

Changing Approaches to Innovation Policy

Policy governance

- National
- Public
- Loosely coordinated ministries and agencies
- Implementation & monitoring according to rigid administrative criteria

New emphasis

- Multi-levels
- Participatory
- Coordinated action according to an overall strategy
- Policy learning through experimentation & evaluation

Policy focus

- Upstream and downstream of the innovation process
- Existing large firms
- High-tech sectors

Changes in the environment and process of innovation

- Industry-Science relationships
- New technology-based firms, SMEs
- Innovative clusters and networks

Policy instruments

- Tax incentives
- Project-based subsidies
- Public procurement
- Market deregulation

New emphasis

- Institutional reforms
- Seed financing
- Public/private partnerships
- IPRs
- Regulatory reform in the public research sector

Issues -- Dilemmas

- Which “high leverage” instruments for public financial support to R&D?
- What other means to boost business R&D and innovation?
- How to reconcile the search for excellence with the need to narrow down regional gaps in innovation capabilities?
- How to make public research more responsive to evolving social and economic needs?
- How to give a chance to those (new firms/nascent technological fields) that are not yet there or powerful enough to lobby for support ?
- Different priorities and sequencing in different countries?