

H2020 Policy Support Facility
**Peer Review of the Moldovan
Research & Innovation System**

***4. Increasing the impact of
R&I investments***

Dr. George Bonas






4.1 Better embed R&I in the economic strategy of Moldova

Several strategic policy documents are available (Nat. Dev. Strategy 2020; Nat. R&D Strategy; etc.)

However:

- * Thematic priorities not clearly defined;
- * Weak coordination/links ('visions' of policymakers?)

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- Review; create coherent set of priorities;
 - Go beyond 'visions' towards sound and measurable implementation



Recommendation 1

Better *embed* R&I policy in the overall economic policy strategy, improve **synergies** between the R&I strategies, and reinforce priority-setting with **increased involvement** of R&I stakeholders

4.2 Strengthen the public perception of the role of R&I



The *public perception* of the role of R&I for socio-economic development, as well as the *participation* of the civil society in R&I developments, are rather low

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- **Engage** stakeholders/civil society in structured dialogues;
 - **Invest** in science popularization initiatives (Science SLAMS)



To secure public support for R&I investments



Recommendation 2

Strengthening the **public perception** of the role of R&I for growth, competitiveness and social cohesion

- To secure better understanding for R&I;
- To improve societal trust in R&I

4.3 Improving the governance of the R&I system



1. ***Policy making*** and strategy development
2. ***A ministerial responsibility*** for R&I policy making and strategy development
3. ***Inter-ministerial Council*** to coordinate R&I



4.3.1 Policy making and strategy development – *current status*

- * Implementation of policy delegated to ASM; in practice the delegation goes *beyond* the implementation (‘to draw up State policy’)
- * The Panel acknowledges the role played by ASM so far (preservation of research capacity; level of funding from 2004 to 2008; etc.)
- * **However *drawbacks* in the current system exist:**
 - * In-coherence of R&I with economic development strategy;
 - * Universities in unfavorable position in research activities;
 - * Weak public perception of the role of R&I;
 - * Ineffective policy mix (role of other Ministries in R&I)

4.3.1 Policy making and strategy development – *new Agency for R&I*



The need for such an *Agency* is *widely recognized* and proposals have been prepared by *ASM* and the *Ministries of Education and Economy*

- However: the **responsibility** for R&I *policy-making* and especially for *strategy development* does not seem to attract the necessary attention

4.3.2 A ministerial responsibility for R&I policy making and strategy development

- * It is a typical governance structure in EU and beyond; with several **advantages**:
 - * Higher position of R&I in public policies;
 - * Coordination/coherence among Ministries easier;
 - * Reduces duplication (e.g. parallel funding streams);
 - * Improved structure, organization and funding for R&I
- **Readiness** of Ministries in MD is an issue, as well as the **lack of vision** that the Panel noted





Recommendation 3

Establish a ***Ministerial responsibility*** for R&I policy-making and strategy development

- To consolidate R&I as major component for growth;
- Resources and advice will be needed;
- In parallel to the creation of the Agency

4.3.3 *Inter-ministerial Council to coordinate R&I*



Recommendation 4

The panel is not convinced about the added value of an inter-ministerial Council for R&I

- Existing coord. mechanisms are sufficient;
- The Board of the Agency will also act as a forum for coordination

4.4 R&I priority-setting



Recommendation 5:

Focus R&I priorities on a **limited set**, where Moldova's R&I *strengths* are fully utilized or where there is a large ***potential*** for scientific, technological and economic ***impact*** in the medium term

4.5 Improving R&I statistics for evidence-based policy-making and funding



Recommendation 6:

Moldovan authorities need to urgently **improve their system** to collect and process R&I statistics, as these are key for **evidence-based policy-making** and monitoring the allocation of R&I funding



Thank you for your attention!

Dr. George Bonas

Co-rapporteur

H2020 Policy Support Facility Panel
for the Peer Review of the Moldovan R&I System

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***7. Boosting business innovativeness
and science-business links***

Dr. George BONAS



7.1 Business innovativeness



Some highlights:

- * Business expenditure for R&D very limited (and no target);
- * The majority of support measures are targeting PROs (supply-side of innovation);
- * Firms are practically excluded from governmental funding for R&I (due to Accreditation); Innovation financing weak;
- * Relatively well-regulated framework for IP;
- * Number of granted patents relatively high (but limited exploitation);
- **The economic effects of R&I outputs are rather limited**



7.2 Science – business links

- * The public R&I sector is not sufficiently oriented towards the economic and societal needs
 - * *A favorable legal environment* for spin-offs and for new start-up firms is missing, as well as Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs)
 - * Support for public-private knowledge transfer and innovation is provided by AITT (but only 2% of the budget is allocated to that)
- Increasing investments will be needed (target for BERD?);
- Promoting participation of business sector in research




Recommendation 18

Improving the framework conditions for business innovativeness by: **removing** the artificial administrative barrier of Accreditation for the allocation of public R&I funds to the business sector; enhancing support to business R&I through creating better **opportunities for innovation financing**, improved **sharing of IP rights**, and a **legal environment supportive of spin-offs** and knowledge transfer.

7.3 Increasing support measures for innovation



The general assumption that *there is no demand* from business for research or for research results should be **transformed into a spirit of true collaboration**

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- A realistic **target for business R&D** participation (>2%!) should be agreed, with emphasis to *business-driven* schemes (e.g. Vouchers)
 - **Competitive Programmes** possibly with international evaluation **are needed for:**
 - business innovation support (bottom-up) and
 - business – academia₅ cooperation



Recommendation 19

Increasing **support measures** to foster business R&D engagement in R&I activities, including allocating ***a much higher share of public funding*** (than the current 2%) to leverage business R&D investments through public funding

7.4 Involving the private sector in research management



Recommendation 20:

Invite **business representatives** to become part of the **Management or Advisory Boards** of HEIs and PROs, as well as to the Board of the new R&I Agency

- To understand the business' needs;
- To promote the research sector's capabilities

7.5 Business to Academia Mobility and traineeships in companies



Despite the existing negative connotation, for an increased business – academia cooperation and business innovativeness a **framework of mobility schemes** aiming at a brain-circulation between the two sectors is necessary, allowing:

- Qualified personnel from business to implement short-term research or to teach in business oriented courses;
- Traineeships in companies for researchers



Recommendation 21

Business to academia mobility and traineeships in companies should be encouraged to foster ***brain circulation***



7.6 Improving Innovation capabilities of PROs

Recommendation 22:

Improving the *innovation capabilities* of PROs through:

- Extending *entrepreneurship education*;
- Further developing *Tech. Transfer Offices*;
- Making the legal framework in support of *spin-offs* operational (+ incentives)

7.7 Assessing national support for innovation infrastructures



Strong demand for Tech. Parks and Incubators -
do they clearly promote innovation?

Recommendation 22:

Assess the national schemes in support of innovation infrastructures such as technology parks and incubators (using international standards and expertise)



Thank you for your attention!

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