

**Innovation Policy Learning from Norway in the Western Balkans (WBinNO)****Workshop: From National Innovation Systems to Innovation Policy Learning in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Serbia.****06 June 2012****School of Economics and Business, E-net Centre (3rd floor)  
Trg Oslobođenja – A. Izetbegović 1, Sarajevo**

As part of the project *Innovation Policy Learning from Norway in Western Balkans (WBinNO)*, the workshop particularly aims to gather academicians, decision makers and members of business community from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region who can contribute to the development of innovation practices.

The preliminary agenda of the workshop:

- 9:00 *Mark Knell, Research Professor, NIFU, Oslo, Norway*: Introduction to Innovation Policy Learning from Norway in Western Balkans.
- 9:45 *Per Koch, Special Advisor, Innovation Norway, Oslo, Norway*: Innovation Norway and Policy Learning in the Balkan context.
- 10:30 *Zoran Aralica, Researcher, Institute of Economics, Zagreb*: Nordic Influences in the Croatian Innovation Strategy.
- 11:00 *Coffee Break*
- 11:20 Panel Discussion: Innovation policy learning from Norway in Western Balkans. (Leader: *Slavo Radošević, Professor, UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies, UK*)
- 13:00 *Lunch*
- 14:00 Country Report presentation: Strengths and weaknesses of the National Innovation Systems of the Balkan countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia.
- 16:00 *Coffee Break*
- 16:20 Panel Discussion: Innovation policy learning in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Leader: *Josef Pöschl, economist, WIIW Vienna, Austria*)
- 17:30 Concluding comments

There is no cost to attend the seminar. To confirm your participation, please send an e-mail to [nadja.salihovic@efsa.unsa.ba](mailto:nadja.salihovic@efsa.unsa.ba) or phone at 033 565 870 no later than June 01, 2012.

**Project summary:**

The main objective of the Innovation policy learning from Norway in Western Balkans (WBinNO) project is to assist policy makers in the Western Balkan countries to develop and implement innovation policies by way of identifying appropriate 'good' practices in other countries and through the analysis of their emerging innovation systems. Countries in the region depend on the creation, transfer and use of knowledge to catch-up with technological leaders, such as Norway. Success depends on the development and implementation of new institutions and policy instruments that are complementary to the needs of the local economy.

Identifying good practices, in support of sustainable economic development 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.

In the project, Norway provides the model or a framework within which one can identify 'good' policy practices and policy learning. Norway is a resource-based, knowledge-driven economy, which is relatively egalitarian, homogeneous and based on trust. It provides a good example for policy learning through its experience and use of expertise from many different sources, including the economic sciences. The Western Balkan countries can benefit through this rich experience, despite its considerably diversity among the countries in the region.

The project is composed of two work packages: 1) an analysis of the different innovation systems in the Western Balkan region, including formal (legal system) and informal (cultural system) institutional arrangements of the society; and 2) a study of innovation policy development, including the integration of different policy instruments into a coherent policy-mix, and policy learning. A variety of different methods are used to provide a better understanding of how different actors are related to the innovation system as a whole.

**Project partners:**

Funding for the project was provided by the Research Council Norway. The WBinNO project is a partnership of five institutes located in Norway, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Serbia and is led by Mark Knell of the Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education (NIFU), Oslo, Norway.