

# Conference

## The Economics of Technology Policy

Monte Verità

June 17 - 22, 2007 Ascona, Switzerland

Interest in R&D and technology policy as an area of academic research has perked up recently, even among the practitioners of mainstream economics. This probably reflects the perception that i) new technologies have had significant impacts on productivity growth in recent years, and ii) some countries have done better in exploiting those technological opportunities than others, partly because of efficient policy programs that have effectively sequenced interventions and thus generated real additional effects.

Nevertheless, the economics of R&D and technology policy is still in its infancy. Very little has been done in the area of systematic empirical inquiries into 'what works' and into the quantification of economic effects of various instruments, given the characteristics of the country or sector under consideration. Thus, policy-makers continue to proceed only on the basis of casual understanding, uninformed by robust empirical evidence about policy-relative efficiency. This state of affairs should no longer be accepted as satisfactory.

This conference is organised to fill the gap between policy practices, empirical evidence and theoretical understanding of the main processes at stake.

### PROGRAM

Speakers have been asked to present short policy-oriented papers on topics related to technology policy.

The papers will be discussed by a policy-maker and a faculty member at the end of each session.

[--> Program of the conference](#) - final version

[--> Junior sessions](#) - final version

## Scientific Committee

- Prof. **Philippe AGHION** - Harvard University
- Prof. **Iain M. COCKBURN** - Boston University
- Prof. **Dominique FORAY** - EPFL
- Prof. **Alfonso GAMBARDELLA** - Università Bocconi
- Prof. **Bronwyn H. HALL** - UC Berkeley / Universiteit Maastricht
- Prof. **Luc SOETE** - Universiteit Maastricht
- Prof. **Reinhilde VEUGELERS** - KU Leuven

## Organising Committee

- Prof. **Dominique FORAY** - EPFL
- Prof. **Patrick LLERENA** - Université Louis Pasteur
- Dr. **Heinz HOLLENSTEIN** - ETHZ
- Dr. **Stéphane LHUILLERY** - EPFL
- Ms. **Tea DANELUTTI** – EPFL

## TOPICS

### Background Information

Interest in **R&D** and **technology policy** as an **area of academic research** has perked up recently, even among the practitioners of mainstream economics. This probably reflects the perception that *1)* new technologies have had significant impacts on productivity growth in recent years, and *2)* some countries have done better in exploiting those technological opportunities than others, partly because of efficient policy programs that have effectively sequenced interventions and thus generated real additional effects.

Nevertheless, **the economics of R&D and technology policy is still in its infancy**. Very little has been done in the area of systematic empirical inquiries into 'what works' and into the quantification of economic effects of various instruments, given the characteristics of the country or sector under consideration. Thus, policy-makers continue to proceed only on the basis of casual understanding, uninformed by robust empirical evidence about policy-relative efficiency. This state of affairs should no longer be accepted as satisfactory.

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## Main Topics

Several topics related to the **Economics of Technology Policy** will be addressed during the conference:

- Market failures, coordination failures: rethinking the rationales
- Technology policy and complementary policies
- Coordination failures and mission-oriented policies
- Policy evaluation
- Technology policy for helping economies catch up
- Publicly funded science and technology policy
- Technology policy and the 'new' sources of innovation
- Technology policy in an era of R&D internationalisation
- Technology policy and financing innovations
- IP policy as a part of technology policy

## Policy-Maker's Participation

High level **policy-makers** and representatives of **governmental and international organisations** have been invited to play the role of discussant for the whole event.

## INVITED SPEAKERS

|             |            |  |                          |
|-------------|------------|--|--------------------------|
| AGHION      | Philippe   | Harvard University                                 | USA                      |
| ARVANITIS   | Spyridon   | ETHZ   | Switzerland              |
| BENKLER     | Yochai     | Yale Law School                                    | USA                      |
| COCKBURN    | Iain M.    | Boston University                                  | USA                      |
| CZARNITZKI  | Dirk       | KU Leuven / ZEW Mannheim                           | Belgium / Germany        |
| DAVID       | Paul A.    | Oxford University / University of Stanford         | United Kingdom / USA     |
| DOSI        | Giovanni   | Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna                         | Italy                    |
| ENCAOUA     | David      | Université de Paris I                              | France                   |
| FAGERBERG   | Jan        | Centre for Technology, Innovation and Culture      | Norway                   |
| FELLER      | Irwin      | Penn State University                              | USA                      |
| GAMBARDELLA | Alfonso    | Bocconi University                                 | Italy                    |
| GERSBACH    | Hans       | EHTZ   | Switzerland              |
| HALL        | Bronwyn H. | Univ. of California at Berkeley / Univ. Maastricht | USA / The Netherlands    |
| HARHOFF     | Dietmar    | LUM Munich   | Germany                  |
| HOLLENSTEIN | Heinz      | ETHZ   | Switzerland              |
| LLERENA     | Patrick    | Université Louis Pasteur                           | France                   |
| MAIRESSE    | Jacques    | INSEE / Universiteit Maastricht                    | France / The Netherlands |
| MALERBA     | Franco     | Bocconi University                                 | Italy                    |

|                      |            |                                      |                 |
|----------------------|------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| MOHNEN               | Pierre     | Universiteit Maastricht              | The Netherlands |
| MOWERY               | David C.   | University of California at Berkeley | USA             |
| NELSON               | Richard R. | Columbia University                  | USA             |
| ROSENBERG            | Nathan     | University of Stanford               | USA             |
| SAMPAT               | Bhaven N.  | Columbia University                  | USA             |
| SCHANKERMAN          | Mark       | London School of Economics           | United Kingdom  |
| SOETE                | Luc        | Universiteit Maastricht              | The Netherlands |
| STEINMUELLER         | Edward W.  | University of Sussex                 | United Kingdom  |
| TRAJTENBERG          | Manuel     | University of Tel Aviv               | Israel          |
| VAN<br>POTTELSBERGHE | Bruno      | Université Libre de Bruxelles        | Belgique        |
| VEUGELERS            | Reinhilde  | KU Leuven                            | Belgium         |
| VON HIPPEL           | Eric       | MIT                                  | USA             |