

Conference Announcement

„The Future of STI – The Future of STI Policy” Eu-SPRI Annual Conference | Vienna 2017

New practices and models of research and innovation as a challenge for STI policy

We would like to invite you to the 2017 Annual Conference of the Eu-SPRI Forum: „The Future of STI – The Future of STI Policy”. The conference is organised by the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology and takes place on 7-9 June 2017, in Vienna, Austria.

In the 2017 conference we want to pay special attention to changing practices and patterns of science, technology development and innovation (STI). Not least because of the influence of ICT-enabled novel methods, new ways of doing research and innovation have been established over the past years, and will continue to do so in the next years. They will change the relationship between citizens and science, decision-makers and stakeholders and redraw the landscape of research and innovation actors. The value networks of existing industries will be transformed and the industrial landscape changed, with emerging economies expected to play a much more significant role than today. Furthermore, research will address questions of global significance, and multi-disciplinary communities are increasingly driven by the need to find solutions to such global issues and challenges.

The nature and practices of STI policy have to co-evolve with the changing patterns of STI. For example, societal challenges have already received much attention in recent years. They are now a key element of national and multi-lateral STI strategies, and addressed by a growing variety of funding mechanisms. These mechanisms are ambitious by aiming to bridge the gap between (basic) research and the market, but also between research and societal demand. As a consequence, the coordination across different policy areas and levels is a major challenge when designing the STI policy and governance agendas.

By 2017, we will see some important changes on the STI policy landscape, with new institutional frameworks being established, and some of those launched over the past years being consolidated. In particular, the first half of the European Commission’s Framework Programme Horizon 2020 will have passed; similarly, at national level the adjustment and upgrading of research and innovation systems will have moved forward. It is thus the right time to take a look back at the experiences made, and to look ahead to the next policy challenges to be tackled. This includes the preparation of the next Framework Programme beyond 2020, for which preparations will have started by the time of the conference.

For STI policy research, these upcoming changes will undoubtedly bring about new requirements and challenges. Therefore, the conference also aims to trigger a debate about the future of the discipline(s) of STI policy research.

Topics to be addressed by the papers and sessions at the conference will cover a broad spectrum of research questions, but with a specific emphasis on future challenges for STI policy research:

1. The future of science – society relations
 - Responsible research & innovation – new concepts, experiences, and policies

- New forms of participation in the governance of science and technology
- Citizens, scientists, industry and policy-makers: the role of different stakeholders in STI policy making
- 2. The challenges of globalized knowledge production
 - Knowledge production between global networks and local skills
 - The future of collaborative R&I: New arrangements between private and public institutions
 - New forms of entrepreneurship and pathways for firm growth
 - Globalized knowledge production and economic development
- 3. Digital science and innovation
 - New institutional frames for digital science
 - The future of science 2.0 and policies towards digital research
 - ICT-enabled innovation in manufacturing and services
- 4. New concepts for STI policy
 - New innovation system concepts
 - Agency and entrepreneurship in STI policy making
 - Transformative STI policy
- 5. The governance of STI policy – new players, new processes, new instruments
 - STI policies and new patterns of innovation: Social Innovation, Open Innovation, User Innovation, Frugal Innovation
 - New mission-oriented STI policies: Triggering foundational breakthrough research at the service of society
 - Policy coordination and next-generation policy instruments
 - New forms of STI policy advice
- 6. New indicators and approaches for assessing the impact of STI policy
 - Measuring the dynamics of STI systems
 - Beyond established STI policy evaluation and impact assessment methods
 - Modelling STI system dynamics

The call for special tracks and sessions will be issued in October 2016, the call for papers is planned for December 2016.

Vienna, September 2016

Further information and updates: <http://euspri-vienna2017.org>