

Transfer of knowledge and technology: Current state at the University of Nis

Activities of knowledge and technology transfer at the University of Nis are carried out at institutes within the frame of technical faculties, especially at Faculty of Electronic Engineering and Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. Their activities include realization of various projects, as well as consulting related to different fields of electrical and mechanical engineering and information technologies. Main experiences have been acquired through R&D projects financed by Serbian Ministry of Science and Technological development, joint projects with companies, few European projects financed by EC, continuous education of engineers and regular organization of international conferences. The Faculty for occupational safety and the Faculty of Technology (Leskovac) are also included in technology transfer activities in ecology, food production and pharmaceuticals. Most of activities are accomplished within the frame of Faculties, and there is no organizational structure at the University level. The initiative of technical Faculties on establishment of University Technology Transfer Center in the Campus of Technical Faculties on the location next the Faculty of Electronic Engineering is the crucial one for the future development of the University and economy in South East Serbia. The memorandum on understanding between the Ministry of Science and Technological Development, the City of Nis and the University of Nis has been signed two months ago. The investment of 12 million euro by the Government of the Republic of Serbia should be used for the building of the Technology Transfer Center. Within the frame of the KNOWTS project, activities on establishment of TTC organizational structure have been started recently. Documents for the legal basis of future TTC operation are prepared for the University Council and it is expected to be accepted by the end of 2010. EU Members of the KNOWTS Management Team will be members of the International Advisory Board of the University TTC with aim to provide networking and give support in future applications for EU projects. University management is trying to reinforce Business Incubator Center which was founded in 2005 and was not so successful in its mission. The main reason why University of Nis is trying to help BIC is the wish to encourage and support students in starting up their own businesses and keep them stay in South Serbia. The University of Nis plans to establish Technology Transfer Office by KNOWTS project support. The main task

of the future TTO is to facilitate commercialization of research results serving to all researchers across the University of Nis. The role of the Technology Transfer office at University of Nis should be:

- to establish a database of universities research capacities,
- to serve close research-industry contacts,
- to manage interdisciplinary forums and networks,
- to deal with patents and intellectual property rights and
- to promote the commercialization of research results
- to promote the project culture.

The TTO will be located in the building of the Faculty of Electronic Engineering, and staff recruitment will be done in March 2011. TTO officers will be trained in EU partner institutions by financial support of the KNOWTS project.

UNI professors from diverse research fields, who are active in the KNOWTS project, will support and promote TTO:

1. Prof. Miroljub Grozdanovic, Rector of UNI, from Faculty of Occupational Safety
2. Prof. Ivan Milentijevic, KNOWTS coordinator
3. Prof. Dragan Antic, Dean of Faculty of Electronic Engineering
4. Prof. Vlasta Nikolic, Dean of Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
5. Prof. Teufik Tokic, Deputy coordinator
6. Prof. Jovan Stepanovic, Dean of Faculty of Technology
7. Prof. Evica Petrovic, Dean of Faculty of Economics,
8. Prof. Dragan Jankovic, Vice-dean of Faculty of Electronic Engineering,
9. Prof. Nenad Pavovic, Vice-dean of Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
10. Prof. Dusica Pavlovic, Vice-dean of Faculty of Medicine.