

INNO-Views Policy Workshop

High Growth Innovative Enterprises in the EU

Brussels
17-18 November 2008

Scope of the workshop

6/10/2008

hosted by

eastofengland
space for ideas



Overall purpose

INNO-Views policy workshops provide a dialogue between public authorities, analysts, industry and academia to explore new or better innovation policy instruments for Europe. The workshops explore topical innovation themes related to actual and forthcoming needs of European innovation policies.

To bring together leading experts and policy makers to explore the current evidence about high growth innovative enterprises and discuss the rationales and current practice for policies to support high growth enterprises.

For the purposes of the workshop the focus will be on companies that have sustained periods of growth (e.g. in sales, turnover, employment) which is significantly above average. Such companies may be of any size (e.g. small, medium, mid-size, large), any age (e.g. not necessarily newly formed companies) and any sector. The particular focus will be on the innovative behaviour of such firms.

The workshop should bring together 30-40 experts and policy makers for a two day period and should allow extensive and informal discussions to examine the evidence and policy rationales on high growth innovative enterprises, to identify areas of agreement and of diverging views, and provide an input into future thinking on EU innovation policies.

The participants should include academics and others (think tanks, business schools, statisticians) that have analysed the statistical and economic evidence on high growth innovative enterprises; policy makers and analysts that have, or in the process of, developing, implementing or evaluating policies to support to High Growth Innovative Enterprises (HGIEs). The workshop will be organised in cooperation with work under the OECD Innovation strategy.

Objectives and Structure of the Workshop

A number of recent studies highlight the significance of high-growth firms as an engine of economic growth, not least through their contribution to job creation and employment. They also show that the EU lags behind the US in the prevalence and impact of HGIEs. However, there is still debate on why there are these differences and on issues such as the need for specific support policies as opposed to generic support for SMEs and the effects of other elements of the innovation policy mix on the stimulation of high-growth innovative enterprises. The workshop will build on the conclusions of the INNO-Views workshop: "Supporting "gazelles" in Europe: How to design policies addressing fast growing SMEs in Europe" held in Tallinn in February 2008 and it seeks to summarise new knowledge on statistics and econometrics related with HGIEs and to discuss the rationale for specific (policy) support. Direct and indirect measures will be discussed in order to consider the implications for future policy development.

Session 1: What and where high growth innovative enterprises are

Objectives:

To set the scene in summarising the state of the art of knowledge on high growth innovative enterprises, in particular:

- How can we define high growth enterprises and what is the statistical evidence for how many such enterprises exist, and what are the trends over time?
- How do EU countries compare in terms of numbers of high growth enterprises? How does the EU compare with the US and other major countries and regions?
- What do we know about the characteristics of high growth enterprises, and does this vary by sector, age, size and country? Under which conditions are they innovative?
- Are there specific characteristics of enterprises before they become a HGIE and what happens after?

Possible presentations:

- Relevant European Commission activities follow up to the first INNO Views workshop on gazelles, and relevant policy developments.
- OECD work on definition and measurement of high growth enterprises (evidence from business demographics)
- Member State approach to defining and benchmarking high growth innovative enterprises.
- Findings from the Sectoral Innovation Watch project and panel discussions on "gazelles".

Session 2: Framework conditions affecting high growth innovative enterprises

Objectives:

- What are the framework conditions that support or inhibit the emergence of high growth innovative enterprises? Particular emphasis will be given to financial conditions (financing needs and instruments) specific to HGIEs and the impact of "creative destruction" through firm exits. Other relevant factors could include: internal market (e.g. effect of market size and ease of entering into other EU country markets), and regulatory environment (e.g. compliance costs).
- What is the influence of location (e.g. metropolitan areas) and clustering (e.g. network management, business relationships) of the emergence of HGIEs?

Possible presentations:

- OECD work on financing needs of high growth innovative enterprises
 - Finance institutions perspectives on the needs of fast growing companies
 - Empirical assessments of the impact of company entries and exits on high growth and entrepreneurship
 - Evidence on the impact of other framework conditions on the emergence and success of HGIEs.
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Roundtable on EU policies that could improve framework conditions

- Which framework conditions are most important for enabling more HGIEs; to what extent are financial considerations a limiting factor?
- Which framework and financing conditions supportive for HGIEs could be influenced by policy interventions? Is there a policy rationale for such interventions?
- Are there actions that should be supported or coordinated at EU level? How would these relate to existing policies (e.g. innovation, SME, entrepreneurship policies)

Session 3: New support mechanisms for high growth innovative enterprises and roundtable on how European policies could complement the new national approaches

Objectives:

- What new policies and measures have countries put in place that support or target high growth innovative enterprises?
- What are the rationales of these new approaches and to what extent are they effective?

Possible presentations:

- Findings from INNO-Policy Trendchart reports on Member State policies to support high growth enterprises
- Examples of new approaches in Member States' and regions' support to high growth enterprises:
 - An example of the “deepening of action” trend: a staged approach to give more targeted and more specific approach to selected companies in a second stage:
 - An example of the “integrated approach” trend
 - An example of trying completely new ways to support HGIEs
- Knowledge Intensive Service Innovation Platform supporting potential HGIEs
- Presentation by the INNO Learning Platform on the necessary requirements for European added value in supporting HGIEs

Roundtable on how European policies could complement the new national approaches

- How could European policies complement the new national approaches?
 - What is the future perspective? Whether and how to create European champions? What is the role of European support actions?
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Participants

A balanced mix of around 30 to 40 participants is sought from the following categories:

- policy makers and government agencies
- academic experts and analysts
- European Commission services
- OECD
- Business and finance organisations

INNO-Views

INNO-Views policy workshops establish a dialogue between public authorities, analysts, industry and academia to explore new or better innovation policy instruments for Europe. The workshops have the objective to explore innovation themes related to actual and forthcoming needs of European innovation policies. On average, 4 workshops are organised per year. The workshops bring together 30-40 relevant professionals and are organised on the basis of personal invitations only. Workshop results are published on the PRO INNO Europe website (<http://www.proinno-europe.eu>).

Any requests, recommendations and suggestions of themes, experts and locations for further workshops are welcome and should be directly addressed to INNO-Views:

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