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**INNO-Learning Platform**  
“A targeted action to support trans-national policy  
learning and policy cooperation”

## INNO-Learning Steering Group Meeting

### MINUTES

Friday, 15 December 2006

Copenhagen, Denmark

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#### 1. Participants

##### INNO-LSG Members

- Valdis **Avontis**, Latvian Investment Agency
- Sven Gunnar **Edlund**, VINNOVA
- Luboš **Lukasík**, Czechinvest
- Martin **Lyes**, Enterprise Ireland
- Mauro **Mallone**, IPI – Institute for Industrial Promotion
- Gun **Ovesen**, Innovation Norway
- Irma **Peçiak**, Polish Development Agency
- Jef **Pleumeeckers**, SenterNovem
- Markus **Koskenlinna**, TEKES – Finish funding agency for technology and innovation.
- David **Robson**, Scottish Enterprise
- Ugor **Yüce**, Tecnology Development foundation of Turkey

##### INNO-LSG Associate members

- Rolf **Reiner**, i.con innovation
- Leopold **Summerrer**, European Space Agency
- Raffaele **Buompane**, European Patent Office

##### European Commission

- Reinhard **Büscher**, European Commission
- Christophe **Guichard**, European Commission
- Alberto **Licciardello**, European Commission
- David **White**, European Commission

##### INNO-LSG Secretariat

- Aleardo **Furlani**, INNOVA Europe

- Paula **Galvão**, INNOVA Europe
- Eurico **Neves**, INNOVA Europe
- Nils **Gabrielsson**, INNO Group

**Observers**

- Lars **Eklund**, The Competitiveness Institute
- Jens Erik **Lund**, Nordic Innovation Centre

## 2. Introduction

The meeting started with a presentation made by Aleardo Furlani on the mission, objectives, tasks and methodology of the INNO Learning Platform. The role of the INNO Learning Steering group members was also explained.

The main goal of the INNO-Learning Platform is to promote trans-national cooperation in the field of innovation policy, particularly in the form of new INNO-Nets and INNO-Action projects or under other financing schemes promoting trans-national cooperation. In this respect, the INNO-Learning Platform is to be regarded as a “pre-incubator” of initiatives for trans-national cooperation.

The selection of the innovation policy themes to focus on is a crucial step in the overall methodology of the INNO Learning Platform. The key question is: On which policy themes will the INNO-Learning Platform direct its cooperation initiatives? The INNO-Learning Platform is a goal-oriented action that requires clear choices about the main target areas. The themes should not only be selected based on their importance to the European innovation system but also on the probability that they have to establish trans-national cooperation activities.

One of the main tasks of the INNO Learning Steering Group members is to make a selection of six innovation policy themes. It is the role of the INNO Learning Steering Group members to show the direction in which the INNO-Learning Platform’s exploratory teams and task forces should perform in-depth analyses, which at a later stage will lead to concrete trans-national partnerships.

This introduction was followed by a round table presentation of all participants and presentation delivered by Eurico Neves on the results of the rating, made by the PRO INNO Europe launch event participants, regarding the list of 15 themes presented.

## 3. Main outcomes of the discussions on the INNO-Learning Platform’s objectives, expected results and the role of the INNO-Learning Platform Steering Group.

The INNO-Learning Platform should be seen as a “pre-incubator” of initiatives for trans-national cooperation. The INNO Learning Platform should build on new fields of action but also scale –up on existing European initiatives.

There were some discussions on the relation between the project ideas evaluated under the INNO-Learning Platform and the next calls for proposals for INNO-Net and INNO-Action schemes, to be issued under the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme. The European Commission stressed that the analysis and proposals for creating possible trans-national cooperation schemes resulting from the INNO Learning platform will be diligently disseminated on the public website to ensure information availability in full transparency to any potential interested parties.

Discussions were also developed based on the connection between the Innovation Policy Advisory board and the INNO Learning Steering Group.

