Knowledge transfer and IP management at universities and public research organisations in Estonia

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An event on behalf of the European Commission
Background information:

- Population: 1,3 million
- GDP per capita (2010): in $19,100
- Gross domestic expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GDP (2009): 1,42%
- Gross domestic expenditure on R&D as a percentage of GDP by industry (2009): 0,51%
- 18 R&D institutions in Estonia (6 of them public universities)
- EPO patent filings 58, granted patents 7 (2010)

Statistics Estonia, Index Mundi, Eurostat, Estonian Ministry of Education and Research, EPO statistics
Factors influencing innovation

- TTO
- Innovation vouchers
- System of knowledge transfer
- IP system
- Tax incentives
- Public procurement
- Investments
- Human capital
- Investment into human capital
- Importation of skilled labour
State-level strategies

- Estonian research and development and innovation strategy 2007-2013 "Knowledge-based Estonia":
  - **Vision**: “Estonia has become a knowledge-based society where the creation of new knowledge and the capacity to accept and implement it are the sources of increasing quality of life”
  - **Objectives**:
    - the competitive quality and increased intensity of research and development
    - innovative entrepreneurship creating new value in the global economy
    - an innovation friendly society aimed at long-term development
Role of universities in the knowledge-based economy

Estonian, Russian and US patents granted, EPO positive decision.

Properties:
- Prevents disorder-related excessive oxidative stress, lowers the risk of cardiovascular diseases
- Lowers the risk of infections
- Suitable to consume during the treatment

Lactobacillus fermentum ME-3: a probiotic strain of human origin.

Products enriched with the strain (yoghurt, kefir, sour cream, quark, milk, cheese) are accepted by consumers in Estonia (2003), Finland (2006) and Korea (2010).

Properties of the strain are tested independently by companies and European universities.

Contact information: University of Tartu, Institute of Technology (http://www.tuit.ut.ee/)
Academia’s commitment to entrepreneurship: from tech transfer to innovation support
Enhancement of knowledge management processes and competencies at academia

- IP awareness and competency building
- Hazards to be avoided
- International focus:
  - Cost of knowledge creation
  - Concurrent exploitation
  - Market size
- Insufficient network access
Challenges in designing incentive schemes

Incentive schemes

- Innovation support professionals
- Monetary incentives
- Career incentives
- Researchers
Conclusions

- Supporting innovation is a continuous process
- It is crucial to consider local socio-economic conditions
Tänan
Thank you