



Enhancing the bilateral S&T Partnership with Ukraine

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Abstract

Technology Platforms respond to the real need of research and technology development in Europe. Numerous Technology Platforms were established and became the key actors in European Research. Not only the European but also National Technology Platforms are of the vital importance. The presented material, prepared in the form of Frequently Asked Questions will explain most of the arising questions and problems

Technology Platforms respond to the real need of research and technology development in Europe. It is obvious that the cooperation of research organizations and private business can bring the real tangible results in research and innovative technologies and applications. That is why the numerous Technology Platforms were established and became the key actors in European Research. Not only the European but also National Technology Platforms are of the vital importance. The presented material, prepared in the form of Frequently Asked Questions will explain most of the arising questions and problems.

How are the European Technology Platforms (ETPs) formed?

In a first phase, stakeholders of a specific area, led by industry, come together to agree on a common vision. The second phase is the defining of a Strategic Research Agenda, setting out the medium- to long-term objectives for the technology. In a third phase, stakeholders implement the Strategic Research Agenda with the mobilisation of significant financial and human resources.

What are the defining characteristics of ETPs?

A specific inter-service working group at the Commission evaluates whether emerging ETP initiatives adhere to the following criteria:

- Its key goals contribute to European growth, competitiveness and sustainability objectives, including:

- Timely development and deployment of new technologies that offer the potential of radical change in one or more industrial sectors
- Technology development to meet different policy objectives with a view to sustainable development New technology-based public goods and services with high entry barriers and uncertain profitability, but which offer significant economic potential
- Achieving the necessary technological breakthroughs to remain at the leading edge in high technology sectors that have significant strategic and economic importance
- Renewal, revival or restructuring of traditional industrial sectors
- Interactions with and positive impact on a wide range of Community policies (e.g. industrial policy, sustainable development, economic and societal issues, regional policy)
- Clear commitment from industry and strong involvement from Member States
- Representation from a wide range of stakeholders (e.g. large industries, SMEs, NGOs, financial institutions, civil society, Member States)
- Addressing topics of recognised importance and of a vertical nature
- A technology platform is the most appropriate approach to achieve the desired outcome.

What is the research area of ETPs?





They address technological challenges that can potentially contribute to a number of key society objectives which are essential for Europe's future competitiveness, including the timely development and deployment of new technologies, technology development with a view to sustainable development, new technology-based public goods and services,

technological breakthroughs necessary to remain at the leading edge in high technology sectors and the restructuring of traditional industrial sectors.

Currently 49 ETPs are active:

- [Advanced Research & Technology Embedded Intelligence and Systems](#) – **ARTEMIS**

(ETP) 

- [Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe](#) - **ACARE** 
- [Embedded Computing Systems](#) - **ARTEMIS** 
- [European Aquaculture Technology & Innovation Platform](#) - **EATIP** 
- [European Biofuels Technology Platform](#) - **Biofuels** 
- [European Construction Technology Platform](#) - **ECTP** 
- [European Fisheries Technology Platform](#) – **EFTP** 
- [European Nanoelectronics Initiative Advisory Council](#) – **ENIAC TP** 
- [European Photovoltaics Technology Platform](#) – **Photovoltaics** 
- [European Rail Research Advisory Council](#) - **ERRAC** 
- [European Road Transport Research Advisory Council](#) - **ERTRAC** 
- [European Robotics Technology Platform](#) – **EUROP** 
- [European Space Technology Platform](#) – **ESTP** 
- [European Steel Technology Platform](#) **ESTEP** 
- [European Technology Platform for the Electricity Networks of the Future](#)
- [European Technology Platform for the future of textiles and clothing](#) – **FTC** 
- [European Technology Platform for Wind Energy](#) - **TPWind** 
- [European Technology Platform on Industrial Safety](#) – **ETPIS** 
- [European Technology Platform on Integral Satcom Initiative](#) - **ISI** 
- [European Technology Platform on Renewable Heating & Cooling \(RHC\)](#) 
- [European Technology Platform on Smart Systems Integration](#) - **EPoSS** 
- [European Technology Platform on Sustainable Chemistry](#) - **SusChem** 
- [European Technology Platform on Sustainable Mineral Resources](#) - **ETP SMR**
- [European Wind Energy Technology Platform](#) – **TP WIND** 
- ETP on [Advanced Engineering Materials and Technologies](#) - **EuMaT** 
- [Farm Animal Breeding and Reproduction Technology Platform](#) - **FABRE TP** 
- [Food for Life](#) - **Food** 
- [Forest based sector Technology Platform](#) - **Forestry** 
- [Future Manufacturing Technologies](#) - **MANUFUTURE** 
- [Future Textiles and Clothing](#) - **FTC** 

