

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

National Innovation Systems and Policies

Good Practices and Policy Recommendations



UNITED NATIONS

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

NATIONAL INNOVATION SYSTEMS AND POLICIES

**A COMPENDIUM OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS
AND GOOD PRACTICES 2008-2012**



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FOREWORD

Innovation is a key driver of sustainable development and economic growth, and for meeting the Millennium Development Goals, as re-affirmed by the 2013 Annual Ministerial Review of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The global financial crisis of 2008-2009, the effects of which are still being felt in many countries, has only reinforced the need for innovation as a way of recovering lost ground and of making economies more resilient.

The region covered by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) includes many of the most technologically advanced and innovative economies, but also most of the countries with economies in transition, and even some that qualify as developing economies. As such, our region is a very fertile ground for assessing innovation policies, learning from experience, and sharing the lessons thus learned.

UNECE has been doing this by organizing a series of international policy dialogues on the key aspects of innovation policy; distilling international good practices; developing policy recommendations; providing policy advice to requesting governments; and building capacity to implement policy reforms.

This Compendium is part of a series collecting the policy recommendations and good practices developed under the auspices of the UNECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration. They are developed through an extensive multi-stakeholder policy dialogue within our international expert networks. The Compendium is intended to disseminate this work to a broader audience. The present volume discusses how to build up a coherent national innovation system through coordinated policy support for key innovation constituencies and the intermediaries which support them.



Sven Alkalaj

Executive Secretary

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ABBREVIATIONS

CECI	Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration
EU	European Union
ICT	Information and communication technologies
IPR	Intellectual property right
KIS	Knowledge-intensive Services
NIS	National innovation system
R&D	Research and development
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

*EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***INNOVATION POLICIES AND NATIONAL
INNOVATION SYSTEMS**

This first part of the book starts out by discussing the legal and institutional framework conditions which governments need to create in order for innovation to thrive. This includes coordinated policy support for human capital formation, for research, for knowledge and technology transfer, and for business investment.

Building on these general insights about national innovation systems and policies, we next turn to a discussion of the specific challenges and opportunities of innovation at the regional level. Innovation policy needs a regional dimension because regions differ in their economic structures, performance and potential. Economic growth is often regionally uneven, with one or a few regions accounting for the bulk of the expansion in national output. Globally, a few selected hubs concentrate most innovation activity across the world. Regional innovation policy should build on and exploit the existing capacities of each region. It should not be limited to support for technological innovations, but should, depending on regional comparative advantages, also include support for innovations in marketing, distribution or services.

Innovation in services is the topic of the third chapter of part I. Services play a growing role in economic activity, accounting for up to three quarters of total output in developed market economies. The services sector is also a major source of productivity growth overall, as it provides critical inputs for other activities and makes possible new forms of activities and business models. As manufacturing companies are often involved in the production of services, the implications for policies and regulations concerning services extend well beyond the services sector per se. In many cases, successful innovations represent the combination of technology-based products with new services. Policy initiatives aimed at promoting innovation in services therefore complement initiatives aimed at manufacturing and

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