

Warsaw Policy Research Workshop

The National Information Processing Institute
(Ośrodek Przetwarzania Informacji – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy OPI PIB)
Warsaw, Poland
May 21-22, 2015

Objectives

To discuss emerging issues in EU science policy, together with the evolution of *step4EU* as a Europe-wide, **research-based, independent network** aiming at fostering a new understanding of future policies of science, technology and higher education across Europe.

The first series of “step4EU Policy Briefs” will be presented and discussed, together with a plan for new observation activities, informed participatory debates and the engagement of scientists in policy action in different member states.

The meeting follows the Leipzig Policy Research Workshop that took place in November 2014 and the initial event of *step4EU* in Bergamo in April 2014, as well as our founding ideas, as described in Bergamo Statement of Purposes.

Local Organization

National Information Processing Institute

(Ośrodek Przetwarzania Informacji – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy OPI PIB)

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Background

In a decade hit by recession and economic and budgetary problems, which public policies for science, technology and education are necessary in the near future, both for individual member states as well as the EU as a whole?

This question has driven the creation of *step4EU* – Science, Technology, Education and Policy for Europe: a Europe-wide network aimed to foster the systematic observation of issues in science and technology, higher education and public policy in Europe based on in-depth research. Its rationale derived from the observation that the quasi stagnation of R&D public

investment in Europe over the last decade, which now accounts for about 2.0% of EU's GDP (for comparison, GERD in the U.S. is about 2.8% GDP), hides a major trend of internal divergence inside Europe itself. For example, in the year 2000, Germany and France presented similar national R&D budgets; today, Germany outpaces France by 50%. Italy budgets have declined since 2007, and in real terms are 15% lower than in 2000. And, most of small countries have slowed down, or cancelled, previous increases in R&D budgets.

Overall, the average investment in R&D per citizen has decreased comparatively with that in the U.S. and the accumulation of R&D investment over the last 30 years is 50% lower in Europe than in the U.S. by 2012. Undoubtedly there was progress in science, technology and higher education throughout Europe, but as a whole, Europe has met neither its goals, nor its promises in this area.

The challenges for Europe are immense, independently if they are global, national or local in nature, as most are to all effects transversal (e.g., global warming). An adequate policy framework not only helps mediating the interface between science, education and society, but also contributes to shaping systems, strategies and development patterns. Ultimately, the question is how to avoid the surprising estimates of UNESCO (2012) that warns about the possibility to have a lost generation of 200 million of young people – the bulk of which are expected to possess some kind of higher education qualification.

These issues, among many others that could have been listed, recall similar debates in the eighties, as associated with overcrowding among students, lack of resources, increased costs of the school places, maladjustment between the educational and productive systems and the slow speed of response to labour market demands in the educational response.

In that occasion, it was clear that investments in education were important drivers of economic and social development. Indeed, investing in education in Europe, and elsewhere, contributed to development of new capacities and skills, together with professional competencies that mitigated negative effects of cyclic crisis. The flexibility in addressing economic and societal dynamics has been facilitated and stimulated through science and education, although many authors have argued that in the absence of a coherent policy framework (including collaborative arrangements, quality assurance procedures and other feedback mechanisms, among other issues) science and education are necessary conditions but not sufficient for wealth generation. In addition, analysis has also shown that budgetary cuts in science and (higher) education over time have exacerbated economic inequality and social exclusion.

In this context, scientific and higher education institutions are critical agents given their privileged locus as repositories of knowledge, skills and competencies, as well as their effective contributions to the economy. Thus, the current economic situation presents a strategic opportunity for revisiting the role and mission of advanced training, knowledge and innovation in a post-financial crisis in Europe. This requires the adequate and systematic observation of policies and budgets across Europe in a way to report, publicly and periodically, relevant information and early warnings on the state of policies and budgets in each country and at the EU level.