- [Global Animal Health](#) – **ETP GAH**  EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR GLOBAL ANIMAL HEALTH
- [Implementing Geological Disposal of Radioactive Waste Technology Platform](#) 
- [Integral Satcom Initiative](#) - **ISI** 
- [Manufuture](#) 
- [Mobile and Wireless Communications](#) - **eMobility** 
- [Networked and Electronic Media](#) - **NEM** 
- [Networked European Software and Services Initiative](#) - **NESSI** 
- [Photonics21](#) - **Photonics** 
- [Plants for the Future](#) - **Plants** 
- [Robotics](#) - **EUROP** 
- [SmartGrids](#) 
- [Sustainable Nuclear Technology Platform](#) - **SNETP** 
- [The e-Mobility Platform](#) - **eMobility**  (Connect to the network community)
- [The ETP Nanomedicine](#) - **NanoMedicine** 
- [TP-Geolelec](#) - **EGEC** 
- [TP Organics](#) 
- [Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform](#) - **WSSTP** 
- [Waterborne ETP](#) - **Waterborne** 
- [Zero Emission Fossil Fuel Power Plants](#) - **ZEP** 

And two groups of platforms:

- [The BECOPTEPS project](#) 
- [NANO futures](#) 

Who are the stakeholders in European Technology Platforms?

The key role in initiating and leading of ETPs play key industrial concerns. Nevertheless, to be effective, the platform approach is inclusive and mobilises the efforts of all key stakeholders. These typically include:

- Industry (large, medium and small, embracing the whole production and supply chain)
- Public authorities (given their role of policy-makers and funding agencies, as well as promoters and consumers of technologies)
- Research institutes and the academic community
- Financial community (e.g. Venture capital organisations and the European Investment Bank)
- Civil society, including users and consumers.

It is up to the interested stakeholders themselves to decide whether or not to set up a technology platform. However, new emerging initiatives should meet some criteria (see below), designed to avoid a dilution of the ETP concept and overlaps between platforms. The relevant thematic services of the European Commission can provide guidance and emerging

initiatives are invited to contact Commission services for more information (RTD-ETP-Secretariat@ec.europa.eu).

What is the role of European Technology Platforms?

European Technology Platforms provide frameworks to define research and development priorities, timeframes and action plans on different strategically important issues. Some European Technology Platforms have become engaged in public-private partnerships, the Joint Technology Initiatives, further contributing to the renewed Lisbon Strategy and to the development of a European Research Area of knowledge for growth. They are proving to be powerful actors in the development of European research policy, in particular in orienting the Seventh Research Framework Programme to better meet the needs of industry. What is more, ETPs mobilise public authorities at national and regional levels.

The ETPs play a key role in ensuring an adequate focus of research funding on areas with a high degree of industrial relevance, by covering the whole economic value chain and by mobilising public authorities at national and regional levels. In fostering effective public-private partnerships, technology platforms have the potential to contribute significantly to the renewed Lisbon strategy and to the development of a European Research Area of knowledge for growth. As such, they are proving to be powerful actors in the development of European research policy, in particular in orienting the Seventh Research Framework Programme to better meet the needs of industry.

Why it is so important, that the European Technology Platforms are led by the industry?

The industry partners from ETPs have the capacity to address a wide range of innovation challenges, from the laboratory to the market, in a coherent way. The results of this research can be transformed into technologies and processes and then ultimately into marketable products and services and commercialised. This enable Europe to increase its innovative capacity to transform excellence in science into added economic value.

How are European Technology Platforms funded?

In general, the stakeholders themselves fund their own costs in participating in technology platforms. Limited Community support for funding operational entities (for example a Secretariat) can however be mobilized in the case where a given platform's objectives and activities correspond closely with the thematic areas of the current 7th Research Framework Programme.

What is the role of the European Commission in European Technology Platforms?

The European Commission encourages this bottom-up, industry-led approach, for example through active participation as an observer in many platforms and by playing a guiding role, where necessary.

In order to avoid a dilution of the ETP concept and overlaps between platforms, the Commission services evaluate emerging initiatives, according to a set of pre-established criteria, and give recommendations for their development.

The Commission however does not “own” technology platforms (which do not have any legal basis) nor is bound by their views. The Commission services follow developments within technology platforms and, where appropriate, use their input in the course of developing European research policy. In this context, the Strategic Research Agendas have already provided a valuable and significant input to the nine themes of the “Co-operation” programme in the Commission’s Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and they will be further reflected in more detail in future Specific Programmes and Work Programmes.

