

Workpackage number: WP 2.3		Start date or starting event: month 10					
Workpackage title: <i>Policy learning and knowledge policies for science/industry interaction</i>							
Participant id:	NIFU-STEP	UoT					
Person-months per participant:	4	3					

Objectives:

The overarching objective is to assess the interrelatedness of policy making in the fields of research, education, and innovation, with different understandings of what knowledge is and how knowledge is functioning in European economies. Hence this workpackage has three main objectives:

- 1 To deepen our understanding of different concepts of knowledge and of how knowledge works in society leads to different policies at the national and European level.
- 2 To study how this different understandings give birth to different measures for implementing and increasing public private partnerships.
- 3 To analyse how the understandings developed by the U-KNOW project may lead to different recommendations as regards policy strategies and instruments for science/industry interaction.

Description of work:

- 1 In this workpackage, U-KNOW will analyze different interpretations of terms like ‘knowledge’ and ‘the knowledge society’ used in policy documents and try to ascertain to what extent these interpretations shape knowledge policies and knowledge practices on the national as well as European level. U-Know will also map existing policies in these selected countries in order to see to what extent they implement policies for industry-science interaction, give a general overview over types of policy measures in this area and ascertain to what extent there is a relationship between types of policy measures and the dominating understanding of what knowledge is. This mapping will be partly based on EU Trend Chart and ERAWATCH data and partly on interviews with policy makers.

We shall address the issue of how different perceptions of what knowledge is and how it is produced, in education, science, and innovation policies across countries may reflect different organization patterns of national knowledge systems. As an example: the role of public research institutes in different EU countries is conceived very differently and is based on different ‘belief systems’ or ‘rationalities’.

- 2 Moreover, the researchers will also try to ascertain to what extent policy makers interact with industry representatives by way of formal and informal networks, and how such interaction influence policy formulation. Based on previous studies, including a Nordic study of innovation policy development (GoodNIP) we have reason to believe that such interaction is partly dependent on the dominating ‘rationality’ or world view of the department or ministry, and of the interests the policy makers believe they have to defend (for instance basic science versus industry innovation). These discrepancies are also believed to be found at the European (EU) and international (OECD) levels.

Having said that, differences between national policies shall only be addressed as illustrative examples. Our main focus will be on the perceptions of what are the knowledge needs in Europe of tomorrow and how the European Union conceives its role in shaping knowledge production and interaction in firms, academia and other public research organizations.

U-Know will compare these trends with what we know about science/industry interaction on the European arena, and explore to what extent there is discrepancy between what policy makers considers ‘common sense’ in this area and the learning processes that actually take place between companies on the one hand and research institutes, government laboratories, colleges and universities on the other.

- 3 The policy analysis will be based on:
 - desktop analysis, especially green papers, white papers and laws and regulations;
 - interviews with selected policy makers (mid level and senior civil servants in ministries and agencies)

involved in relevant policy formulation) in selected European countries and in the Commission;

- the OECD-project on holistic approach towards modern innovation policies (MONIT);
- the Nordic Innovation Centre project GoodNIP On Good Practices in Nordic Innovation Policies;
- continuous studies, including the EU Trend Chart on Innovation and the forthcoming ERAWATCH project.

The study is intended to yield in the mapping of:

- different definitions of concepts like ‘knowledge’ and ‘the knowledge society’, as these are understood by the relevant policy makers and institutions, including their understanding of the relationship between knowledge, learning and innovation;
- different ‘rationalities’ dominating different policy units, departments or divisions, and how these influence the policy discourse and the interaction between different policy units;
- how these concepts and rationalities shape the national or European knowledge policies.

Deliverables:

D19 *Report on the Policy Process in Science-Industry relations*. Responsible: P. Koch (NIFU-STEP) (month 24)

- NIFU-STEP, UoT: Mapping knowledge perceptions and rationalities in policy making (month 20)
- NIFU-STEP: Knowledge perceptions and PPP policies in education, research, an innovation (month 20)
- NIFU-STEP: Implications for policy strategy and instruments (month 24)

D20 *European open workshop on policy learning and public private partnerships in co-operation with the EU Trend Chart on Innovation or a similar organization*. Responsible: NIFU-STEP (month 24)

Milestones and expected results:

9 Relationship between concepts of knowledge and policies at the national and European level (e.g. PPPs)