Step4EU Warsaw Policy Research Workshop Programme

Venue

National Information Processing Institute

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al. Niepodległości 188b, 00-608 Warsaw, Poland

www.opi.org.pl

Thursday, May 21st

9:45 Welcoming coffee

10:00 **Opening Remarks**

- Olaf Gajl, director of the National Information Processing Institute, Poland
- Agnieszka Gryzik, advisor to the director of the National Information Processing Institute, Poland

10:15 **Research session 1: Presentation and discussion of policy briefs**

Issues regarding higher education

discussion moderator Manuel Heitor

- Marco Seeber, Beyond openness: tailoring policies for academic talent in less attractive countries
- Manuel Heitor, Why Science Policy matters?...Looking at flows of doctorates in Portugal, 1970-2010
- Michele Meoli, Higher Education Funding Reform in Italy: introducing the 'standard cost for student'
- Dominik Antonowicz, Segmentation and vertical stratification in the Nordic context: the case of Norway
- Jani Ursin, University mergers and associate degrees as examples of HE Policy in Finland

12:30 Lunch

13:30 **Research session 2: Presentation and discussion of policy briefs**

Issues regarding science, innovation and technology

discussion moderator Thorsten Posselt

- Manuel Heitor, Portugal 2015: Who is against the future of science and the advancement of knowledge?
- Manuel Molina Vogelsang and Thorsten Posselt, The digital economy: opportunities for Europe's competitiveness
- Aleš Vlk and Otokar Fojt, Legal and regulatory obstacles to technology transfer and commercialization of scientific outputs
- Marta Rószkiewicz and Aldona Tomczyńska, New knowledge transfer mechanisms and the 'entrepreneurial spirit'

15:00 Coffee Break

15:15 **Open forum on current issues in science, technology and higher education at national and EU levels: brief informal presentations to be followed by discussion**

- Olaf Gajl, Poland
- Thorsten Posselt, Germany
- Aleš Vlk, Czech Republic
- Marco Seeber, Belgium
- Manuel Heitor, Portugal

- Michele Meoli, Italy
 - Dominik Antonowicz, Norway
 - Jani Ursin, Finland
 - *Debate*
- 16:00 Coffee Break
- 16:30 **Public session with policy makers: Science, technology, higher education – driving policy change in Europe**
- Olaf Gajl, Introductory statements
 - Manuel Heitor, Europe after the European Research Area and times of increased uncertainty: Framing the need for new science policies
- Debate*
- Prof. Włodzisław Duch, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland
 - Ilona Antoniszyn-Klik, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Economy, Poland *tbc
 - Dr. Alicja Adamczak, president of the National Patent Office, Poland
 - Prof. Edward Halizak, director of the Institute of International Relations, Poland
 - Ewa Mikos, Siemens Poland
 - Agnieszka Tykarska, director of the Department of Innovation and Development in the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland
 - Magdalena Maciejewska, director of the Department of Science in the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland
 - Bożena Lublińska-Kasprzak, president of the Polish Agency for Enterprise Development, Poland *tbc
 - Marcin Łata, director of the Competitiveness and Innovation Department in the Ministry of Infrastructure and Development, Poland *tbc
- 18:45 **Conclusions and Closing of the First Day**
- 19:00 Dinner at the Warsaw Old Town

Friday, May 22nd

- 9:00 **Welcoming coffee**
- 9:15 **Research session 3**
- Consortia-forming workshop: Consulting on 'Science with and for society' topics**
- Małgorzata Szofucha, the National Contact Point of the Research Programmes of the EU
- 10:00 Coffee Break
- 10:15 **Research session 4**
- Consortia-forming for EU calls**
- SME's, Industrial and Innovation Policy
 - Responsible Research and Innovation, RRI
- (other topics to be confirmed)
- 12:00 **Final Plenary Session**
- Organizational issues:
 - Acceptance/Review/Publication of Policy Briefs: at www-step4EU.org; other forms of publication
 - Cooperation with private foundations

- Preparation of a COST proposal to EC
- Preparation of other proposals to EC
- Other thoughts and ideas about the evolution of step4EU
- Next steps: Next Meeting

