
Editorial

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Biographical notes: Professor Walter Leal Filho has a PhD and a DSc in environmental technology, plus a Honorary Doctorate (DL) in Environmental Information. He is the Head of Life Sciences at TuTech Innovation, the technology transfer agency of the City of Hamburg, where he directs the 'Training Centre Life Sciences Hamburg' and is in charge of a number of European projects. He has authored, co-authored or edited over 40 books on the subjects of environment, technology and innovation and has in excess of 120 published papers to his credit.

1 Introduction

This special issue of the *'International Journal of Foresight and Innovation Policy'*, focuses on 'Aspects of Innovation in Central and Eastern Europe'. It is partly originated from an innovation Seminar coorganised by TuTech Innovation and Saratov State Technical University, and held in Saratov, Russia in the summer of 2005.

The first paper provides an overview of some trends related to innovation in Europe, outlining the activities of one organisation which supports innovation and referring to the Interreg IIC project 'European Learning Network' (L-NET), which supports entrepreneurship, social enterprises and innovation in a sample of western and central European countries.

The second paper describes trends related to innovation in Armenia, in particular the latest developments at the institutional level. This is followed up by the third paper, which looks at innovation support in a small municipality, namely the city of Livani, in Latvia.

The fourth paper deals with the transformation of the national innovation system in Poland, with a detailed overview of the background, current activities, limitations and a forward-looking perspective.

The fifth paper describes the introduction of international standards in the educational process in Belarus, with due consideration to the fields of open education, distant education, e-learning, education quality and quality management.

The sixth paper looks at the interaction between innovation systems, clustering and sustainability: implications for the Stockholm Region in Sweden and discusses the relations between innovation, knowledge, clustering and the integration of these aspects into potentially regional systems of innovation.

Finally, the seventh paper discusses the transformation of Russian technical universities into innovation actors and their role in the development of innovation systems at the period of knowledge-based economy.

The diversity of papers and their scope means that this special issue will serve its purpose, namely the documentation and dissemination of some current efforts to promote innovation in Europe as a whole and in Central and Eastern Europe in particular. It is hoped that, over and above this goal, it will encourage more innovation-related work in the region.