

Baltic cooperation in RDI

Toivo Rääm

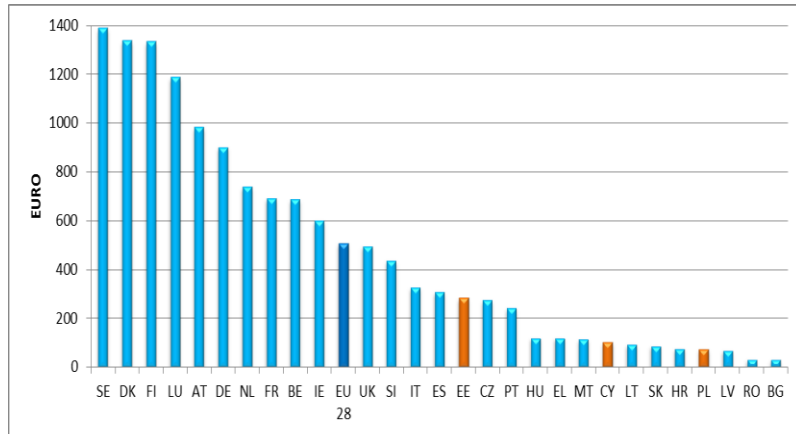
Ministry of Education and Research
of the Republic of Estonia

29.11.2013

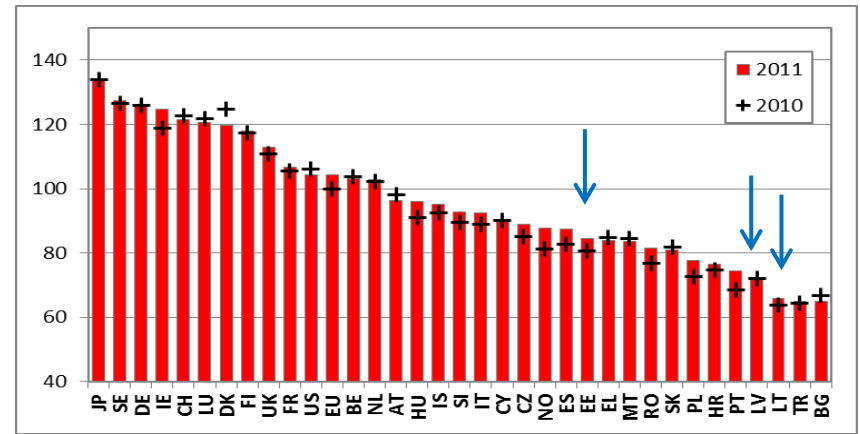
Riga

What is the situation in RDI?

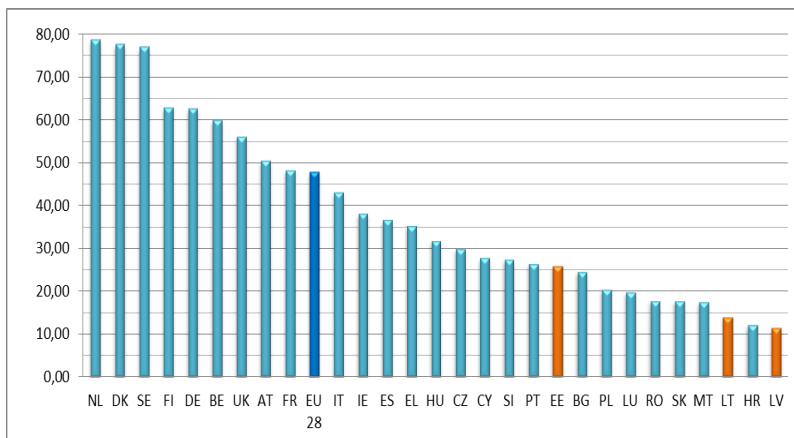
GERD (€ per capita)



