



2011 AGM NIZHNY NOVGOROD

Document 2

2011 ELECTIONS TO THE TII BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

At this year's Annual General Meeting, the Association will elect or re-elect members to the Board of Management from Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Spain. The candidates are:

CYPRUS

Dr. Costas Y. KONIS, Owner/Manager, Innovage Consulting, Nicosia

ESTONIA

Vladimir POLEZAJEV, Services Sales Specialist, Tallinn University, KT Centre

HUNGARY

Dr. Zsolt KÖHALMI, President, Theodore Puskas Foundation, Budapest

ITALY

Maria Augusta MANCINI, Senior Consultant, Meta Group, Terni

ROMANIA

Tamas GYULAI, International Relations Manager, Best Vision Advisory, Timisoara

SLOVENIA

Vanja RANGUS, Director, Innovation for Creativity, Ljubljana

SPAIN

Salvador PASTOR, Owner/Manager, Facilmente Consulting Services, Alcoy/Alicante

ELECTION PROCEDURE

According to the Association's statutes, Board members are elected by the members present or represented by proxy at the Annual General Meeting.

Corporate Members only have the right to vote in the election of all candidates (no geographical restrictions). Where for a particular country, there is more than one candidate for election, the candidate securing the highest number of votes shall be elected.

Voting by Proxy: Corporate Members, who will not attend the AGM, may ask another Corporate Member present at the meeting to vote on their behalf. If you wish another member to vote on your behalf, you must complete the Proxy Form and return it to the TII Secretariat by email, no later than **Tuesday 24 May**. The Association's Statutes specify (Article 16) that a voting member may exercise no more than **two proxies**.

Please do not nominate the Secretary General to exercise a proxy vote on your behalf. Not being a member of the Association, she is not empowered to vote.

CANDIDATES FOR THE 2011 ELECTIONS TO THE TII BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

CYPRUS

Costas Y KONIS

Owner/Manager, Innovage Consulting, Nicosia

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Dr. Konis holds a BSc degree in Mechanical Engineering and an MSc degree in Engineering from Louisiana Tech University, USA as well as a PhD in Management Science from the University of Stirling in Scotland. After an early career working for engineering firms in Athens, Cyprus and the UAE, he then joined the public service where he worked on a number of energy projects for the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism before serving as Senior Officer and then Director General of the Cyprus Institute of Technology from 1993 to 2007. Some of his major achievements during this period included the development of the IRC for Cyprus as well as the successful acquisition and implementation of a number of EU projects. In 2008, Dr. Konis set up his own consultancy firm which provides innovative technologies, products, services, training and support to companies wishing to compete successfully in the New Economy. He has been trained by the world's top gurus in creativity and innovation support techniques which he applies in his consultancy and training assignments.

STATEMENT

“I have known TII very well for many years and I am familiar with the hard work it does striving to achieve its vision and mission. I sincerely believe in its work and I am proud of its achievements. In these difficult times I feel that we should all work together helping our countries through our knowledge, technology and innovation to get out of this terrible financial crisis. I know our Secretary General very well, have worked with her and have great respect for her. I also know several other members through the years. If elected, I promise to work hard with all of them in an effort to attract new members, propose innovative ideas and projects and contribute to our Association's goals and objectives.”

ESTONIA

Vladimir POLEZAJEV

Services Sales Specialist, Tallinn University, Knowledge Transfer Centre

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Vladimir Poležajev has a Bachelor's degree in business administration and is currently finishing a Masters' programme in marketing. After an early career as a professional ballet dancer, he then went on to work in industry, the financial sector and journalism before joining the Knowledge Transfer Centre at Tallinn University as a services sales specialist. Vladimir is a native Russian speaker.

STATEMENT

“After 3.5 years working in Tallinn University Knowledge Transfer Centre I am seeking new avenues to improve the knowledge and technology transfer processes in Estonia and my university. Also I am looking for ways to improve interactions with the business sector and to leverage my personal experience in the knowledge transfer area. I think that the goals that I have set are achievable thanks to active international collaboration.

I hope that my experience as sales specialist of knowledge-based services at Tallinn University will be useful to TII and its members. I have a good overview of private sector companies in Estonia and their needs and pains. I also have a good understanding of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats relating to the cooperation processes of scientists and R&D organizations. I enjoy a lot being a magnet which pulls science and business together and prevents them from drawing apart.”

HUNGARY

Zsolt KÖHALMI (candidate for re-election)

President of the Board, Theodore Puskas Foundation, Budapest

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

With a PhD in electron physics from the Technical University of Budapest, Zsolt Köhalmi spent the early part of his career in R&D and teaching in electron physics, becoming a research associate of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. For the next 20 years he worked in a number of posts in government ministries. From 1978 to 1982 he was Attaché for Science and Technology in Washington DC and Deputy Commissioner-General at the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee. In the 1990's he was appointed Head of the Inter-Agency Committee on Export Control. In 1993 Zsolt became Managing Director of Theodore Puskas Foundation and in 1999 President of NETI IT Consulting Ltd.

STATEMENT

“As an active player of both domestic and international technology transfer and innovation for the past 40 years, it has been a privilege to represent my country for the past two years as a member of the TII Board of Management. I will continue to do my best to promote TII’s goals by sharing knowledge and experience with other members and by contributing to the various projects and ventures of the Association.”

