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Innovation policy learning from Norway in Western Balkans (WBinNO)

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*Workshop: From National Innovation Systems to Innovation Policy Learning in
Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Serbia.*

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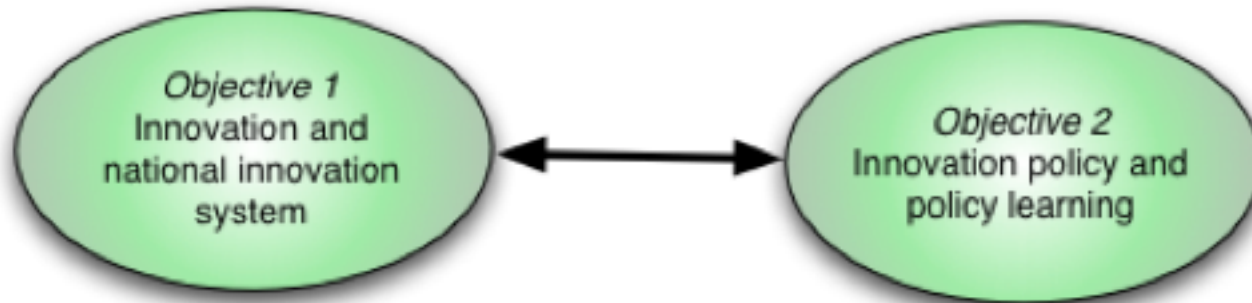
NIFU Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education

Innovation policy learning from Norway in Western Balkans (WBinNO)

- The overarching objective of WBinNO is to assist policy makers in the Western Balkan countries develop and implement innovation policies by way of identifying appropriate ‘good’ practices in other countries and through the analysis of their emerging innovation systems.
 - Identifying good practices, that support sustainable economic growth and catching-up, depends on policymakers having a better understanding of the innovation system, including its economic, political and cultural institutions, and the relevant policy instruments.
 - Norway provides the model or a framework within which one can identify ‘good’ policy practices and policy learning.
- The Balkan countries depend on the creation, transfer and use of knowledge to catch-up with technological leaders, including Norway.
 - This success depends on the development and implementation of new institutions and policy instruments that are complementary to the needs of individual economy.
 - Norway provides a model or a framework within which one can identify ‘good’ policy practices and policy learning.

The project is composed of two work packages

- 1) An analysis of the different innovation systems in the Western Balkan region, including formal (legal) and informal (cultural) institutional arrangements of the society.
- 2) a study of innovation policy development, including the integration of different policy instruments into a coherent policy-mix, and policy learning.



- Drafts of the studies on the Innovation Systems of the four Balkan countries already exist.
 - They are currently preparing a second draft with the aim of making it a journal length manuscript.
 - They are also beginning research on innovation policy and policy learning in their respective countries.

Partners

- NIFU Nordic Institute for Research in Innovation, Research and Education.
 - Mark Knell, project leader
- Institute of Economics, Zagreb, Croatia
 - Zoran Aralica, Researcher
 - Denis Redzepagic, Researcher
- Mihajlo Pupin Institute, Belgrade, Serbia
 - Djuro Kutlaca, Professor and Department Head
 - Marija Mosurovic Ruzicic
- Faculty of Economics, Prilep, Macedonia
 - Slavica Roceska, Professor
 - Gjorgji Mancheski, Associate Professor
 - Olivera Kostoska, Lecturer
 - Marjan Angeleski, Lecturer
- Economic Institute Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Anto Domazet, Professor
 - Almir Pestek, Deputy Director

Why is it important?

