

40 Years of innovation policy: what's next?

24-25 March 2015

'House of Research', Sensengasse 1, A-1090 Vienna

6CP (6cp.net) with the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, celebrates its 40st anniversary conference. In 2015 6CP, the world's oldest international innovation policy network, exists 40 years. 6CP was established to create opportunities for mutual learning between international peers in policymaking, research and industry. 40 years ago the debate about innovation policy focused on:

1. How to create new business opportunities through large scale mission driven technological projects ("grand projects")?
2. How to best support SMEs as important drivers of innovation, jobs and economic growth?
3. How to develop the "technological culture" which makes sure that new developments are well-embedded in society?

Over the 40 years of 6CP existence these three points have lost nothing of their importance and urgency.

Approach

Over four decades the structure and dynamics of science, technology and innovation have been affected by a large number of different factors. The European and global innovation environments have seen major changes since the establishment of 6CP. Most striking is the spread of "innovation-thinking", up to a point where we could ask if the concept has not lost its purposeful meaning. And no less striking is growth of the number of institutions and people in all sectors of government and society with "innovation" in their task description. The conference will primarily focus on what has been learned over the years about innovation environments and the structure and dynamics of the innovation institutions, and on how we think the environment and the framework of institutions will develop in the future. In the papers, presentations, and certainly in the discussions 6CP will seek a highly critical approach, which provides participants with new and maybe less expected views on future directions of the field.

After an introductory session three groups of important issues (to be called "themes") will be discussed in order to better understand success and failure of present and future innovation systems. The size and format of the conference, with short presentations commented by prepared discussants, leaves ample room for all participants to engage in the subsequent discussions. The final discussion will focus on the critical factors that will shape the future of innovation policy.

Agenda

24 March 2015

09.00 Registration

09.30 Welcome

- Wolfgang Polt, Torsti Loikkanen, Jos Leijten: *40 Years Six Countries Programme: looking back and looking forward*
- Welcome by representative of Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy

10.00 Introductory session

Chair: Wolfgang Polt, Joanneum Research

- Jos Leijten and Torsti Loikkanen: *40 years of innovation policy: what's next?*
- Henry Etzkowitz (Stanford/Triple Helix Association): *Europe of the future and the future of Europe; the innovation/austerity choice.*

Discussant: Lennart Elg

11.15 Break

11.30 The changing shape of technology development

Technological systems have become increasingly complex and they are characterised by interdisciplinary, generic and pervasive aspects enabling shifts from scale to scope economies. Enterprises cannot mobilize all resources and competencies needed in innovation and today these abilities depend increasingly on external sources, networks and collaboration. As the bulk of new knowledge originates from external sources the traditional corporate lab model disappeared. Innovation is becoming "systemic" and it is increasingly difficult to see where an innovation originates. Innovations are technological but also intangible conceptual and business innovations, emerging in less science driven trial and error processes and joint experimentations. Fights about IP are growing due to blurring and converging borderlines of science, innovation and valorisation and acquisition. "Big data" will aggravate this trend. Where are we heading? Is there a role for policymaking?

Chair: Jos Leijten

- Thierry Gaudin
- Marcel Kleijn and Paul Diederer, Advisory Council for Science, Technology and Innovation in the Netherlands: *Impact of new technologies on science and innovation*
- Jean-Luc Dormoy, IEEE: *Innovation in cyber-physical systems*

Discussant: Govert Gijsbers, TNO

13.00 Lunch

14.00 Policy roles

Yes, policy matters, but according to several Silicon Valley “icons”, more and more so in a negative sense. It creates conservative hurdles for a bright technological (and technocratic) future. It leads to a less wealth and less quality in individual life and society. This vision builds on the possibilities of an internet based self-guiding and self-managing society. The main evidence is to be found in Silicon Valley itself. In contrast there is a growing feeling among a wide group of thinkers – also based on ample evidence collected over a wide range of technologies on which wealth and quality of life is now built - that government policy at all levels really can and should be one of the main drivers for innovation. The debate, although mainly driven by the latter group of thinkers, will explore how the evident limits of policymaking can be overcome. Different sub-fields of innovation policy will serve as a “test cases”.

Chair: Wolfgang Polt, Joanneum Research

- Fred Block, University of California at Davis: *Lessons from the Now-Less-Hidden U.S. Developmental State*
- Ben Dankbaar, Radboud University /Dieter Rehfeld, IAT Institute for Work and Technology: *From catching up to meeting the grand challenges - a quasi-historical typology of industrial policy*
- Günter Clar, Steinbeis-Europa-Zentrum: *Paternalistic, laissez-faire, entrepreneurial - what did we get and what can be expected?*

15.30 Break

15.45

- Ptries Boekholt, Technopolis: *On public leadership in innovation & white elephants: mission oriented innovation policies 2.0*
- Sujai Shivakumar, National Academy of Sciences: *Designing Policies for the Innovation Ecosystem*

Discussant: tbc

17.30 End of day one

18.30 Dinner

25 March 2015

09.00 New players and future outlook

A few cases which represent and highlight several of the tensions in present day innovation policy will be the starting point for discussing how the changing global economic and political realities are reshaping innovation thinking and innovation policy. This is the starting point for a debate about the future of innovation policy and which actions should be taken now at different policy levels in order seek a sustainable place in the evolving world order.

Chair: Matthias Weber, AIT

- Dieter Ernst, East-West Center, Honolulu: *Global Strategic Patenting and Innovation – Policy and Research Implications*
- Annaflavia Bianchi

Discussant: Jean-Claude Burgelman, Head of Unit, DG Research and Innovation

10.40 Break

11.00 Final Round: panel discussion

Rapporteur and chairman: Ken Guy

Panelists: Georg Panholzer/Stefan Riegler BMWFW (AT), Jos Leyten/Torsti Loikkanen/Wolfgang Polt (6CP), + 2 from speakers

13.00 Closing lunch