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5TH SLOVENIAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM CONFERENCE: Open Innovation

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5TH SLOVENIAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM CONFERENCE: “Open Innovation As A Competitive Advantage – What Is The Added Value For The Companies?”

Creativity and innovation of technology platforms

What can the companies benefit from open innovation? How does this approach work for enterprises that perform on the global market and how does it apply to the regional specificities? These were the questions addressed at 5th Slovenian Technology Platform conference which took place on 26 November 2009 in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The topic of the conference was linked to the European Year of Creativity and Innovation. At the event, good practices of technology transfer through the system of Slovenian technology platforms were discussed, followed by the presentation of the situation in Central European innovation support systems (CERIM project). The final debate was focused on the proposals for the new Slovenian research and development programme which will be prepared in 2010.

Open Innovation as a process

John Hill, the managing director of Pera Innovation Network, and his colleague Celia Gavaud, presented the example of open innovation as a process where a company is building on the knowledge and ideas from the environment. Today's enterprises cannot rely solely on their own ideas and development – instead, in the world of free flow of knowledge, the firms are obliged to combine various ideas and marketing paths.

Good practices from Slovenia

You have to bring the ideas to the venture capitalists – and in the case of ICT, they sit in the Silicon valley, underlined Kristijan Pečanac (Singularis). The need for global thinking and acting was stressed also by dr. Bojan Likar (Telsima). Both emphasised the lack of entrepreneurial spirit in Slovenia – there is the need to develop proper values where failure would be seen as an experience and a step towards success.

Another key issue is the innovation potential of the employees. Polona Briški (Trimo) presented the system of generating ideas and innovations in company Trimo, whereas dr. Janez Bešter (University of Ljubljana) talked about Open Lab – a model for including students in practical problems of companies.

Dr. Slavko Dolinšek (IRI UL), who presented the situation in regional technology transfer in CERIM-countries, agreed that the question of human capital is one that is often overlooked.

Technology platforms in the future

Slovene technology platforms remained active despite the lack of financing after 2006, accentuated Simona Rataj (GZS). They are a platform of over 700 companies, 80 faculties and another 100 research organisation. They have remained active and wish to contribute to the Slovene research also in future.



Dr. Franc Gider from Slovenian Tehchnology Agency TIA, who co-organised the event, and dr. John Hill and Celia Gavaud form Pera Innovations.



Representatives of the universities, of companies, national chamber of commerce and industry, several consulting companies and research institutes attended the event.

The conference was co-organised by MVZT - Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, GZS - Slovene Chamber of Commerce and Industry, TIA - Slovenian Technology Agency, and IRI UL as part of the CERIM project.