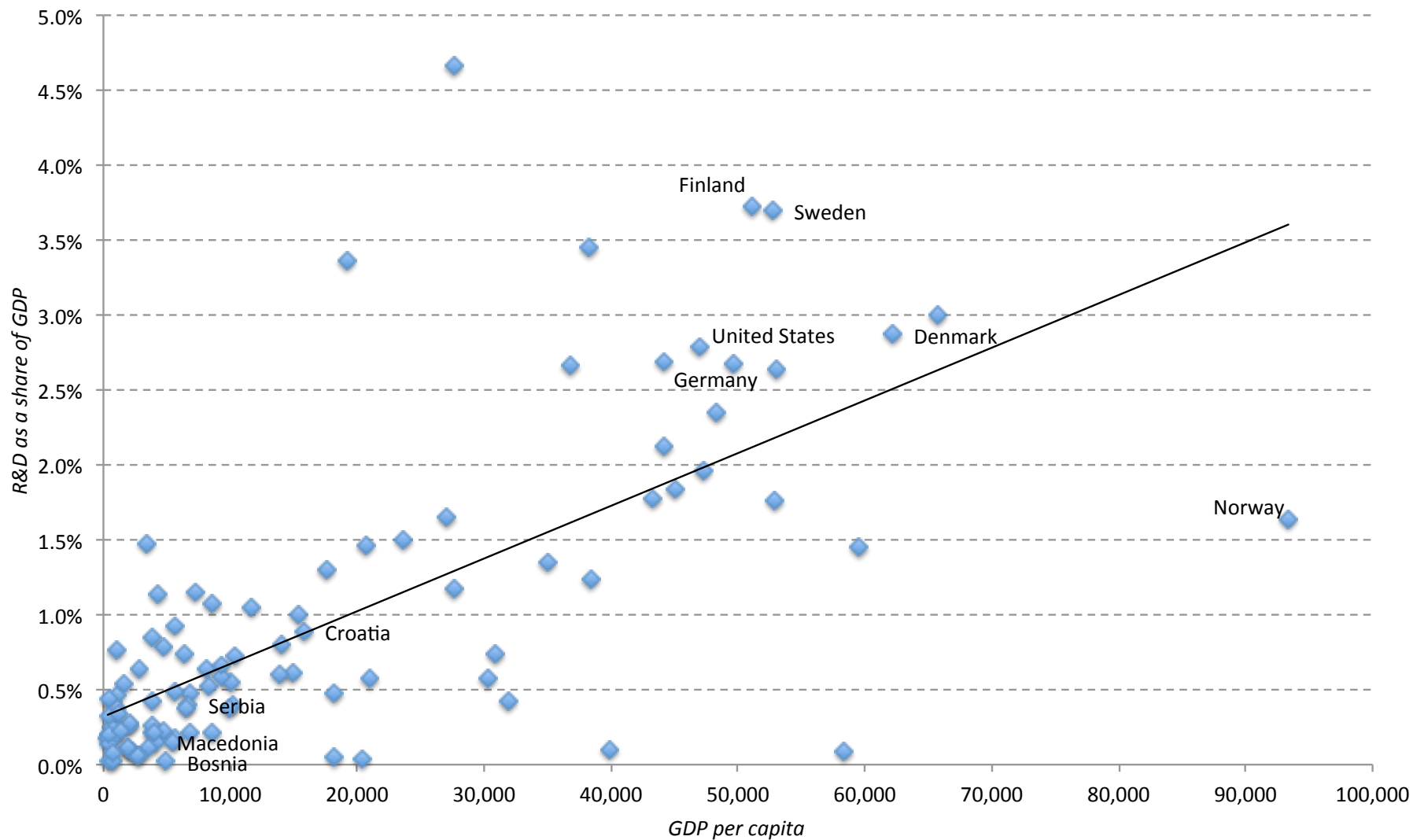
● Western Balkans and Europe 2020

- Innovation has been placed at the heart of the *Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs*.
- Enlargement: A Stabilization and Association Agreement is necessary for accession to the European Union.
- Regional cooperation: implies cooperation in **education, research and innovation**.
- *Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2011-2012*: In most cases [the Western Balkan countries] are significantly below the EU average in terms of investments and development of research and innovation policies.
- Croatia has made good progress toward an **“Innovation Union”**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Serbia have far to go.

● Some key aspects of the Innovation Union.

- Strengthening the knowledge base and reducing fragmentation.
 - *Promoting the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) as a model of innovation governance in Europe*
- Getting good ideas to market.
- Spreading the social benefits of innovation across the Union.
- Pooling forces to achieve breakthroughs: European Innovation Partnerships.
- Reforming research and innovation systems.

