
The conference attracted 54 participants with, as planned, a large contingent of researchers from Central and Eastern European countries: Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Hungary, Czech Republic, Poland, Slovenia and Ukraine. There were also participants from North America (Brazil, Chile, Argentina, USA and Canada), Western Europe (Austria, Germany, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden) and Asia (Japan, China and Thailand).

There were three keynote speakers. Prof. Urmas Varblane from Tartu University presented the Estonian economy, how it grew since its creation, how it managed to face the bank crisis, and how it compared to its neighboring countries. Prof. Jan Fagerberg from Oslo University tried to explain the determinants of the success of innovation-based development on the basis of a large set of macroeconomic indicators. Crucial besides the absorption capacity are the capacity to produce and sell. He was critical about the comparability of innovation indicators from innovation surveys across countries. The openness and assimilation capacity hypotheses do not work so well for the least developed countries. Prof. Mihkel Tombak from the University of Toronto presented a paper that shows that competition increases the adoption of green technology, that it might be a good policy to support small firms to adopt early on the green technology so as to entice large firms to adopt it as well, and that a multitude of policy (subsidies for firm adoption, taxation, aid for consumer adoption) always work better than individual aid efforts.

At the end of the first day, four Estonian enterprises (Regio AS, Estiko Plastar AS, Estonian Dairy Association, Fits.me) illustrated their innovative activities and the reasons for their success.

Besides five plenary sessions, there were 10 parallel sessions, organized around 8 themes: innovation and productivity, innovation, FDI and trade, barriers to innovation, innovation policy, innovation and the labor market, universities as creators of knowledge, R&D internationalization.

A large number of comparable national datasets, especially innovation type surveys, were presented and often similar models were estimated on different datasets, giving rise to interesting discussions and exchange of experiences. On the other hand, some studies were based on new matches of data from different sources or new original data, giving ideas to similar studies in other country contexts. In summary, the conference was successful in learning from Central and Eastern European countries and learning from the confrontation of relatively homogeneous studies.