

## REGIONAL INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT POLICY

**Abstract.** The purpose of this Study is to analyze and identify the main directions of the state policy aimed at supporting innovation regional development of ATU Gagauzia. Objectives of the Study are the following: identification of the problems related to the establishment of regional innovation systems in countries with emerging market economies and analysis of the state policy of the Republic of Moldova in the field of innovation development; research of the potential of ATU Gagauzia in the following fields: state support of research and development sector, business sector, educational and research institutions, problems of effective interaction between «actors» of innovation space; formulation of the grounds for regional innovation policy, of problems related to the building of the regional innovation system and the prospects for the development of innovation infrastructure. This study may become the basis for elaboration of the Program of Innovative Development of the region ATU Gagauzia.

The targeted development of the progressive innovation policy in the region involves orientation to the classification, developed by the EU Trend Chart Innovation Policy Classification System (1996), based on the results of the study on innovation policy in the regions. This classification identifies 17 types of policy priorities, combined into 3 categories (Table 1). Implementation of the above-mentioned policies is possible only by restructuring regional environment from «local self-governance» to «local governance», which is characterized, first of all, by development of new forms of partnership within the region — building an innovation ecosystem.

Development of innovation policy in the interests of social-economic development of the region requires, first of all, definition of «smart specialization» of the region — this means selection of the areas that will make the greatest contribution to the development of the region through the support of research and development within the chosen specialization. «Smart specialization» lays at the basis of cluster creation policy in the EU; according to this policy only the regions that have already defined their needs will be eligible for support [29].

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Table 1

**CATEGORIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE REGIONAL  
POLICY IN INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT**

Type of policy	Policy priorities
Promoting innovation culture	Initial and continuous training
	The mobility of students, researchers and teachers
	Raising awareness and involvement of stakeholders
	Promoting innovation tools and practices in business management
	Building public and political support for innovations
	Facilitating the process of clustering and developing cooperation for promoting innovations
Creating a favorable environment for development of innovations	Development of competition
	Protection of intellectual property
	Simplification of administrative procedures
	Improving the regulatory framework
	Development of venture financing
	Preferential taxation
Orientation of research to demanded innovations	Strategic vision of research and development prospects
	Consolidation of companies in the area of ongoing research
	Creation of companies based on modern technologies
	Intensification of co-operation between R&D, universities, business
	Enhancing SME capacity to absorb new technologies and knowledge

*Source:* adapted based on the EU Trend Chart Innovation Policy Classification System

The purpose of the regional innovation policy is to create an environment that contributes to the commercialization of ideas and innovations, ensuring their quick implementation in the important fields and social life of the region. Defining priorities for regional development, potential points of innovative growth, selection of the regional specialization and the creation of business environment that

creates demand for innovation — represent the main tasks for the elaboration of the state innovation policy at the regional level.

Given the results of the analysis conducted and the proposed structure of the factors strengthening regional innovation potential, typological model of the region's innovation system was developed. RIS is an open system, functioning in the socio-economic system of the region and contributing to the active economic growth, to changes of the quality features of the socio-economic system of the region and the country. RIS, as part of NIS, does not only set up a vector of further development of innovation systems, but also directly depends on the quality of the functioning of other territories.

Both international organizations having branches or implementing programs in the region, and BSP at the local level can have a significant impact on defining priorities of regional development innovation programs. It should be also noted that the system has such an element as market, which can be both the internal segment and the external segment in relation to the system itself.

Thus, RIS represents a set of institutions in the region, which collectively and individually are involved in the creation, adaptation and transfer of innovations. The ultimate result of the functioning of an effective innovation system is to get results in the form of innovations, launching mass production and producing new competitive products, saturation of the market with such products and, consequently, achieving a high level of socio-economic development of the region and the country.

Universities have a special role in the selection of «smart specialization» of the region in the countries — EU Member States [30]. Revising the traditional view about the role of universities in the innovation development of the Republic of Moldova, reassessment of their role in the regional development and their nomination as «regional growth points» — represent necessary conditions for developing innovation regional strategies.

It is necessary to elaborate organizational-economic development mechanisms for management of innovation development capable of ensuring a higher degree of interaction between education, science and business. We believe that development of such interaction mechanisms is necessary on the basis of creation of clusters. Also, in order to create a structure of the regional innovation system it is necessary to establish a number of specialized regional structures responsible for the support of small and medium-sized innovation businesses.

*Council of experts for the development of innovation activity of SME subjects* of ATU Gagauzia is composed of representatives of

relevant structures of the Administration, scientific, industrial, innovation, finance, consulting organizations, and specialists with the necessary qualifications. A Council for Science and Innovations was created in Gagauzia, which can take over these functions.

*Regional Innovation Centre* based on the Innovation — Education Cluster, would merge the current Innovation Incubator and the planned Techno-park «Budjac», and would be an important part of the innovation infrastructure in the region.

*Regional Venture Fund* is a generic name of all financial resources intended for financial support of innovation entrepreneurship projects and programs in the region in the framework of implementing the state support for innovation activity of SME entities.

*Infrastructure for support of ISME entities* has central role in the concept of development of innovation development. In order to ensure a qualitatively new development of ISME entities, it is necessary to organize at the regional level the mandatory minimum set of infrastructure elements for support of ISME entities, created with the help and participation of the state, merged into a holistic infrastructure complex with a «bandwidth» adequate to the needs of the region.

This requires development of criteria for including organizations into infrastructure for supporting SME and including organizations that meet the established standards into the category of BSP. The influence of regional administration on improving the efficiency of operation of infrastructure institutions for supporting ISME entities should include:

- assigning specific tasks to each subject of innovation infrastructure, as well as the list and volume of services provided («map of competencies»), and in case these services are provided, the BSP may also qualify for support from the regional administration;
- increasing the quality requirements for services provided by the infrastructure entities through the development of criteria for their evaluation.

As a result of such targeted support, it is possible to achieve the following results:

- a. create new technology-oriented companies on an annual basis;
- b. create positive examples of co-operation between business and scientific institutions, large companies.
- c. involvement of public sector in the process of innovation regional development;
- d. create positive attitude towards the process of commercialization of scientific results and the use of public resources for this purpose;
- e. create positive image of the region, with innovations being present in all spheres of activity.

## References

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### **THE BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE IMPROVES THE TRANSFORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE OPENING ECONOMY**

The Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative, proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping during September and October in 2013, highlighting the strategic change of Chinese opening economy. In order to tie Eurasian Economies more closely and enhance mutual cooperation and development, innovative modes of cooperation should be implemented to build the «Silk Road Economic Zone» jointly. The decision on «major issues concerning comprehensively deepening reforms», approved by the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the CPC, explicitly raised «joint construction of infrastructure with surrounding countries and regions, move forward with the construction of the Silk Road economic belt and the Sea Silk Road, form new structures that are open on all sides» once again.

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