13:00

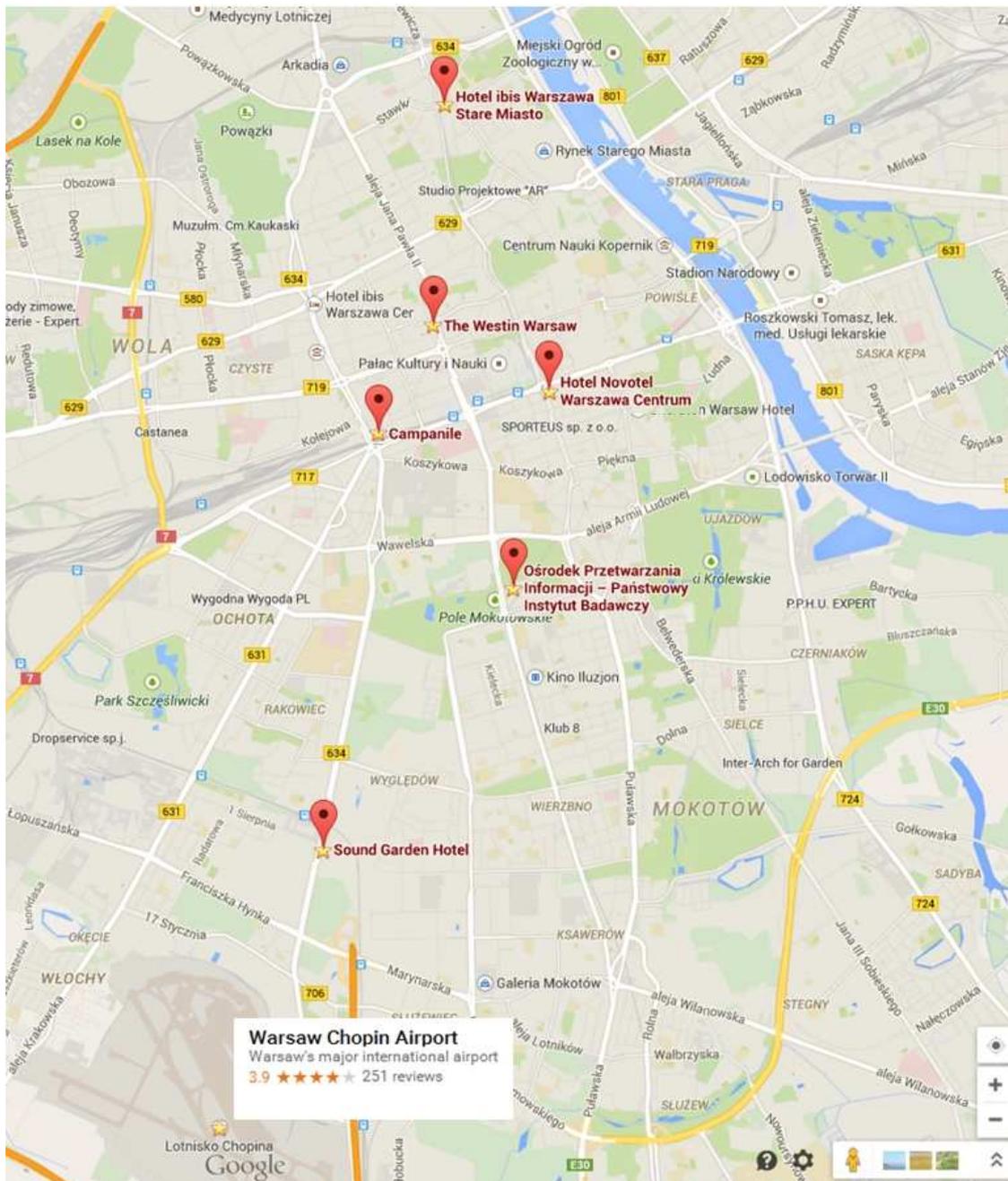
Light Lunch at OPI

13:30

Sightseeing

The Fryderyk Chopin Museum in Warsaw

Map of Warsaw



Annex 1

step4EU contacts and distribution list

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