The Innovation Policy Advisory Board (IPAB) is the interface between the Member States and the European Commission at a policy level. It shall provide feedback on innovation policy matters, representing national authorities responsible for innovation policy making across Europe.

The INNO Learning Steering Group is seen as the European focal point for promoting policy learning and trans-national policy co-operation in the field of innovation, it is seen a “bottom-up” approach. The INNO Learning Steering Group has a practical orientation, where its members are expected to exchange ideas, learn together and provide recommendations for the establishment of future INNO-nets and /or INNO-Actions.

The INNO Learning Platform should establish efficient liaison with the Innovation Policy Advisory Board on innovation policy learning and trans-national cooperation matters. The INNO Learning Steering Group should report on the progress and results of the policy analysis as well as the lessons learned from the on-going INNO-Nets and INNO-Actions to the Innovation Policy Advisory Board (e.g. political level). The Chairperson of the INNO Learning Steering Group will be invited to take part in the Innovation Policy Advisory Board meetings.

The INNO Learning Steering Group members are also expected:

- To provide advice on the strategic orientation of the different policy cooperation projects under the PRO INNO Europe initiative i.e. INNO-Learning Platform, INNO-Nets and INNO-Actions;
- To drive the innovation policy learning process under the INNO-Learning Platform project, in particular by identifying key areas to be further explored and validating the results of such exploratory actions;
- To draw conclusions on innovation policy learning and cooperation practices and provide recommendations for the establishment of future INNO-Nets, INNO-Actions among under other cooperation schemes.

#### **4. Main outcomes of the discussions on selection of the innovation policy themes to be addressed by the INNO-Learning Platform**

By request of the majority of the INNO Learning Steering Group members (ILSG), it was decided to postpone the selection of themes to have more time to reflect on the themes and to consult colleagues in their respective organisations.

Reinhard Büscher explained that the selection criteria are not straightforward and that there is hidden knowledge in order to understand the list of themes presented, namely:

- There are already a number of Specific Support Action (SSAs) projects exploring certain pertinent innovation policy themes as innovation in services and clusters.

- There is a need to shape trans-national cooperation activities and leverage them with already existing initiatives.
- There is an ongoing European innovation policy agenda putting priority on specific areas that should be considered. For instance, the European Commission will issue a handbook on public procurement and innovation. This is an area that has been identified as a strategic priority of the December 2006's Competitiveness Council and which could be further exploited under the INNO Learning Platform as well as other projects under the PRO INNO Europe initiative?

There was a round table and each member was requested to indicate areas they consider important to be dealt within the INNO Learning Platform, which are relevant and where there should be scope for trans-national collaboration.

The following section presents the list of the three main issues presented by each ILSG member.

– **Rolf Reiner, i.con innovation**

Suggests:

- To select the theme on *Public Procurement*.
- To combine the theme of *Improved Innovation Governance with Strategic Intelligence*.
- To select the theme of *Knowledge Transfer through Improved Research-Industry cooperation* and combine it with the theme on *Strategy for International Knowledge Transfer*.
- To select the theme on *Innovation Skills* and add the issue of diversity that should incorporate the fight for talents, new ways of promoting women in entrepreneurship and the valorisation of the expertise, skills and experiences of the aging population (*Senior Innovation Experts*).

– **Luboš Lukášik, Czechinvest**

Suggests the themes on:

- *Improved Innovation Governance*.
- *Strategic Intelligence*.

And highlights the fact the fight for talents is a crucial issue of the population aging and the emigration to the US and Asia. Also emphasizes emigration of New Member States Versus Old Member States.

– **Ugor Yüce, Tecnology Development foundation of Turkey**

Selects the themes on:

- *Improved Innovation Governance* and suggests combining with *Strategic Intelligence*.
- *Knowledge Transfer through Improved Research-Industry cooperation* and combining it with the issue of the attraction of talents to Europe.
- *Public Procurement* and suggests combining it with the theme on *Eco-Innovation*.

