

**Pre-conference policy workshop:
Towards enhanced EU-US innovation
collaboration through policy measures**

Brussels: January 14th, 201

**From research to innovation
Commercialization challenges in bi-lateral
cooperation for innovation: new frontiers in
bio-polymers and advanced materials**

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Slovenian Innovation Policy framework

Programme: Center of Excellence 2009 – 2013 CE PoliMaT 2010 – 2013

- Independent non-profit research and innovation CE in the field of polymer materials and technologies
- Founders: 22, private firms, SMEs and public research institutions
- Unique collaboration between academia and industry
- Investment: 10 mio EUR Structural funds

Strategy 2014 – 2020 puts biopolymers and bio based materials into the focus – Poly4Eml: biopolymers for emerging industries

BioEconomy – builds on biopolymers and bio based materials

Jobs:

Over 1 million by 2030

Growth:

€200 billion by 2020

Products, Energy:

Reduce dependence on imports with locally sourced

Climate:

Emissions reduction potential of least 50% compared to fossil alternatives

Challenges

- How to exploit transformative power of biopolymers and bio based materials
- How to change the way polymers are produced and used in different applications?
- How to leverage the power of new knowledge spread over the globe and regions to help to address the global economic and environmental challenges?



Fact findings mission to Boston, May 2012



- Conference Technology and innovation for global development – biopolymers as disruptive technology
- Meeting world leader on health, medical devices like Mass General Hospital

Recognition of high potential of biopolymers for development, but new partners and new cooperation need to turn R&D into innovation

New regional and international cooperation models

Design and implementation models:

- integrates industry and academia along the whole innovation value chain
- creates new cross-sector interconnections,
- supports cross-industry clusters, and
- successfully facilitates international partnerships, networks, and investments.

New ways of innovation centered collaboration

- Bi-lateral cooperation with the Austen BioInnovation Institute in Akron, Ohio (ABIA)
- Turning Bi-lateral cooperation into long-term strategic partnerships and broaden base - Global Biopolymer Network (GBN)



EU-US Cooperation in Polymer Materials and Technologies

Innovation Austen BioInnovation
Institute in Akron, USA (ABIA)

APIC - ABIA POLIMATA
INNOVATION COLLABORATION:

- current and potential applications of novel bio-polymers in the areas of:
- wound healing and medical implants
- innovations in the use of advanced polymeric materials in agriculture and food production in developing regions
- others

CE PoliMaT's Innovation Office at the
Akron Global Business
Accelerator (AGBA)

- Business development
- Placement of start ups in Akron
- Joint ventures



Focus on ways to exploit “complementarity” between and among the participating entities

CE POLiMaT needs

- Better access to new bio based value chains and venture capital
- Collaboration with peers to enable excellence in innovation and commercialization
- Soft-landing” in US - rapid technology commercialization.
- Akron with its broad international bridges with China, Finland, Israel, Lithuania and other countries enables CE PoliMaT to expand to other innovative countries in the world.

City of Akron needs

- Akron scientific environment gained a new scientific collaboration partner in Europe that enables the expand of the University of Akron to Europe and EU funds.
- ABIA promotes value added engineering and accelerates translational research to biomedical commercialization with Int’l partners
- Promotion of AGBA as a proven small business accelerator.
- Promotion and widening of the innovation collaboration with and within Europe.

Challenges encountered

- Different levels of policy
- Different financing models
- Different understanding of innovation and role of innovation in business development
- Different culture of information sharing and IPR models
- Different perspective on innovation networks

Bilateral policy considerations

- Focus on ways to exploit “complementarity” between and among the participating entities.
- Engage respective institutional and commercial networks associated with the corresponding “value chain” .
- Regional innovation policies of the participating EU and US entities have “priority sectors” to be considered.
- Consequences for measuring and evaluating respective policy platforms in terms of innovation results.
- Full involvement of investors and businesses requires specific timing corresponding to the various stages of technology development and product formulation.

