May 25, 2012, Vilnius

PACITA – FIRST LITHUANIAN NATIONAL WORKSHOP
"Is it possible for Lithuania to join the club of (Parliamentary) Technology Assessment institutions in Europe?"

Minutes

Opening

Moderator Edgaras Leichteris from Knowledge Economy Forum introduced the aims of the PACITA project, partners, main work packages and planned future events.

Introduction to Technology Assessment and Parliamentary Technology Assessment concepts and systems in Europe

Dr. Leonhard Hennen from Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) has introduced the concept of (P)TA, historical evolution, different (P)TA models in European countries, presented an overview of German system and main challenges awaiting countries, which try to implement P(TA) system.

Example on the use of TA for solving complex policy issues: transition of the German Energy System

Jens Schippl Karlsruhe from the Institute of Technology (KIT) and Institute for Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS) has presented the case study of the German Energy System and how TA was used to solve complex policy issues.

Comments by selected discussants from the audience

Comments were provided reflecting different angles (policy formation, science, social partnership, implementation).

Overview of Technology Assessment like activities in Lithuania

Dr. Edgaras Leichteris from the Knowledge Economy Forum presented interim results of analysis on Lithuanian system.

Open discussion: identification of gaps and challenges
a) Strengths and weaknesses of S&T governance structures
b) Is there a need for a TA Institution in Lithuania?
c) Main challenges for establishing a TA Institution in Lithuania: possible actors and scenarios

Moderators: Dr. Edgaras Leichteris and Dr. Leonhard Hennen

Conclusions from open discussion

The discussion was based on the Lithuanian TA country study. It reflected main problems in understanding the concept of TA, strengths and weaknesses of Lithuanian science and technology system. Some were skeptical, but many stakeholders have expressed the positive view towards the TA system in Lithuania, some has showed interest in being the TA institution, but in general there was agreement that it has to be slow process, because Lithuania has too many defragmented institutions, no philosophy of technology and ethics and unrecognized need by politicians. The discussants saw the possibilities starting with informal network of institutions and partnerships, focusing at first on some pilot project activities. The demand of practical examples and trainings on the TA concept with the use of simulation of the whole TA process was also expressed.

The Second Lithuanian National Workshop to be held in September, 2012.