How are policy-makers represented in ETPs?

ETP structures vary depending on the needs and are comprised of a large number of different bodies (Working Groups, Steering Groups, Advisory Councils etc.). All ETPs include in their Mirror Groups, government representatives (ministries etc.) from Member States and eventually additional stakeholder organizations. Mirror Groups are mainly designed to act as an interface for communication between ETPs and those responsible for establishing technology policies in the various countries. Moreover, Mirror Groups work to develop synergies between national and international research programmes and allow coordination with national initiatives and projects.

What is the objective of creation of the National Technology Platforms?

The objective of the creation of National Platforms is to develop synergies between public and private sectors at regional, national and European level. A co-ordinated investment in research, using all funding mechanisms at all levels will speed up the production of knowledge and stimulate innovation.

What are the typical steps for creation of National Technology Platforms?

Each technology platform has its own origins and approach and its own particular way of working, but some steps are identical for each technology platform:

- Stage 1: Stakeholders getting together in order to establish their strategy for the future development in a specific field and to set up the technology platform;
- Stage 2: Stakeholders define a Strategic Research Agenda setting out their common views on the necessary medium to long term research, development and demonstration needs for this technology;
- Stage 3: Implementation of the Strategic Research Agenda - for which, in many instances, it is anticipated that significant public and private investments will need to be mobilized.

Some additional/parallel activities are needed to support the implementation of above mentioned steps. The most important are:

- Exploiting existing strengths and assets in the country;
- Bringing together all interested parties in a particular sector selected for its strategic importance;
- Communicating for better understanding and collaboration between industry and researchers/ scientists;

- Keeping close contacts with the Ministry of Research, the Ministry of Economy and other related Ministries;
- Fostering the proactive policy concerning R&D stimulation in general;
- Fostering effective public-private partnerships and bringing together key stakeholders under the leadership of industry, around a shared vision of the development of the technologies concerned;
- Cooperating with regional industrial and technology clusters;
- Enhancing active participation in European Technology Platforms;
- Ensuring the transparency of all steps and procedures in the platform.

What is most important in the initial phase of the National Technology Platform?

Once the NTP is established the discussion of the thematic scope of its activity has been successfully performed, there are a few issues that the partnering organizations should focus and work on:

- Contacts with NTPs in other countries (like e.g. Poland) and definition of common priorities in order to create partnership in the international activities (FP projects, international organizations etc.)
- Very clear definition of Ukrainian priorities within specific research area (it is not possible to concentrate on everything...)
- Searching for programmes suitable to finance our activities (national, bilateral, international), participation and cooperation with foreign organizations is very important and we should consider it as key-important.
- Promotion of the NTP activity in Ukraine and abroad (participation in national and foreign international conference and fairs)

Why a few NTPs are very successful and the other are not?

There are many factors deciding on the success of such initiatives as NTPs. There are some of the vital importance:

- Clear definition of research and technology development priorities in short, medium, long term (concentration on selected areas and topics)
- “Horse Power” – the key leading organizations acting as inspiring and mobilizing factors
- Right balance between partners (industry, SMEs, research organizations, others)
- Common approach and attitude towards the result and success (perspective of profits, research results, national and international contacts and cooperation)
- Correlation with European priorities (chance of EU co-financing of the ideas and activities)
- Mechanisms of national support (policy, financing programmes and mechanisms)
- Cooperation with other national bodies and organizations (Ministry, NCP, industrial and research associations etc.) \

The lack of any of the mentioned factor may result in internal problems and lack of NTP's success.

Are there any National Technology Platforms in Europe?

Many European countries have established National Technology Platforms (NTP) addressing several research objectives in the areas strategically important for national and European

economies and societies, interacting with industrial policy, sustainable development, economic and societal issues, regional policy and particularly the challenge of innovation and industry transformation. Examples from countries represented by project partners from BILAT-UKR are:

Poland

The first Technology Platforms were launched in Poland, in 2004. Their activities are supported by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of National Defence, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration. Key industrial partners, enterprises, economy chambers and agencies as well as scientific institutions and universities are involved in Polish Technology Platforms.

National Technology Platforms were created with the following objectives:

- Integration of key industrial and research partners in joint RTD initiatives
- Active participation in European Technology Platforms (ETP) and their Strategic Research Agendas (SRA)
- Participation in FP7 collaborative projects, ERA-NETs and other European initiatives
- Optimal use of structural funds (67 billion euro), in particular from the Innovative Economy Operational Programme and the Regional Operational Programmes.

