

NITT SK

Final Evaluation Report

Ex post Evaluation of the National Project
National Infrastructure for Supporting Technology Transfer in Slovakia



Alberto Bonetti - Bratislava – 20th November 2017



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Overview of the presentation

- Scope of the NITT SK ex-post evaluation
- Methodology
- Answers to evaluation questions
- Conclusions
- Recommendations



Scope of the NITT SK ex-post evaluation

- To **assess the NITT SK contribution in the field of technology transfer** (identification and protection of intellectual property and its commercialisation);
- To **identify positive trends and persisting problems** related to the protection of intellectual property rights and to its commercialisation;
- To **provide evidence-based recommendations** to ensure the most effective implementation possible of the follow-up national project
“Mobilisation of Knowledge and Technology Transfer from Research Institutions into Practice”



Methodology

- desk research and assessment of major project sources
 - OP R&D 2007-2013,
 - NTTC Annual report 2016,
 - Project description,
 - budget,
 - overview of implemented activities,
 - proposed national TT support system,
 - expert support services report 2017,
 - analytical study on ISS tools,
 - integrated service system final report,
 - TT mass media promotion

- interview with project stakeholders – project target groups, project managers, regional TTC staff



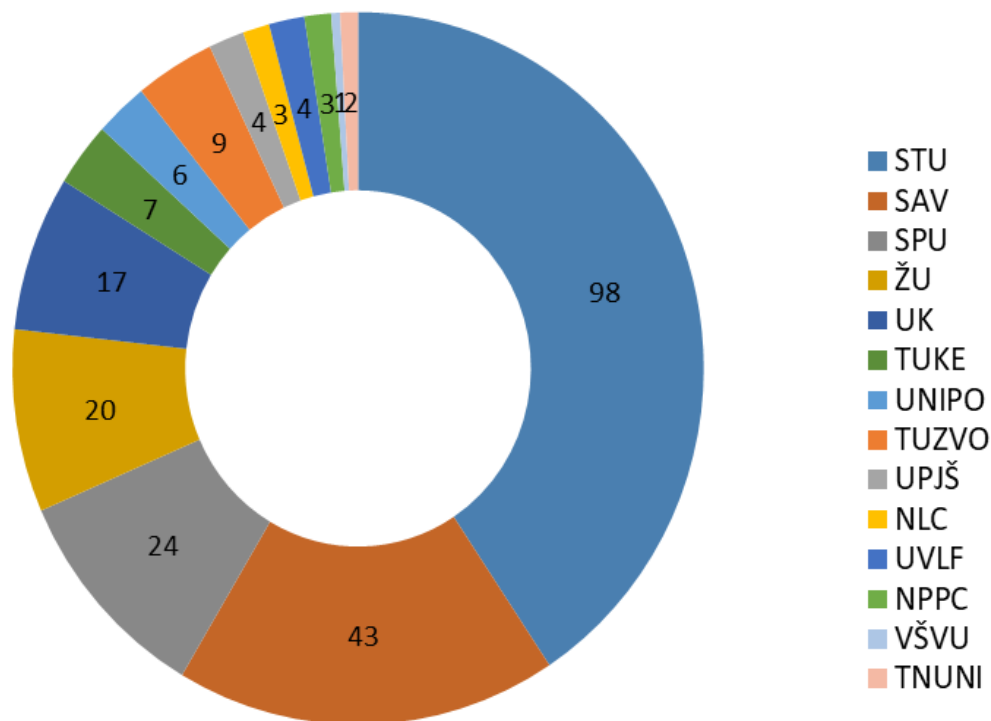
Evaluation questions

- 1) Was the project implementation effective?
- 2) What are the recommendations for the implementation of the follow-up national project “Mobilisation of knowledge and technology transfer from research institutions into practice”?
- 3) How has the situation regarding protection of intellectual property rights changed?
- 4) In what RIS3 areas was support given to TT and Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) applications?
- 5) To what extent are SCSTI integrated ISS applications used?
- 6) What is the project’s contribution to raising the awareness of the scientific community of IP protection and TT?



