the Kazan Venture Fairs 2014 and 2015 in cooperation with the RVCA and the Association of Innovative Russian Regions on cluster policies and technology match-making, Smart specialization policies
Evaluation & Learning

- Conference in Minsk on 17-18 Nov 2015 to take stock of the experience with the first 5 Innovation Performance Reviews
- And to prepare the 2\textsuperscript{nd} round

- With representatives of all 5 countries reviewed

- International experts (authors and peer reviewers)

- Progress with implementation?

- Challenges with implementation and how to resolve them?

- Strengths and weaknesses of the Reviews and review process?

- Modifications for 2\textsuperscript{nd} round reviews?
THANK YOU!

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