Also suggests combining the theme on *Knowledge Transfer through Improved Research-Industry cooperation* with the one on *Strategy for International Knowledge Transfer*.

– **Raffaele Buompane, European Patent Office**

Selects the themes on:

- *Improved use of IPR*
- *Innovation Skills* and including the issue of the fight for talents.

Also suggests combining the theme on *Knowledge Transfer through Improved Research-Industry cooperation* with the one on *Training of Innovative SMEs*.

– **Leopold Summerrer, European Space Agency**

Selects the themes on:

- *Knowledge Transfer through Improved Research-Industry cooperation*
- *Eco-Innovation*
- *Public Procurement*.

And also suggests tackling the issue of the fight for talents.

– **Jef Pleumeekers, SenterNovem**

Selects the themes on:

- *Eco-Innovation*
- *High Growth Innovative SMEs*
- *Innovation Skills*

– **Mauro Mallone, IPI – Institute for Industrial Promotion**

Selects the themes on:

- *European Network of Investors*
- *High Growth Innovative SMEs*

And suggest the combination of the themes on:

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- *Knowledge Transfer through Improved Research-Industry cooperation with the on Improved use of IPR.*
  - *Improved Innovation Governance with Strategic intelligence.*

– **David Robson, Scottish Enterprise**

Selects the themes on:

- *Improved Innovation Governance*
- *Strategic Intelligence*

And highlights the need to focus on the issue o talent attraction to Europe.

– **Gun Ovesen, Innovation Norway**

Selects the themes on:

- *Eco-Innovation*
- *Counterfeiting*

And suggests:

- Combining three of the proposed themes *Improved Innovation Governance, Strategic Intelligence* and *Innovation Skills*.
- Tackling the issue of diversity that should incorporate the fight for talents, new ways of the promoting women in entrepreneurship and the valorisation of the expertise, skills and experiences of the aging population (*Senior Innovation Experts*).

– **Martin Lyes, Enterprise Ireland**

Selects the themes on:

- *Improved Innovation Governance*
- *Eco-Innovation*

– **Sven Gunnar Edlund, VINNOVA**

Selects the themes on:

- *Improved Innovation Governance*
- *High Growth Innovative SMEs*
- *Public Procurement*

– **Irma Peçiak, Polish Development Agency**

Selects and suggest combining:

- *Improved Innovation Governance with Strategic Intelligence*
- *Innovation intermediaries for start-ups with High Growth Innovative SMEs*

– **Markus Koskenlinna, TEKES**

Selects the theme on *Innovation intermediaries for start-ups and suggests combining:*

- *Improved Innovation Governance with Strategic Intelligence*
- *Improves use of IPRs with Counterfeiting*
- *Public procurement with Eco-innovation*

**As a conclusion, the most rated themes were:**

- *Improved Innovation Governance with Strategic Intelligence*
- *Improves use of IPRs with Counterfeiting*
- *Knowledge Transfer through Improved Research-Industry cooperation*
- *Innovation Skills* and incorporating the issue of diversity that should incorporate the fight for talents, new ways of the promoting women in entrepreneurship and the valorisation of the expertise, skills and experiences of the aging population
- *Public procurement*
- *Eco-innovation.*

## **5. Next Steps and Upcoming deadlines**

- **21 December 2006** – The INNO Learning Platform consortium send out a revised list of themes to the ILSG members.
- **10 January 2007** – The ILSG members send back selection of themes and comments.

## **6. Next INNO-Learning Steering Group meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 20 April 2007 in Brussels, Belgium.

**Enclosures:**

- Presentation delivered by Aleardo Furlani on the INNO Learning Platform.

- Presentation delivered by Eurico Neves on the on the results of the rating, made by the PRO INNO Europe launch event participants, regarding the list of 15 themes presented.