Answers to evaluation questions

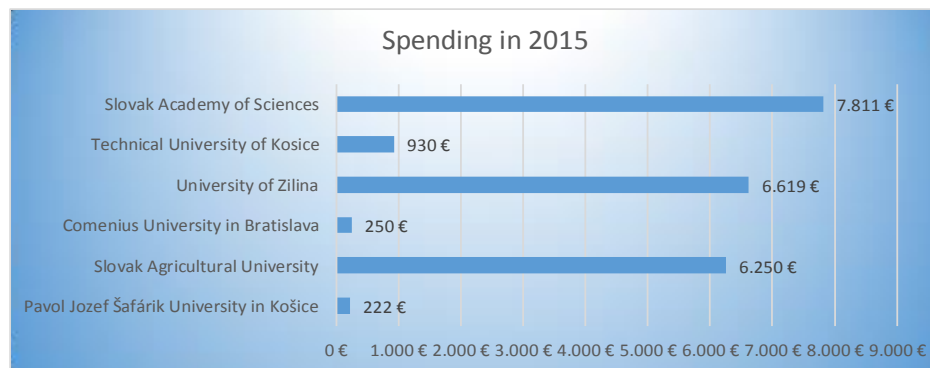
1) Effectiveness of the implementation





Answers to evaluation questions

3) Changes in IPR situation

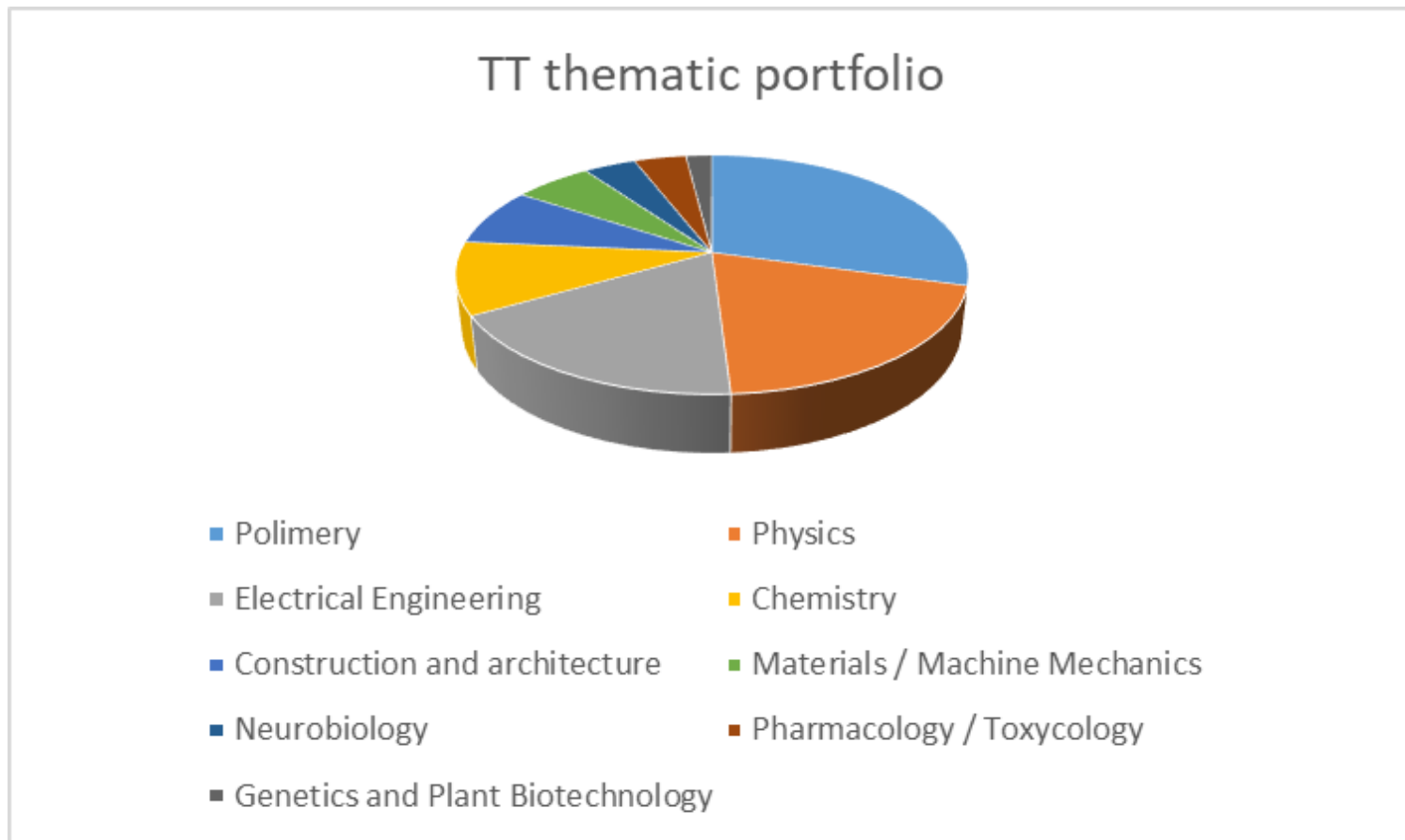


Spending by NTTC Association members



Answers to evaluation questions

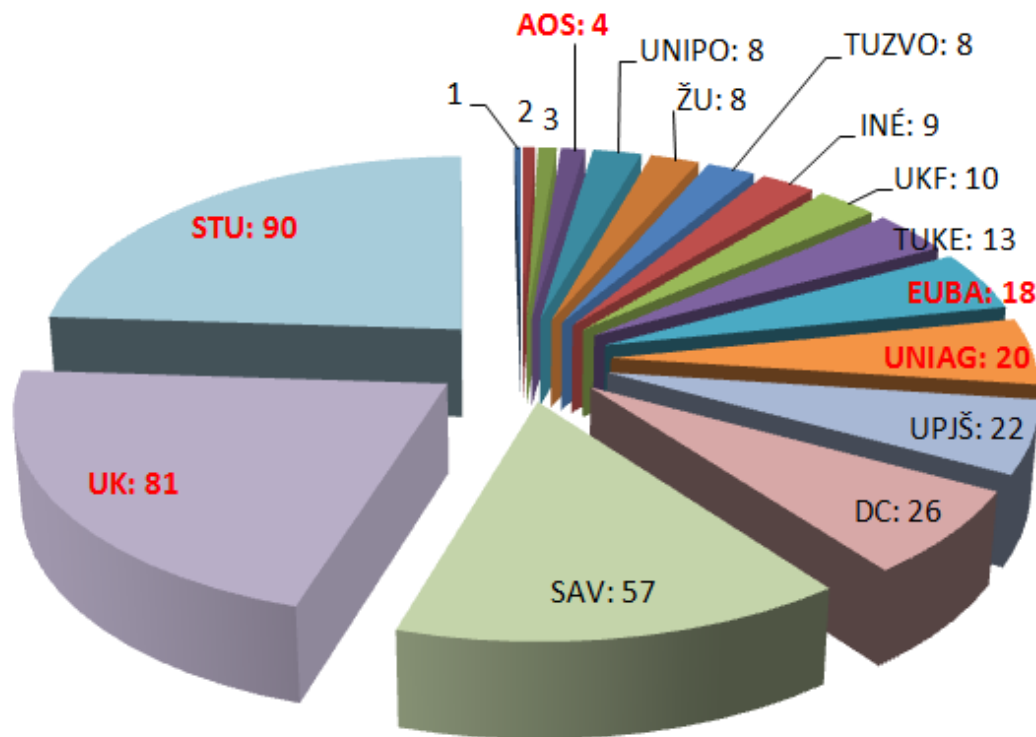
4) RIS3 areas where support to TT and IPRs applications was delivered





Answers to evaluation questions

5) Level of use of SCSTI integrated ISS applications



Number of users of the MATLAB system by institutions



Answers to evaluation questions

6) Awareness raise on IP protection and TT

- Internet means of mass-media communication
- Video recordings
- Documentary films
- Animated advertisements
- Exhibitions
- Tools for on-line counselling and consulting
- Internet bulletins
- TT printed bulletins
- Broadcasted media products
- Expert seminars, workshops and TT events
- Journal articles
- Posters, roll-ups, signboards
- Folders, bags, pens, telephone hanging streps, notebooks, self-adhesive bookmarks, USB sticks



Conclusions

- Clear evidence that the **objectives** set and the workplan defined at the start of the NITT SK project have been **well accomplished and fulfilled**;
- Envisaged **TT infrastructures** and support services have been duly **implemented and deployed**;
- **Awareness clearly raised**, through a significant effort in dissemination and communication;
- Sound level of quantitative and measurable definition of success and impact **indicators achieved**, allowing appreciating the very good level of outcomes of the initiative;



But

- It is now necessary to combine such an “offer-centric” view (namely the approach to start from a local knowledge or invention, to see how to protect it and to check if there is any industrial or commercial entity interested to exploit it) with a “demand-driven” view:
 - Investigating, understanding and monitoring in a systematic manner the industrial and commercial demand;
 - Identifying which future research streams and paths could answer to such needs;
 - Accompany in a coordinated manner the open, basic character of the research that academic institutions shall continue to initiate, independently and hopefully even anticipating societal and industrial needs and requirements.



