

ExTra workshop 2 (W)

September 29th/30th, 2006 - EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland

2nd WORKSHOP :

"Technology transfer from universities:
A critical appraisal of patents, spin-offs and human mobility"

University patenting, university-based entrepreneurship, and mobility of research between university and industry have attracted a good deal of attention as tools for transferring knowledge from academic to business sites. However, many gaps in the literature still have to be filled, which relate to evaluating the effectiveness (both in absolute and relative terms) of such tools. Doubts exist that extensive patenting of research tools has positive effects on the cumulative progress of scientific research and, ultimately, technology. Spin-off creation has been suggested to be potentially a major distraction to academic scientists' research efforts, and to be of limited relevance in the overall transfer of knowledge from university to industry. Finally, mobility of researchers, especially young PhDs, is often cited as a potentially major channel of knowledge transfer, but very few theoretical and empirical contributions exist, which may help quantifying it.

Scientific Committee:

- Prof. Iain Cockburn, Boston University and NBER
- Prof. Dominique Foray, EPFL
- Prof. Aldo Geuna, University of Sussex
- Prof. Francesco Lissoni, Bocconi University
- Prof. Jacques Mairesse, CREST and NBER

Note:

The workshop, co-organised by **Dominique Foray** (CEMI - EPFL) and **Francesco Lissoni** (CESPRI - Bocconi University), is an initiative of Research Action Line 1.3: "Universities, Entrepreneurship and Knowledge Exchange Networks" of DIME - the Network of Excellence on Dynamics of Institutions and Markets in Europe - funded by the 6th Framework Programme of the European Union.