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Technology Transfer in the Field of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources

Training for Researchers – Handbook





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INTRODUCTION

The current training handbook is part of a larger undertaking within the competence development framework proposed within the project *NoGap - Knowledge Transfer Community to bridge the gap between research, innovation and business creation*. This FP7 INCO project address the societal challenge of “secure, clean and efficient energy” within an international consortium of 13 partners belonging to 6 countries, 3 within the European Union and 3 belonging to the Eastern Partnership. It is our belief that the issues faced by all countries in this area require a strong cooperation of all stakeholders in the field, be they public or private, in order to promote the necessary awareness and develop the proper solutions for the technical, economic, legal and cultural challenges related to this topic.

A considerable effort within this project will be directed to raising the competence level related to innovation management, technology transfer and intellectual property in this field. For this, a series of four training sessions will take place in each of the countries of Georgia, Ukraine and Belarus directed towards researchers, companies and information multipliers. The material that you are reading is aimed at covering the most important topics of interest for researchers, in order to stimulate the approach of the academic and economic environments for producing concrete results pertaining to the generation and use of renewable energy. Without the intention of being exhaustive, the training material tries to pinpoint the main topics and discuss upon their contribution towards successful endeavors. As a consequence, subjects such as the *Use and exploitation of knowledge*, *Legal framework for technology transfer* or *Licensing* are discussed in a regional context, which is relevant for the participants.

It is our hope that, equipped with this knowledge, a spirit of entrepreneurship and cooperation will be created that could help the development of renewable energy related technologies, services and business in your country. Also, last but not least, the networking opportunities brought about by our meeting could contribute to the initiation of many other collaboration projects. We thank you for your participation and we are honored by your contribution to the success of NoGap.

The authors and the trainers

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Knowledge management

Concepts and definitions

The concept of knowledge management is based on the notion that one of the most valuable resources of the organization is knowledge of its employees. Therefore, the success of any organization largely depends on effective management of this resource: creation, dissemination and use of knowledge. It should be noted that the object of management is not all knowledge in general, but only that which is crucial for organization, namely that which is valuable for the end user of a product or service.

Knowledge management (KM) is not very appropriate term, since knowledge is a form of existence and systematization of results of cognitive activity of a particular person and, therefore, it is impossible to manage it from the outside¹. Nevertheless, probably it is necessary to create the environment in which people seek for creation, mastering, exchange and use of knowledge.

There are quite a large number of definitions of KM, but from the point of view of the authors, the most successful one is as follows²:

“Knowledge management is the explicit and systematic management of vital knowledge and its associated processes of creating, gathering, organizing, diffusion, use and exploitation. It requires turning personal knowledge into corporate knowledge that can be widely shared throughout an organization and appropriately applied.”

¹ Caroline De Brún. ABC of Knowledge Management / NHS National Library for Health: Knowledge Management Specialist Library [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: http://web.idrc.ca/uploads/user-S/11479492851ABC_of_KM.pdf

² Skyrme D. J. (1997), Knowledge management: making sense of an oxymoron, [Electronic resource]. – Access mode: <http://www.skyrme.com/insights/22km.htm>