Recommendations

- 1. Ensure ambitious service impact targets of the follow-up project:
 - defining ambitious measurable parameters and indicators, accompanied by estimated targets, particularly focused on service, TT commercial aspects and industrial connections;
 - translating the intended definition of success into a concrete and well substantiated scenario per each activity and for the whole programme and project;
 - reflecting through the parameters a large set of indicators (e.g. on number of brokerage events, level of academia-industry cooperation resulting from the project deployment, number of resulting patents, of participating organisations, of direct positive appreciation of the efficacy of provided services and accompanying initiatives and events, of level of effective sustainability and cost coverage, of economical value of resulting service contracts, etc.).



Recommendations

- 2. Extend awareness raising towards industrial and commercial constituency:
 - involving as much as possible the industrial and commercial constituency,
 - facilitating and preparing the field to a well-informed technology transfer process,
 - organising focused and industry oriented initiatives
 - brokerage events,
 - industrial demand/research offer matching and networking initiatives,
 - sectorial activities,
 - business to research linkage services, etc.



Recommendations

- 3. Expand the TT “demand-driven” character:
 - combining the “offer-centric” with a “demand-driven” view;
 - thoroughly investigating the industrial and commercial demand for competence and TT,
 - understanding and monitoring industrial TT needs in a systematic manner, at central but even more suitably at local level;
 - creating a fruitful and structured link between industrial needs and research available competences;
 - identifying which future research streams and paths could and should be initiated, in order to answer to such needs.



Recommendations

- 4. Focus on strategic TT industrial areas:
 - concentrating on highly strategic and promising industrial areas and technological topics,
 - ensuring a more effective impact,
 - creating real value for the constituency and the general growth,
 - obtaining more easily interest and demand for the involved competences and know-how.



Recommendations

- 5. Create and maintain offer and demand web-based open databases:
 - developing a web-based dedicated industrial demand database (left available for consultation and reference to local TTCs);
 - maintaining a structured view on industrial demand through local contributions (resulting from brokerage events, direct contacts, requests, etc.);
 - allowing local TTCs and researchers to have an updated view of the market, commercial and industrial requirements and needs;
 - matching this with a mirror web-based database with references on competence fields of Slovak academia and research institutions,
 - offering details of “who is researching what and where”;
 - making the offer database available to industrial stakeholders to be consulted;
 - allowing a guided navigation and easy identification of available needed competences.



Recommendations

- 6. Combine centralised TT features with local TT services:
 - accompanying centralised TT services (already well initiated and deployed within the initiative actually under evaluation) with local procedures, events, mechanisms for industry-research meeting and matching;
 - organising a structured industrial, commercial and market demand scouting, survey and monitoring exercise;
 - letting the industrial constituency be aware and be well-informed of the research competences and activities available at each local TTC;
 - Supporting such an awareness through periodical newsletters, focused topic meetings, show-case TT events, workshops, conferences, etc.



