

# **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER in UKRAINE 2019-2020**

**A Report from the JRC TT Expert  
Group**

# Relevant environment for Technology Transfer from PROs

## Strengths and Opportunities

- ✓ High local market capacity
- ✓ High quality of higher professional and vocational education, and
- ✓ High human capital in technical areas, which with effective realisation could provide the country with a competitive advantage.

## Weakness and Threats

- ✗ Innovation process and technology transfer in the country have shown negative growth since 2015
- ✗ 'Ecosystem is deteriorating rapidly'
- ✗ Weak institutional support of the innovation process
- ✗ Relative absence of supportive political, regulatory and legislation frameworks
- ✗ Undeveloped and underfunded innovation infrastructure.

# Relevant Ecosystem for Technology Transfer from PROs





# Government

## Status

- TT is not a central strand of government economic strategy.
- Policy based activities that contribute to innovation are dispersed.
- Over-regulation of TT environment
- Weak Rule of Law (IPR)

## Planned change (2019)

- Policy reviews have resulted in a new Strategy for Innovation and the creation of the NSF.
- Comprehensive legislative reforms

# Research Organisations

- ✓ Intellectual property plays a role in the evaluation, ranking and therefore funding of PROs and in career progression of researchers;
  - ✗ Current focus on 'minor inventions/improvements'.
- ✓ Most PROs have an IP Policy
  - ✗ Little evidence of use
- ❖ Current legislation restricts use of income from sale or licensing of innovations to activities that are foreseen in the general budget
  - ✗ Reduces the incentive to transfer
- ✓ TTOs exist at many PROs
  - ✗ Skills are in protecting not transferring
  - ✗ Little funding for IPR

Large gap and few bridges with the commercial sector.



## 'Industry'

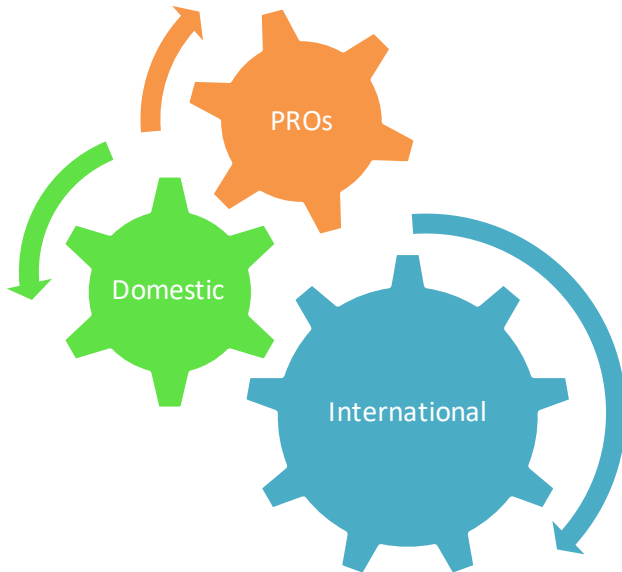
- Innovation is more often bought than sold.
- Weak domestic demand for R&D and IPR.
- Innovative 'start-ups' are emerging but not 'spinoffs'.



# Support Organisations

- NIS is at an early stage of development.
- Start-up and entrepreneurial ecosystem is ‘promising but nascent’ [World Bank]
- PRO incubators = ‘spinoff’
- Emerging accelerators (Donor projects)
- Angel Network
- Evidence of venture funding + Diaspora investment

# Over-view and status of TT (2019)



- TT is 'low'.
  - Low enterprise demand
  - Limited supply side interest.
  - Few bridging instruments
  - Resource/ skills constricted TT support.
- The Ministry of Education and Science is committed to making TT a stronger part of national strategy;
- Reforms are slow and are not the priority of the Cabinet.



# Recommendations (2019-2020)

1. Legislation
2. Policy
3. Strategies to support International Commercialisation
4. Strengthening of Skills

# R1: Legislation

- **LEGISLATIVE REFORM**
- Simplify legislation, reduce ambiguity and improve consistency between laws related to individual and institutional ownership of research results
- Review regulating on use of commercialisation revenues and those restricting direct equity ownership by PROs in spin-off companies.
- **LEGISLATIVE ENFORCEMENT**
- Establish the planned special IP court;
- Takes strong action to uphold the rights of those registering industrial and artistic rights in the country.

# R2: Policy

- DEVELOPMENT OF NEW INSTRUMENTS TO:
  - Stimulate demand from the enterprise sector
  - Increase TRL
  - Build TT skills
- REVIEW OF PRO ASSESSMENT METRICS
  - IPR
  - KT





# Support TTOs in Ukraine to work more closely with counterparts abroad.

- Enable International 'TWINNING' of TTOs
  - Match research strengths and / or ongoing/ past research collaborations.
  - Initially support through a revised policy mix.
- Establish Networks of Ukrainian speaking IP Professionals Abroad
  - Self-registration
  - Maintained by the Intellectual Property Office
  - Customer feedback to support quality

## R4: Strengthening of Skills

- Encourage development of TT/ KT strategies and action plans at PROs.
- Rebalance TT (research commercialisation) to include KT (collaboration/ co-creation)
- (Consider the aspect of internationalisation).
- Develop TT skills for researchers, students and TTO staff.

# Notable policy changes (2020)

- Strategy of Innovation Sphere Development till 2030
- State Aid
- Intellectual property
- Increased rewards for innovators
- Use of the National Research Fund
- Ukrainian Start-up Fund

# Questions and Comments





# Thank you



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