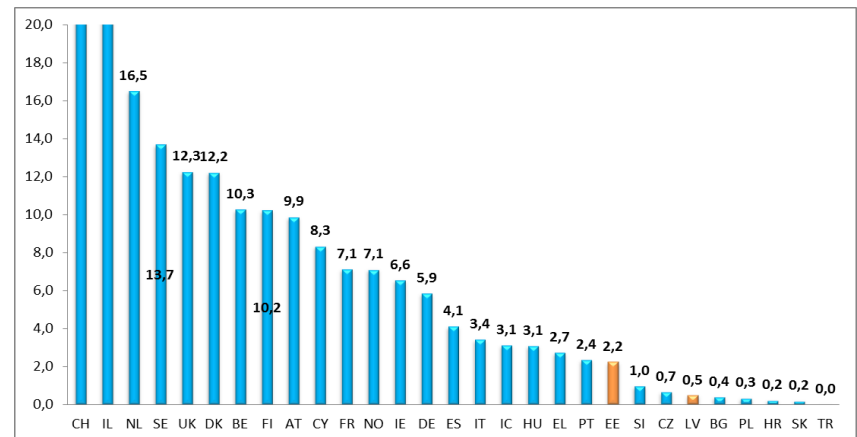
European Innovation index



Research Excellence index



ERC Grants per million people



Memorandum of Understanding among the Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of **Estonia**, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of **Lithuania**, and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of **Latvia**

on

Closer Co-operation in Higher Education, Research and Innovation

Signed November 2012

1. The **purpose** of this Memorandum is to strengthen the cooperation of the Parties in developing coordinated research and development policy and fostering innovation, in particular to meet the **conditionality recommendations of the European Union for the next financial planning period for EU structural funds in 2014 – 2020.**

memorandum (2)

2. In execution of this Memorandum the Parties:

- 2.1. shall exchange information on **setting national priorities** and elaborating the National Development Plans, National Reform Programs and programming activities for EU structural funds;
- 2.2. shall exchange information about **participation** of each country's research and higher education institutions **in the activities of national and EU funded R&D development activities**;
- 2.3. shall exchange information on external and national **evaluation of R&D systems**;
- 2.4. **shall coordinate R&D infrastructure development plans**, national RI roadmaps and national ICT network developments;
- 2.5. shall support actions aiming to coordinate and create a basis for constant exchange of information on research, technology transfer and innovative industries in areas of **smart specialization** of each country as well as identifying common priorities and areas of synergetic cooperation;
- 2.6. **shall promote the mobility of researchers, doctoral and postgraduate students** between the countries in order to increase the efficiency of the **use of the unique R&D infrastructure objects** and relevant specialized study programmes or life-long-learning courses.

memorandum (3)

3. *In carrying out of this Memorandum the Parties:*

3.1. *shall nominate the coordinators;*

3.2. *shall establish joint ministerial working group (or groups) to execute the tasks mentioned in the point 2 of this Memorandum;*

3.3. *shall **produce comprehensive analytical report on the state of art of the R&D infrastructure and human resource** in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania;*

Implementation of memorandum (1)

Vilnius, 18 April 2013

Working Group meeting on implementation of memorandum

Rules of procedures were agreed

- Each country will nominate 2 persons to the joint ministerial working group. At least one delegate should represent the Ministry, the second could represent Research Council or other institutions that are responsible for research policy;
- The joint ministerial working group will work as a coordinating body for exchange of information and coordination of the execution of the tasks defined in the Memorandum of Understanding;
- The meetings of the joint ministerial working group will be organized on an ad hoc basis;
- The initiative to organize the joint ministerial working group meeting should be supported by all parties.

Agreement was reached

to establishment of **expert group for mapping research infrastructures** in the Baltic States. The aim of the expert group is to prepare a comprehensive inventory of research infrastructures in each Baltic State. The list of research infrastructures should be updated regularly and be accessible to the public.

