Armenia – Innovation Performance Review

Chapter 7 - Innovation and international economic integration

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Recommendations 7.1 – trade:

- **Extending the existing strategy for export-led growth** to include other knowledge intensive sectors beyond information and communication technologies (ICT). **Promising sectors should be identified systematically** through appropriate screening, the assessment of potential niches and foresight studies. **Specific sector strategies** should be elaborated and implemented;
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Recommendations 7.1 – trade:

- Identifying and prioritising sectors where the procurement of innovative goods and services from abroad is more needed in order to facilitate access to these goods and services;

- Improving the linkages between companies from promising export sectors and research organisations, including through support to joint projects that serve to better use the research potential and encourage collaboration.
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Recommendations 7.2 – diaspora:

• Developing *mobility schemes for temporary stays of diaspora researchers* in Armenia and establish *international research groups* between diaspora researchers and colleagues in Armenia;

• Targeting, in particular, cooperation with *diaspora researchers* who are active in *applied research and have good experience with innovation*;

• *Attracting students from the diaspora communities* to study in Armenia through enhanced information and promotion measures.
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Recommendations 7.3 – education:

• *Improving the quality of education, through upgrading of equipment, investment in infrastructure, and curricula development*, including through cooperation with international partners or companies;

• *Addressing the educational needs of particular industry branches*, in cooperation with industry representatives, *building on the experiences of the ICT sector*;

• *Broadening the efforts to attract foreign students beyond medicine* to include other promising areas such as natural sciences.
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Recommendations 7.3 – research:

- **Prioritising research and innovation in Armenia’s cooperation with the EU**, leading to more intensive use of instruments such as the European Neighbourhood and Partnership instrument, the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange instrument (TAIEX) and twinning;

- Developing skills and mechanisms to make good use of the opportunities opened by a **possible association to the EU’s Horizon 2020**, including information and training for researchers and innovators, matchmaking and networking and use of mobility programmes to prepare Horizon 2020 projects;

- Joining **EUREKA and EUROSTARS and participating in selected European Research Area Net (ERA-NET) projects** and other EU instruments;
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Recommendations 7.3 – research:

• Building closer **links with the innovation agencies of the countries of the Customs Union** (Belarus, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation), including the possibility of developing **bilateral funding instruments** with these agencies;

• **Studying the experience of other CIS countries in innovation support**, in particular in areas such as **start-up funding**, **attracting remittances for public-private co-funding schemes**, **technology transfer** and **innovation vouchers**.
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Recommendations 7.3 – research:

• Screening the participation in international programmes and informal research cooperation in order to identify niches of excellence and the existence of competitive teams in certain areas. This screening should be the basis of a strategy to nurture and develop these niches;

• Upgrading infrastructure and equipment to make domestic research institutions more attractive for international research cooperation.
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Thank you for your attention!

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