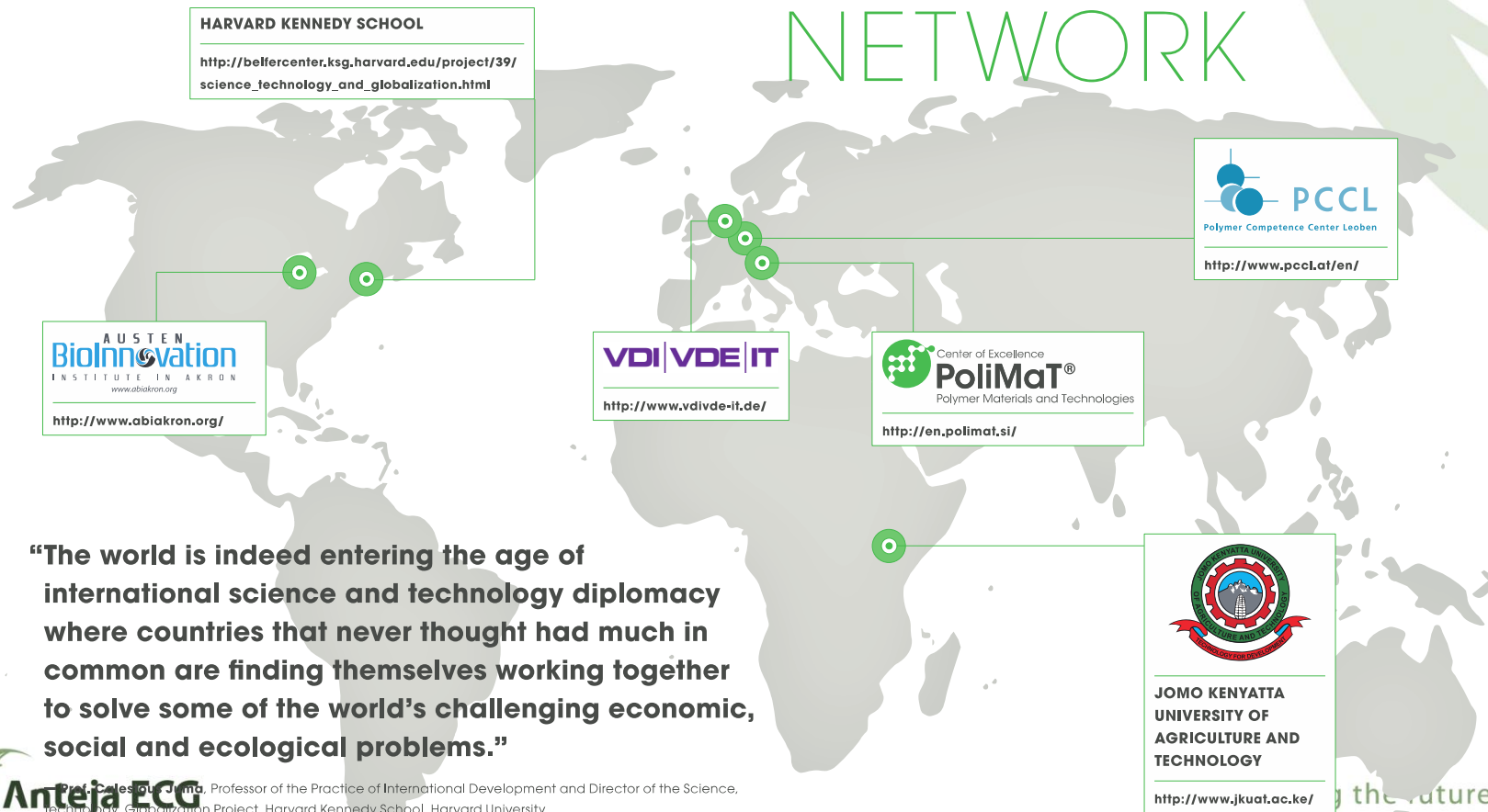
Continuing Challenges

- Collective learning and network formation on the part of bi-lateral collaboration participants.
- How to use Global Biopolymer Network to enhance bi-lateral cooperation.
- Significant differences in concepts of commercialization used by EU and US participants.
- Require similar levels of maturity on the part of EU-US counterpart institutions.
- Need concrete market-oriented innovation results stemming from EU-US collaboration
- Improved understanding of the role of bi-lateral efforts in the formation of sector clusters.

From innovation partners towards long-term strategic partnerships

Global Network for Local Growth

GLOBAL BIOPOLYMER NETWORK



“The world is indeed entering the age of international science and technology diplomacy where countries that never thought had much in common are finding themselves working together to solve some of the world’s challenging economic, social and ecological problems.”



Prof. Eusebio Juma, Professor of the Practice of International Development and Director of the Science, Technology, Globalization Project, Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University

the future

Policy measures to tackle key challenges and provide better framework conditions

First steps

- Peer review of policies – to understand differences and set up suitable policy support to overcome them
- Benchmarking of potential / interested partners - to understand differences in structure, governance, goals, and services
- Setting up open innovation arena

Followed by

- Facilitation setting up joint research, technology and innovation agenda – to established joint platform supported by realistic financial scheme
- Providing secretariat and management of transatlantic cooperation
- Strengthen GBN to enhance bi-lateral cooperation.

BILAT  USA 2.0



Thank you !

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