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Innovations as a crucial factor in economic development



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The conference ending 2-year project CERIM took place on June 28, 2011 at the Faculty of Economics and Management, University of Szczecin. The Forum Gryf Foundation as the administrator of the meeting invited the Director of the Central Statistical Office Dominik Rozkruta in order to present data concerning technology transfer in Poland with reference to other European Union countries, as well as the Director of the Regional Center of Innovation and Technology Transfer - Jasmine Solecka to propose benefits which are inherent to the technology transfer. The conference was attended not only by the technology centers of the Pomerania region, but also by CERIM project partners from Central Europe: Austria, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary and Italy.

Main assumptions and effects of the CERIM project were presented by the representative of a partnership organization from Germany - Nils Gabrielsson from Inno AG. The goal of the project was to develop the most appropriate model of an innovative technologies transfer. In Europe, there should be more investment in this field, otherwise it will be impossible to compete in global world.

The CERIM project research focused on universities and projects conducted at universities, and therefore the recipients of the project were: scientists, researchers and technology transfer institutions and other institutions specializing in commercialization of knowledge. Superior aim was to create a strong network of cooperation in Central Europe. All project partners are the institutions related to the technology transfer. The CERIM focused on finding solutions that support these institutions. An online database of technology transfer institutions, from which people can make a comparative analysis of these institutions in the regional structure, was created. This tool is free and available to all.

In addition to qualitative assessment it also allows people to make a quantitative assessment, for example in terms of quantity of spin offs. Furthermore, a tool box was created, which gathers resource guidelines on the transfers of technology and patterns of patent applications. Within the CERIM project succeeded the assessment of specific cases of inventions and the commercialization of research.

Then Tobias Parikh of Patent & Valorisation Agency, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern AG presented how the technology transfer takes place in Germany. Our western neighbors have 250 universities around the country, and many research institutes that focus on different areas (eg, basic, applied research). In each Province a patent agency was established, which assesses inventions, their market potential, helps scientists in patenting, and maintains in contact with the industry and takes care of the sale of patents and licenses.

How does the technology transfer take place in Poland? According to Jasmina Solecki of RCIiTT the following stages can be distinguished:

- Analysis of business needs
- Prospecting for technology (a partner to cooperate on the development of technology)
- Negotiation, fundraising
- Technology Transfer Agreement

When looking for a partner, there is a database of the Enterprise Europe Network, which is free, as well as the base of technologies that are ready for commercialization created by RCIiTT. Cooperation partner. It can be helpful to search for trade missions, fairs and markets.

There are some EU programs in which people can get funds for the technology development, including the Regional Operational Programs (treating 1.1.3, 1.3.2), the Operational Innovative Economy Program (Measure 6.1 Passport to Export, 1.4/4.1, 3.1). The program for funding specific projects in the field of practical applications for small and medium-sized enterprises is organized by the Federation of Engineering Association. Applications for funding projects ought to concern the introduction of innovative products or technologies including research and development phase and an implementation phase that is directly applicable in practice.

The National Centre for Research and Development conducts a program InnoTech directed to organizations undertaking the research and preparatory work to implement innovative technologies, services or products.

Please remember that the technology transfer is also:

- Informal contacts of researchers with practitioners resulting in the exchange of experience,
- replacement / shift workers – as a type of diffusion of the information;
- contacts of individual inventors with the practices and scientists;
- imitation (copying) of foreign solutions.

The analysis of quantitative data concerning the innovation and the technology transfer in Poland, helps to conclude that we are becoming more and more innovative country, although we are still in the last places of different rankings.

Relation of expenditures on R & D (GERD) to GDP in Poland (data from 2008) stands at 0.68 - for example, in Germany it is 2.78, 1.53 in Czech Republic and in Finland 3.98.

Less than 30% of expenditure on research and development activities is incurred by companies, whereas in other countries this proportion reaches up to 80%. According to the director of the CSO in Szczecin, the commercialization of research results is the simplest through the enterprise channel. A number of patents obtained in the three patent offices: the European, American and Japanese - the EPO, USPTO and JPO, in Poland it is 23, whereas in Germany - 5764, Italy - 718, Hungary - 44, Japan – 13322.