R&D and GDP in the Global economy, 2008



Based on UNESCO and World Bank data, 2012

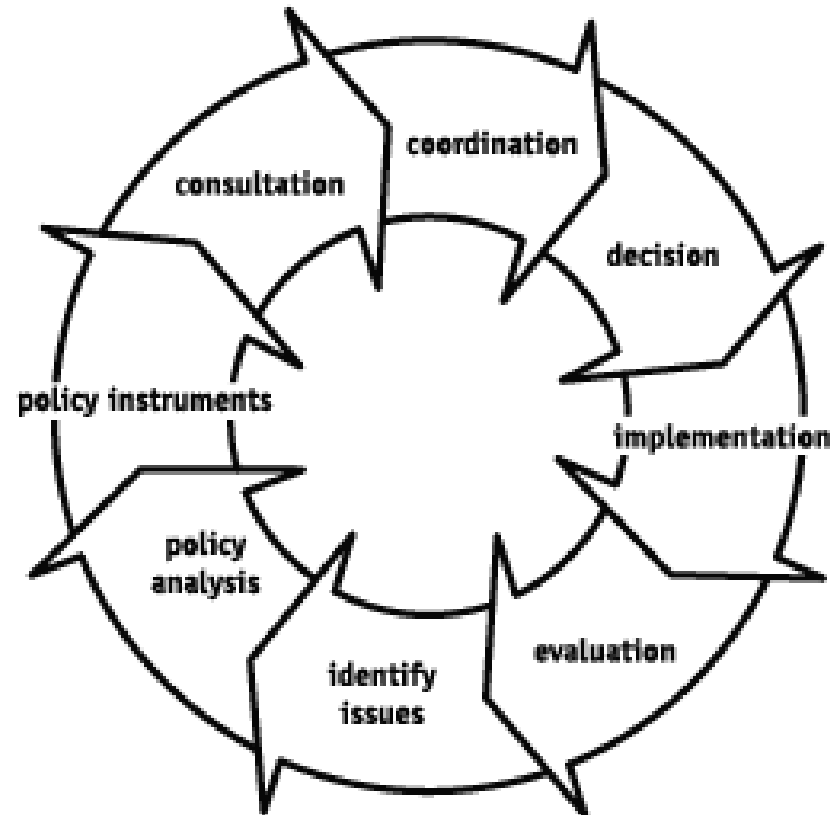
Some basic issues being discussed

- Science and technology provides an important way to learn how to use existing knowledge as well as develop new knowledge.
 - Education, life-long learning and R&D are important for developing an *absorptive capacity*.
 - Improving institutional complementarity and innovation governance is essential to this process.
- Institutional diversity is vast across the Western Balkan countries.
 - The Western Balkan countries are highly heterogeneous, with many interlocking complementarities.
 - Hence, many different institutional constellations can bring about the same goal of economic growth and catching-up, suggesting that the use of ‘best practice’ norms are unconvincing.
- The Balkan countries should develop a strategic, horizontal approach to innovation policy.
 - Innovation policy should include vertical, horizontal and temporal coherence.
 - Good policy, or successful paths of economic growth, depends on institutional complementarity, and a coherent policy framework for dynamic innovation.
 - A coherent innovation policy should span across ministerial boundaries (horizontal) as well as be part of ministerial action plans (vertical).

Policy learning is a essential to innovation governance

- Policy (transnational) learning is key for developing a successful innovation policy and its governance system.
- It shifts emphasis away from innovation as an end in itself and toward being a process with the purpose of changing behaviour given a certain economic and/or social objective.
 - Policy makers should engage in an active dialogue with different stakeholders, and monitor the performance of a policy that has been implemented.
 - Interaction between researchers and policymakers is essential for the policy cycle
 - Need to create platforms to help facilitate interaction between the different policy actors.
- Building an effective innovation policy is path-dependent.

The Policy Cycle



Oslo workshop

- The main objectives of this meeting were to kickoff the project
- A second objective was to provide some background as to why Norway (and the other Nordic countries) make good models of innovation governance for the Balkan countries. One the first day presentations were given by:
 - Mark Knell (NIFU), Introductory remarks on “National Innovation Systems and Policy Learning”
 - Johan Hauknes (NIFU) on “System Approaches to National Innovation Policy”
 - Per Koch (Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research) on “Policy Learning and the Role of Science and Technology Policy Research”
 - Aris Kaloudis (Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research) on “the European System of measuring science, technology and innovation policy”
 - Taran Thune (NIFU) on “Innovation networks between the public and private sectors”
- The second day was mainly devoted to what is expected in the project (methodology).

Zagreb Workshop

- The main objective of this meeting was to discuss first drafts of the country papers.
- Papers were thoroughly discussed and extensive comments were provided.
 - Twenty-two people attended the meeting, including several either involved or interested in innovation policymaking.
- Some important conclusions that came from the Zagreb meeting
 - Special guest lecture by Jadranka Švarc on “Sustainability of Innovation Systems in Croatia” plus discussion on the collection and use of innovation survey data using Norway and Croatia as examples.
- The results of the project will be used in drafting the innovation strategy in Croatia.
- Made plans for Sarajevo workshop.
 - Invite all members of the advisory committee: Per Koch (now from Innovation Norway), Josef Pöschl, Balkan Observatory, WIIW Vienna, Slavo Radosevic, Professor USL London, and Johannes Stephan, Professor University Freiberg, Germany.
 - One day will be devoted to a stakeholders meeting where government officials from the region will be invited to participate in the meeting.
 - One day will be devoted to a project meeting to discuss both deliverables.

Agenda for 2012-2013

- Currently project of the month WBINCO-NET.
- Organized a special session at the 12th EACES Conference at the University of the West of Scotland in Paisley.
 - Papers based
- Other plans:
 - Special issue of the International Journal of Transitions and Innovation Systems (IJTIS), Inderscience Publishers (Marina Dabić, Professor at University of Zagreb, editor)
 - Joint meeting in a Balkan country with Western Balkan Countries WBINCO-NET.
 - Research Council Norway to visit Balkan countries in September.
 - Our own internet sit on nifu.no