



NATIONS UNIES  
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ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫЕ НАЦИИ  
ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКАЯ КОМИССИЯ  
ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ

UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE  
in cooperation with the  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
of the Republic of Croatia and  
Centre of Technology Transfer (Zagreb)

Distr.  
GENERAL

International Conference on  
"Technology Transfer for Economic Development:  
Experience for Countries in Transition"  
(Zagreb, Croatia, 19-20 June 2000)

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Original: English

#### INFORMATION NOTICE NO.1

1. This Information Notice contains details concerning the organization of, and participation in, the International Conference on "Technology Transfer for Economic Development: Experience for Countries in Transition" to be held in Zagreb-Kumrovec (Croatia) on 19-20 June 2000. It is organized jointly by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (Coordinating Unit for Operational Activities), the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Croatia and the Centre of Technology Transfer (Zagreb).

#### Scope and Purpose of the Conference

2. During the last ten years, countries in transition have been using different technology transfer methods in order to improve their technology standards and reduce the technology gap between their economies and the economies of the more developed countries. Technology transfer in both directions is imperative for successful economic development, especially in the emerging knowledge-based economies. Technology transfer is a powerful tool which may assist countries in transition to catch up with the technology leaders. However, a range of different conditions, skills and knowledge have to be met by the countries in transition in order to attract, transfer and apply the foreign technologies.

3. The Conference has been designed to give an insight into the best technology transfer practices and related issues with a view to their further development and implementation for the benefit of both developed countries and economies in transition. The Conference will allow representatives of Governments, higher education institutions,

technology support and diffusion organizations, and industry in the economies in transition as well as in developed countries to share their experiences and to establish new contacts with officials and experts in other countries.

#### Venue

4. The Conference will take place at the Scientific and Educational Centre-Kumrovec in Kumrovec, near Zagreb. The local organizer will provide bus transfer from the hotel Esplanade-Zagreb to Kumrovec and back.

#### Themes of the Conference

5. It is proposed that the following issues be considered at the Conference in plenary sessions:

(a) Strategic aspects of technology transfer

Technology development of a nation generally requires strategic planning to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the country and to design a model for economic development through technology. Different models and methods are used in different countries with varying success. The comparative advantages and disadvantages of these models as well as other strategic technology transfer issues will be presented, like the role of foreign direct investment; stock of national human capital; technology and industrial infrastructure; and even ethical issues.

(b) Best practices in the transfer of technology

Country reports and/or case studies on best practices in technology transfer will be presented under this theme with special emphasis on such issues as the promotion of technological innovations and the creation of new companies based on new and generic technologies.

(c) Key factors for technology transfer

Among the key issues which are of importance for transition economies in the catching up process, the following will be addressed: role of networking and international cooperation; technology needs identification; venture capital financing with emphasis on seed and start-up capital; support for SMEs that lack the internal capacity to make effective and continued use of technological innovations for sustainable competitiveness.

(d) Technology transfer between higher education and industry

The higher education sector is perceived as a source of new technologies and of human capital needed for technology development. In recent years, "scientification" of the economy and growing needs for the commercialization of R and D results have brought about a whole range of new challenges for this sector - from licensing and patenting, through education for technology management and forecasting, to academic entrepreneurship. These issues as well as best practices in technology transfer from universities to industry will be addressed under this theme.

6. The final programme of the Conference will be determined in the light of responses received from potential participants and will be mailed to all registered participants in May-June 2000. It is expected that conclusions and recommendations will be adopted on the final day of the Conference.

7. On Sunday, 18 June 2000, a guided tour in Zagreb will be organized for participants. Those persons who wish to take part in this tour should so indicate in the attached registration form.

#### Participation

8. Participation in the Conference is open to all interested persons from countries members of the ECE and, under the relevant articles of the terms of reference of ECE, to representatives of other States Members of the United Nations as well as to representatives of specialized agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations normally participating in the activities of the ECE. Representatives of universities and relevant societies, and independent experts can also participate at the invitation of the host authorities.

9. The Conference is expected to attract participation of government officials and policy-makers at national, regional and local levels dealing with technology transfer, industrial and educational policy; managers of technology centres, science parks, business incubators and innovation centres; and representatives of higher education institutions, R and D organizations and innovative industrial firms.

