

Proposed Regional Workshop on “National Innovation System: Input, Output, and Impact”

25-26 November, 2013

1. Background and justification

The concept of a National Innovation System (NIS) approach for a country’s technological development, increased productivity and economic progress, embraces the idea that a nation’s innovative performance is based upon the quality of the actors in the system and the linkages for knowledge and technology flows between them. These actors are not only universities and public research institutes, but also entities that constitute the local industrial and market tissue (customer base, competition, supply structure, international trade), public organisations (like Patent Offices, Academies of Science and Technology and Ministries), or Financial Institutions (Banks, Venture Capitalists, etc.). A NIS approach allows for a better identification of systemic shortcomings that impede a country’s innovation performance, which can serve policy-makers in better articulating their innovation policies and resource allocations to invest in a knowledge-based economy

Traditional approaches in technological development have been oriented towards measuring inputs (research expenditures, researches) and outputs (articles, patents, license revenues). Indicators to measure the functioning of NIS include also indicators related to knowledge and technology flows, in terms of diffusion and adoption rates, as well as in terms of impact and potential of spill-over effects. They encompass factors like the national science base, business R&I, ICT infrastructure for innovation, entrepreneurship and human resources. They help to point to possible barriers to adoption of new technology, like lack of information, financing or technical expertise, and illustrate the technical path or trajectory that a country is following, which can then be subject to more detailed analysis in the course of its evaluation and for future policy analysis.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To build awareness the EMC in the establishment of their NIS and NIS-observatories;
- To transfer knowledge on policy definitions, monitoring and impact assessment of the effectiveness of a NIS, ...
- To identify the role of actors and support services in promoting knowledge and technology flows in the innovation process, and the effectiveness of the NIS
- To identify the challenges and opportunity in fostering the national innovation systems, such as access to finance, institutional regime, rule of law, trade policies, etc.

3. Topics

Issues that will be discussed during this workshop are (i) the concept of a NIS in the technological development of the ESCWA Member Countries; (ii) definition of relevant components and knowledge and technologic flows between them, (iii) definition of NIS indicators to observe the performance of these components and also knowledge and technology flows, in terms of adequacy and efficiency in their contribution to the NIS; and indicators to observe the; and to be able to compare with and learn from other countries (iv) country experiences with NIS observatories and identify policies to stimulate the adequacy of the components and flows between the actors in the NIS, rationalize the inputs and bolster the outputs and outcomes of a NIS, in particular in terms of impact on employment, growth of income and wealth as well as sustainable socio-economic development.

4. Expected outcomes

The participants will benefit from the international perspective provided in this Workshop from both experts and co-participants from ESCWA countries. The managerial leaders concerned with the national innovation system in the EMC will develop and enhance their capacity will benefit in this regard as well as exchange experience.

5. Participants

The workshop is tailored to people in charge of establishments of NIS, like: National Industry Chambers or industrial associations, National Councils for Science and Technology, Ministries of Planning, and Statistical Offices.

6. Organisation, Venue and Dates

The workshop is organized by the ESCWA Technology Centre in collaboration with the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), with the lead of the European Investment Bank, and will be held the 25-26th of November in Amman – Jordan.

7. Workshop format and language

The workshop will consist of invited lectures, group discussions and activities. The working language will be English.

8. Additional information

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