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Information Technology Transfer Model as a Bridge between Science and Business Sector

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Abstract

Statistics from Innovation Union Scoreboard 2015¹ shows that the Baltic States have a low innovation index in comparison with other European countries. One of the main reasons is that a lot of developed prototypes do not use in the business area and stay at the research laboratories. Research organization does not have a direct link to the market.

The purpose of this paper is to contribute to the solution of problems in Latvian innovation system. Authors of this paper have selected innovation, knowledge and technology transfer model as the bridge between academia and market. During research work selected Information Technology (IT) research results developed in Riga Technical University (Latvia) were validated according to proposed technology transfer model.

The paper presents a description of the communication process with the information technology developers and potential end-users and document results of it.

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1. Introduction

The role of innovation is important for economic development of a country. Researchers every day searching for answers how to improve the quality of life. They face environmental or social problems and specific business tasks. A lot of effort and finances has gone into solving a list of challenges.

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Many years researchers from European Commission (EC) provide an assessment of the EU Member States innovation systems. This report is named European Innovation Scoreboard¹ and a result of this evaluation is innovation index of each country. Evaluation based on 25 indicators that include a number of doctorate graduates, scientific publications, patents, trademarks, the number of employees involved in activities related innovation development, the expense of research and development, and many others. Indicators involved in assessment contribute to economic growth and social development. High innovation index allows to increase the quality of life and people interested in research and innovation development have more opportunities to have better jobs or spend their time on developing something new for the country’s and society needs. The path from innovation index to a better quality of people life is illustrated in the figure below (see Fig. 1).

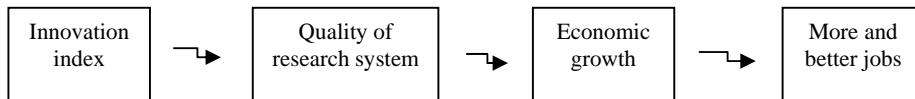


Fig. 1. From the innovation index to better jobs.

EC assessment shows that Switzerland, Finland, Denmark and Germany are leaders in innovation activities. But the Baltic States, including Latvia, have a low innovation index in comparison with other European Countries. The current position of Latvia is a 31st place from 37 and it is equal 0, 28142 (see Fig. 2)¹.

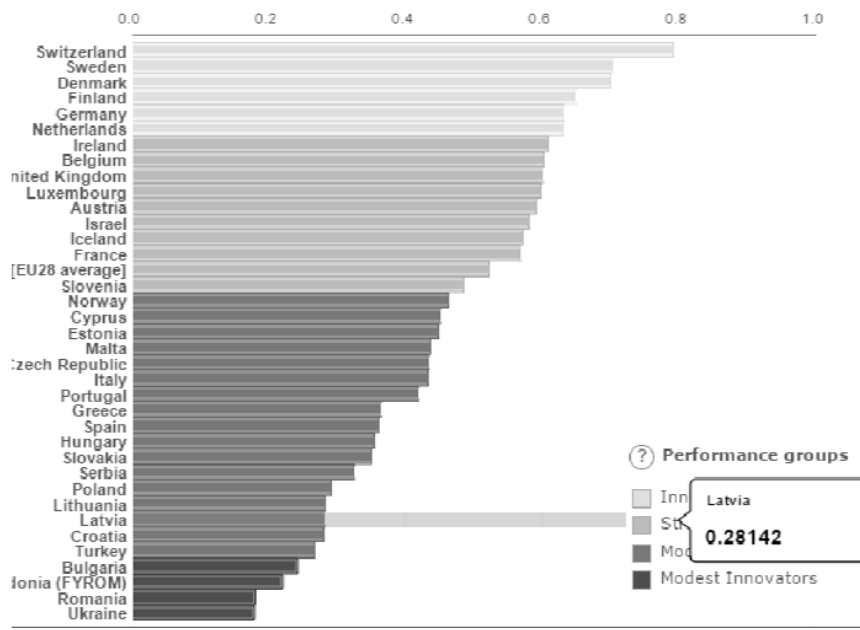


Fig. 2. EU countries innovation indexes visualisation¹.

The paper consists of 3 parts. The first part is devoted to the Ministry of Education and Science related work on Latvian innovation system and its challenges. Next part represents the main and it describes the Innovation, knowledge, and technology transfer process capability model that was selected to solve a problem of communication between science and business. This chapter includes a description of the communication process with technology developer and feedback collection from potential end-users. Last part of paper presents the results of the proposed approach validation and some recommendation to improve current state of innovation system

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