10. Travel expenses and the cost of accommodation, etc. should be covered by the participants themselves. Participants will be accommodated in the hotel Esplanade-Zagreb. The indicative price for a single room (including breakfast) is around DEM 130.

11. All participants should be in possession of a valid passport or national identity card, with, if necessary, an entry visa which may be obtained from the diplomatic representation of Croatia in the participant's home country. It is advisable that visa applications, if required, be made at the earliest possible date.

#### Proceedings and documentation

12. The Conference will be held in English. The discussion on each theme of the Conference will be handled by a discussion leader who will introduce the theme, animate the discussion and summarize the deliberations on the theme.

13. Interested persons are invited to transmit to the secretariat and to the National Organizing Committee (for addresses and fax numbers please see paragraph 17 of the present Information Notice) as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2000, a one-page abstract of papers to be presented at the Conference. The abstract should contain the full title of the paper, the name(s) and affiliation of its author(s), and a short description of the paper's contents.

14. The full text of the paper (not exceeding 10 typed pages in A4 format) in English should be transmitted to the ECE secretariat (for addresses and fax numbers please see paragraph 17 of the present

Information Notice) not later than 15 April 2000. The secretariat will review the papers and return them to the authors, together with an official cover page (carrying the document symbol, the United Nations emblem, etc.) for retyping (if necessary) and reproduction in 100 copies. After reproduction, these copies should be sent by mail to the National Organizing Committee in Zagreb (see address in para.17 below), or the authors may wish to bring them to the Conference themselves. Copies of all papers to be presented at the Conference will be distributed to all participants during registration in Zagreb.

15. Participants who wish to make use of audio-visual aids (films, transparencies, slides, etc.) are invited to inform the National Organizing Committee accordingly.

#### Registration

16. Each participant is requested to complete the attached registration form and send it as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2000 to the addresses indicated thereon (preferably by telefax).

17. For further details or information, please contact:

Economic Commission for Europe

Mr. A. Maevski

Palais des Nations

8-14 Avenue de la Paix

1211 GENEVA 10

Switzerland

Phone Nos.: +(4122) 917 3296 or 3666

Telefax No.: +(4122) 917 0178

E-mail: andrei.maevski@unece.org

or

National Organizing Committee

Mrs. Jadranka Svarc

Head of Department

Ministry for Science and Technology

Trg. J.J. Strossmayera, 4

10000 Zagreb

Croatia

Phone Nos.: +(3851) 459 4443

+(3851) 459 4444

Telefax No.: +(3851) 459 4469

E-mail: jadranka.svarc@science.hr

18. Further information, including the provisional technical programme, a list of papers, authors and other information will be provided in Information Notice No.2 which will be issued in April 2000.

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REGISTRATION FORM

International Conference on  
"Technology Transfer for Economic Development:  
Experience for Countries in Transition"

Zagreb (Croatia), 19-20 June 2000

Each participant in the Conference is requested to complete this form (typewritten or in handwritten block letters, please) and to send it by mail or preferably by telefax as soon as possible, but not later than 1 March 2000 to both of the addresses given below:

Economic Commission for Europe	National Organizing Committee
Mr. Andrei Maevski	Mrs. Jadranka Svarc
Palais des Nations	Head of Department, MOST
8-14 Avenue de la Paix	Trg. J.J. Strossmayera, 4
<u>1211 GENEVA 10</u>	10000 Zagreb
Switzerland	Croatia
Telefax No.: +(4122) 917 0178	Telefax No.: +(3851) 459 4469

Family name (Mr./Ms.): . . . . . First name: . . . . .

Title/function: . . . . .

. . . . .

Country and organization: . . . . .

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Address: . . . . .

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. . . . .

Phone No.: . . . . . Fax No.: . . . . .

E-Mail: . . . . .

I intend to present a paper under theme (a), (b), (c), or (d) entitled:

. . . . .

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. . . . .

I wish to take part in a guided tour in Zagreb on Sunday, 18 June 2000:

(yes) (no)

Date: . . . . . Signature: . . . . .