In order to create joint RTD initiatives, formal coordination structures and cooperation agreements were set up. Research networks were implemented with selected research centres and technology regulatory frameworks. This was done in close cooperation with the Ministry of Research, the Ministry of Economy and other related Ministries.

Polish Technology Platforms were set up with a clear effort to make the link with ETPs. Some representatives of PTPs are members of European Technology Platforms' bodies (e.g. Mirror Groups, Advisory Groups, Steering Committees, and Steering Boards) and contribute to the preparation of Strategic Research Agendas (SRA) and Work Programmes for the FP7 calls.

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They are currently 28 Technology Platforms in Poland, of which the most active are:

Polish Technology Platform for the Forestry and Wood Sector (PPTSL-D)

The Polish Technology Platform for the Forestry and Wood Sector (PPTSL-D) was established in 2005. Its members are: key industrial partners, companies, banks, chambers, institutes, and universities. The Platform represents forestry and such industries as: sawmilling, pulp and paper, and wood-based panels; therefore it is multi-sectoral.

Polish Rail Technology Platform

Polish Rail Technology Platform collects the representatives of the industry and of the science representing the railway transport branch of the (railway) rolling stock, of infrastructure, of carriages and services. Cooperation among transport industry and policy makers is very important as it facilitates creation of the appropriate conditions and laws, which are favorable for enterprises and meet the needs and demands of the transport market.

Polish Platform for Homeland Security

Polish Platform for Homeland Security (PPBW) was created in 2005 and functions in the joint field of science and modern technologies, as well as protection of the security of the state and its citizens. The objective of the Platform is to develop integrated technological and IT tools supporting the activity aimed at public security. At the same time, the PPBW allows for closer cooperation between sectors of science, research and development, as well as education in the field of security. It supports public security institutions, e.g. through effective provision and equipment in modern technological inventions and instruments.

Polish Technology Platform for Aeronautics

The letter of intent regarding setting up of PPTL (Polska Platforma Technologiczna Lotnictwa - PPTL) was signed on 26th April, 2004 and later on an agreement was concluded regarding establishing of a PPTL Consortium. Parties to these documents were Rzeszów Technical University, Aviation Valley Association and National Contact Point for Research Programmes of the EU.

The Polish aeronautical industry was in the past involved in designing, certification and production of a/c up to commuter class (19 000 lb), subsonic jet trainer, and midsize helicopters. This activity included both airframes and engines (turboprops up to 1 000 HP, and turbo-jet up to 1 600 kG of trust). The industry was supported by relevant R&D (test) infrastructure – partially owned and located at airframes and engines integrators (each of them has own R&D capacity), and in a part possessed by Warsaw Institute of Aviation (established in 1926).

Polish Space Technology Platform

The Polish Space Technology Platform is a consortium of 17 Polish companies, R&D centers and institutes involved in satellite and space technology set up in 2006 to get Polish industry to help by implementation European space policy. The platform is coordinated by Polspace, a technical and business advisory company for the space technology sector.

Romania

The European Union encourages the process of building up mirror platforms in countries outside the European Union (by the time the process started in 2005, Romania was not a Member State) with the aim of fostering the co-ordination and collaboration between industry and research, with similar structures outside European Union.

Romania has established 31 initiative groups in order to build national platforms. The following steps have been undertaken:

1. Inter-ministerial agreement between the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Economy in order to support the establishment of the national mirror platform
2. Consultation of the relevant stakeholders (university, research institutes, industry, trade and professional association)
3. Establishment of the national mirror platforms and of their secretariat.
4. Representation of the national mirror platforms at European level
5. Adhering through representatives to the European platforms

The establishment of the mirror platforms has been supported in some cases by means of national projects funded in the framework of the National Research Program (as it is the case, of the Forrest Based Sector Technology Platform and of many other).

At the time being, Romanian mirror platforms find themselves in different stages of their development, the most advanced being the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Platform, already integrated and having already proposed Romanian projects to the Strategic Agenda.

Lithuania

On the 23rd of August 2006, ten Lithuanian business and science institutions established the Lithuanian Networked and Electronic Media Platform.

The Lithuanian National Technology Platform for Networked and Electronic Media (NTP NEM) platform is a counterpart of the European Networked and Electronic Media platform. NTP NEM was formed to unite national science and research institutions with enterprises involved in Networked and Electronic Media.

The members of the Lithuanian Networked and Electronic Media Platform agreed to pursue a common goal – integrate Lithuanian communications and electronic technologies market into European Union innovation and economic space, while increasing Lithuania's competitiveness and attractiveness. In less than a year from foundation of the NTP NEM, it attracted fifteen new members and it now consists of 25 Lithuanian organizations.

