

SCIENCE PARK PRACTICE IN A TRANSITION ECONOMY:  
ESTONIAN EXPERIENCE



**Tehnopol**

TALLINNA TEHNOLOOGIAPARK

[www.tehnopol.ee](http://www.tehnopol.ee)

# SCIENCE PARK PRACTICE IN A TRANSITION ECONOMY: ESTONIAN EXPERIENCE

[www.tehnopol.ee](http://www.tehnopol.ee)

Tehnopol



# Estonia

**Area:** 45 227 square km

**Population:** 1.4 Million

**Capital:** Tallinn

**State type:** parliamentary  
democracy

**S&P rating:** A

**Moody's:** A1

## Tallinn

**Population:** 400 000

80 km to Helsinki

350 km to Stockholm

300 km to St. Peterburg



# Estonia



E-government

E-business

Estonian  
Genome Project

www.tehnopol.ee

Tehnopol



# Beginning of 90's

- Strong financing at the end of the Soviet Union period to science and applied science especially towards military applications
- Starting point for market economy – strong sciences potential with disappeared links with industry and minimal business experience
- First attempts to establish parks were not successful due to all previous reasons

# Establishment of parks

- Building relationship and common understanding first with universities, business community and public sector
- Big resources for investment can speed up a little bit, but steps must be taken in right order
- Relationship with public sector are important especially to have common understanding of science park mission and role
- Park has to be born global from the first day

# Legal issues

- Sound legal background is good, but flexibility in starting phase is even more important.
- Forming independent legal body helps to involve different interested partners and build continuous relationships
- Non-profit private entity is one of most suitable legal forms for starting point. In future when there is a need attract private capital it is inevitable to establish multi level organization.

# Management

- Creating right culture and imago of park is essential  
Keywords: global, creative, ambitious, dynamic, open, multicultural
- Size matters – small parks and small nations can be more visible
- International networks could be built on several layers. In Estonian for example on national, Baltic sea, European and global level.
- Incubation is important element
- “soft” services must include both personal advisory and networking services



# Conclusions and future

- Transition economies had and have now promising conditions for catching up
- Balanced relationship with stakeholders and well prepared long-run action plan are key to success
- Future is even more global
- Meaning of “park space” is changing

# Thank you

Some useful links:

<http://www.tehnopol.ee/en>

<http://www.eesti.ee/eng/>

<http://www.visitestonia.com/>

CONTACTS:

E-mail: [pirko.konsa@tehnopol.ee](mailto:pirko.konsa@tehnopol.ee)

Skype: pirko.konsa