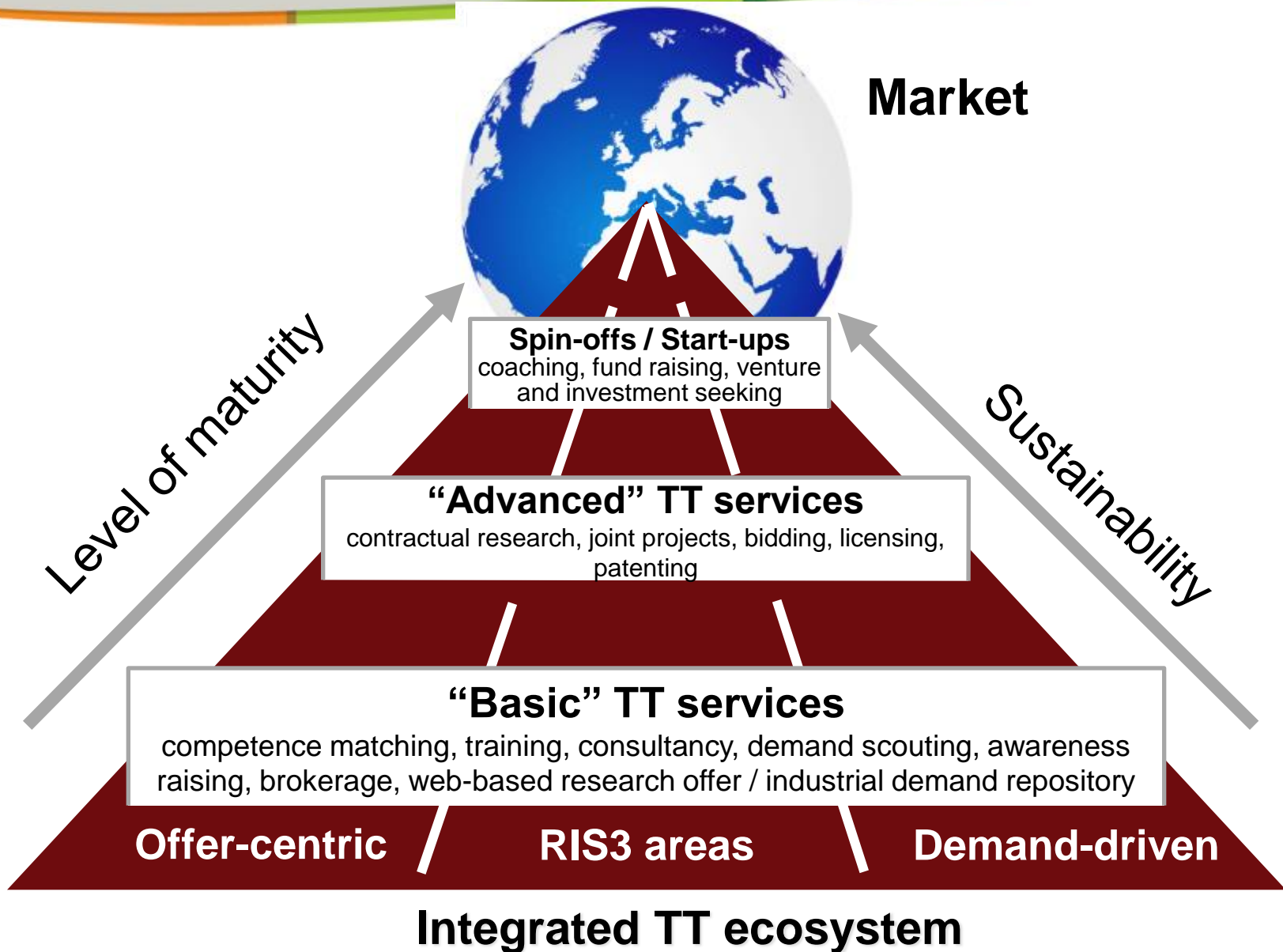
Recommendations

- 7. Aim at an effective self-sustainability of the follow-up project:
 - reaching a real sustainability, starting from local TT centres, based on multiple sources, including:
 - a) the selling of TT services to private actors (e.g. companies, private research and innovation centres),
 - b) seeking incomes deriving from training sessions (e.g. on IPR management, patenting, TT methodologies for large companies or international groups),
 - c) getting economic participation and return from additional funds obtained by R&D institutions through the creation and implementation of joint projects between the scientific and research sphere and the industrial sector,
 - d) bidding through the direct involvement of LCTT centres in publicly funded initiatives (e.g. project funded on competitive bases within R&D and innovation European and national programmes),
 - e) obtaining incomes from licence fees linked to patent exploitation,
 - f) making sure that contractual research, consultancy, licencing or even patent acquisition from the industrial and commercial constituency ensure not only self-sustainability to local TTCs, but also suitable economical grounds for local TTCs to allow them, in the medium to long term, to contribute economically to the self-sustainability also of the central overall TT services.



Recommendations

- 8. Sustain an integrated TT ecosystem:
 - The target of the follow-up national project should be the facilitated development of an integrated TT ecosystem, where technology can be transferred at different levels (depending on the maturity of the field, on market and industrial demand, on research priorities), starting from
 - a) TT consultancy services (where LCTTs act as catalyser, point of contact, of competence identification, of contractual relationship, project management and guarantor of the provided consultancy), eventually reaching
 - b) contractual research, also through joint innovation projects, until
 - c) patenting and the related licencing of more advanced and uncovered knowledge, reaching eventually
 - d) the establishment of spin-off companies, when the level of maturity of the underlying knowledge and invention deserve the creation of a specific legal entity, till
 - e) the launch of start-ups, when the maturity does not require internal coaching from the involved universities, has terminated the research and development phase and can be fully left to market dynamics.





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