Exchange of information on state of play of smart specialization in countries took place

Implementation of memorandum (2)

Tallinn, 29 May 2013

Meeting of Joint Baltic **Research Infrastructure Expert Group** on mapping of research infrastructures:

- **Exchange of information** on research infrastructure development (use of structural funds in construction of research infrastructure, participation in ESFRI roadmap projects);
- Discussion on **methodology of research infrastructure mapping**;

Participants agreed:

- to nominate contact persons ;
- to start **pilot collection of data** on open access infrastructures who identifies itself as open access facility. The quality level of facilities will be assured by agency providing information to the mapping exercise;

Next steps:

- **analysis of result** of the pilot project, and possible cooperation with other similar projects;
- **Opening of database** for public.

19th Meeting of the Baltic Ministers of Education and Research

Tallinn, 13 June 2013

- Appoint **a coordinator** for internationalisation in higher education and research on **vice-minister's level**;
- Share information **on smart specialization** areas,
- Explore **the co-financing instruments for supporting preparation of joint research projects** within Horizon 2020,
- Map the possible cooperation possibilities and national challenges on rare and costly higher education study programmes.

Joint Seminar

Exchange of experience

- Higher Education Cooperation with the Asian Countries;
- Preparation for the EU Presidency

Short Meeting of Ministers of Education and Research during Informal Competitiveness Council

Vilnius, 24 July 2013

Smart specialisation problems, possible fields of cooperation

High level discussions

Riga, 29 August 2013

Workshop on smart specialisation

All Baltic countries presented their process of smart specialisation.

In addition to smart specialisation the **Estonian RDI strategy 2014-2020** is in the process of preparation

Specific goals of research development in Estonia:

- Achieve research excellence and versatility;
- Increase the socio-economic impact of R&D;
- Support the change of the economic structure: smart specialisation;
- Increase internationalisation in RDI.

Activities on international level

Brussels, 2 October 2013, In European Parliament Hearing of the EPP Group

Horizon 2020 and research in the Baltic States “Stairway to excellence. The Baltic example

The Baltic research dynamics is very good but building up excellence takes time.

Research excellence as well as capacity building should be addressed by both Horizon 2020 and Structural Funds.

In H2020 Spreading excellence and widening participation the eligibility criterion should be the Compound Indicator of Research Excellence (introduced by EC).

In Structural Funds, including smart specialisation, all necessary measures (including horizontal) need to be prepared in order to achieve the growth of research capacity and excellence in EU.

Smart Specialisation in Estonia

- **The growth areas** are selected by Estonian Development Fund using OECD/EC Smart Specialisation methodology
The economic and research profile quantitative analysis were made by Estonian Development Fund, Estonian Research Council and leading economists.
- Selected growth areas will have **Dedicated research and support programmes** (in preparation), Entrepreneurial research cooperation **networking activities** (competence centres and clusters).
- **Higher education support**
- **Demand side activities**
- The growth areas will be supported by other policies and strategies

Sectors with greatest growth potential in Estonia

ICT (horizontally through other sectors)

Healthcare

- Biotechnology
- E-health

Resources

- Materials science
- “Innovative construction”
- Functional food
- Chemical industry (shale oil)

Prime Ministers Council of the Baltic Council of Ministers Joint Statement

Riga, 8 November 2013

Science and Education

- agreed to continue cooperation and coordination of research and innovation policies, smart specialisation strategies, and to map research infrastructure in the Baltic States;
- agreed **to introduce the “Baltic Bonus”** instrument that is an additional support for national support schemes for the preparation Horizon 2020 proposals and other research and innovation initiatives; to facilitate collaboration between National Contact Points networks; to coordinate positions that programme committee members communicate in their respective working groups.

Baltic Bonus scheme

Baltic Bonus is to support preparation of Baltic projects in Horizon 2020 to achieve excellence in science and encourage cooperation between Baltic researchers.

Problems to overcome:

- Common Baltic States scientific and infrastructural potential are not completely contributed to achieve good results in competition for FP projects;
- Relatively low success rate of countries to win the competition on projects in relation to total Baltic States contribution to FP.

Agreed support scheme:

- Additional support to national HORIZON 2020 proposal preparation, where partners are from other Baltic States;
- Each Baltic State will fund its own project partners from its own budget.

Next steps:

Coordinated work in order establish Baltic Bonus in all Baltic States

Thank you!