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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