Apart of above mentioned examples several European countries have launched initiatives on National Technology Platforms, as mechanisms to enhance the national Research and Development programmes and channel the contributions from multitude of SMEs, which may not be motivated to be active in the whole European dimension of the R+D.

Example of active, successful National Technology Platform?

Of course there are such examples, their history shows the evidence of real progress and success:

Polish NTP on Intelligent Transport System:

- established in July 2007,
- leading organization: Motor Transport Institute, members: industry, research, public organizations
- cooperating with ETP on Road Transport and Embedded Systems,
- Cooperating with Polish ministries: Higher Education and Research, Economy
- Working and updating the vision and policy of intelligent transport in Poland and Europe
- Organizations (members of NTP) participating in several FP7 projects
- Publications, organization of annual international conferences on Intelligent Transport Systems

Are there the examples of cross activities between two or more NTPs?

It is obvious that many innovative technologies and activities require the involvement of many research groups or industry representing different areas.

Such an example can be a conference **FUMAT 2011** (Future Materials for Grand Challenges of our Time) held in Warsaw (22-23 September 2011) under Polish EU presidency

More info: www.fumat2011.eu

The event was held and organized with involvement of several research groups, industry and Polish NTPs representing different sectors, which seems quite obvious – materials are the basis of most innovative technologies and research nowadays.

How can Ukrainian stakeholders be involved in ETPs?

The first step for a real involvement in the ETPs is to bring together all interested stakeholders in a particular sector, develop a long-term vision addressing specific challenges and set up the National Technology Platform in the appropriate research area. They can also get in contact with representatives of ETP and try to be involved in the projects financed by the EC in Framework Programmes (FP7 and in the future in FP8).

Ukrainian Technology Platforms: the example of the Platform “Food for Life”

To create this NTP in Ukraine, one thematic meeting called “Ukrainian Initiative in the development ETP platforms”, with representatives of the European Commission, was held in Uzhhorod, in 2006, supported in part by the National Information Point in Ukraine.

The official launching of the Ukrainian National Technology Platform (UNTP) “Food for Life”, was done by:

- Creating a working group
- developing a conceptual approach for a successful implementation
- establishing the legal status and financial structure
- providing the basic definition of possible instruments for its implementation in the Ukraine
- initiating active cooperation with the Ukrainian Government, businesses, educational and academic institutions

The Ukrainian National Technology Platform Agro-food was defined as:

- a voluntary association of specific thematic clusters with organizational and working groups, and representatives of the concerned political, scientific and industrial structures;
- a tool for strengthening the innovative capacity of Ukrainian small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and their performance in the forthcoming years of FP7 (2011-2013) and FP8.

The Ukrainian NTP Agro-Food Platform establishes a real connection between science, industry, and administration. The dialogue was initiated in 2006. The regional administration and the Chamber of Commerce began to cooperate in the innovation sphere. Two projects from the University were submitted and are currently supported. Such practice became rather frequent in the Lviv region, Lutsk, and Kharkiv, where thematic clusters are well established. In 2010, a joint project with the Chamber of Commerce representatives and the University was also submitted.

The activity and close network connection between the platform’s partners and stakeholders led to the creation of small but stable consortia with companies, institutes, research centers and SMEs.

As a consequence, the number of scientific projects increased especially in the bilateral and intergovernmental projects, as well as ENPI (European Neighborhood Policy) projects (Pilot, PHARE, TESIS, TEMPUS, INTERREG IIIA / TACIS).

The participation to FP7 was also promoted. Partner search was developed and information on new calls, and tools is widely available. Research Institutes and SMEs begin to be highly involved and motivated by getting new knowledge on FP7 programmes and the activities of the Platform itself (TV programs, Seminars, meetings, publications).

Who can I contact for more information about European Technology Platforms?

The Commission services have compiled three Status Reports on the Development of Technology Platforms (February 2005, May 2006 and March 2007) which contain further information and contact details for the individual platforms.

The report is available on Cordis:

http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/further_en.html

You can also contact the ETP Secretariat at European Commission's Directorate General for Research at RTD-ETP-Secretariat@ec.europa.eu

For any time you can also contact the European Technology Platforms. The contacts are given at the platforms webpages.

Important links used by preparation of this FAQ:

http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/further_en.html

ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/technology-platforms/docs/tp_leaflet_en.pdf

ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/technology-platforms/docs/faq_160807.pdf

http://cordis.europa.eu/technology-platforms/home_en.html