ITALY

Maria Augusta MANCINI

Senior Consultant, Meta Group, Terni

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Ms Mancini holds a degree in Economics and Business from La Sapienza University in Rome. Since 2000 she has been working in different capacities with Meta Group and is currently senior consultant with the Consultancy business unit and manager of European projects. For five years she was closely involved in programmes supporting and coaching the creation of knowledge-based firms and over that period assessed some 800 business propositions. Concurrently, Ms Mancini is Due Diligence Manager of the Ingenium Seed Capital Fund, a public-private initiative supporting start-ups and academic spin-offs in the Emilia Romagna region.

STATEMENT

Thanks to my substantial operational experience in the field of knowledge valorisation (from training for would-be entrepreneurs to coaching and acceleration and seed financing) matured at international level, I am ready to contribute to the expansion of TII and to identify new streams of action to boost the growth of the association on a global scale. My wide understanding of the knowledge valorization chain, from policy to implementation, will be very handy for supporting the association in taking advantage of new needs and trends.

ROMANIA

Tamas GYULAI

International Relations Manager, Best Vision Advisory, Timisoara

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

After studying electrical engineering at The Technical University of Budapest and management at Clemson University in the USA, Tamas Gyulai started his career in the telecoms industry before going to work for the South Great Plain Regional Development

Agency in Szeged. For the next eight years he managed the regional Phare programmes and headed the intermediary body for the Structural Fund Programme for another three years. Since 2008 he has been working for a non-profit company – DEAK – which manages cooperation projects between research units of the University of Szeged and industry. In his most recent post he is developing joint innovation projects between Romania, Hungary and Serbia.

STATEMENT

“My current position at BVA in Timisoara enables me to promote the services of TII (the knowledge and the professional contacts that are available) not only in Romania but also in neighbouring Serbia where both BVA and myself have extensive contacts among university researchers and innovation oriented businesses. My experience in previous projects implemented in the border area of Hungary, Romania and Serbia could lead to the development of new projects where members of TII with experience in clusters and regional development can have a partnership role.”

SLOVENIA

Vanja RANGUS (candidate for re-election)

Director, Innovation for Creativity, Ljubljana

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

With over 25 years' experience in the innovation support field, Vanja Rangus has worked for the City of Ljubljana as Head of Department for Economic Development & Innovation, Tourism, Agriculture, as an initiator and a manager of Ljubljana Small Business Development Centre and as deputy manager of the Regional Development Agency of the Ljubljana Urban Region. Her expertise lies in the field of

- innovation, technology transfer and regional development;
- preparing and managing EU funded projects, including at Team Leader level;
- understanding the institutional framework for the EU pre-accession programmes, EU Structural Funds and Cohesion Fund;
- developing measures to improve the competitiveness of the SME sector and strengthening the innovation capacities of both the demand and supply side;
- preparing the project pipeline for regional innovation strategies, services for SMEs, foresight activities, technology transfer;
- co-ordinating activities for improving the National Innovation System to encourage framework conditions and better linkages between business and innovation support organizations;
- preparing new mechanisms relating to government's direct support to innovative SMEs;
- in-depth understanding of EC policy development and European best practices in innovation, R&D and competitiveness;
- experience in preparing and delivering capacity building training events including needs analysis (e.g. working for the Small Business Development Centre in Slovenia);

- holding supervisory and steering roles in important bodies and organizations dealing with innovation and support to SMEs.

STATEMENT

“As an independent senior consultant I can share my experience with TII members in designing a support environment for small business development, in innovation management, and in the preparation and management of EU projects (FP, CIP, regional cooperation). As a member of the TII Board of Directors for two years I have already contributed to boosting membership in Slovenia through the organization of the TII summer school in Ljubljana in 2009. I will continue my active role in the LinkedIn discussion group in order to promote TII membership in social services/innovation focusing on eHealth care as a priority issue.”

SPAIN

Salvador PASTOR

Owner/Manager, Facilmente Consulting Services, Alcoy/Alicante

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Salvador Pastor has a BSc in Electronics from the Universidad Politecnica de Valencia and the University of Nottingham as well as an MSc in Business Management and Engineering from the Universidad Politecnica de Catalunya. After an early career as a technical supervisor with a manufacturer of steam/oil boilers, a sales and marketing executive, quality manager and researcher, he then spent the next 7 years managing the logistics activities of companies in a range of sectors – automotive, home textiles and travel equipment. In 2005 he set up his own consulting company and worked with a number of different clients, including the Business and Innovation Centre of Alcoy from 2005 to 2010.

STATEMENT

“In the following lines I will describe succinctly my personal insights on the future vision of TII as the leading European Association for the transfer of technology and the promotion of innovation, and will describe the basic topics in which my modest participation in the Board of Management can contribute to reach the Association’s operational objective of “*promoting exchanges of information and cooperation between any bodies involved in the transfer of industrial information and exercising activities*”, as indicated in TII’s rules and statutes.

1 Technology as a wide concept

The concept of technology transfer has been inevitably associated in the last decades with the relationship between Scientific Communities (generally Universities and Technological Institutes) and Companies. The transition from an Industrial Economy towards a Knowledge Economy has led to substantial changes in the way Information and Knowledge in general, and Technology in particular, flows from its “sources” to its “destinations”.

In fact, the sources of technological progress have become diverse and do not belong anymore only to the Scientific Communities. More informal or spontaneous Social Groups have gained their right to contribute to the process in transferring Technology (these being overtly understood as the applicability of knowledge in real-life solutions) to companies and individuals.

2 Open innovation attitude

Even though the concept of “Open Innovation” and its extension to more refined notions like “Embedded Innovation” or “User-driven innovation” have a large presence in research papers and scientific congresses, it is a fact that it has not yet rooted in SMEs as a means to leverage their growth and to create new jobs and business opportunities. Indeed, there is a gap (both in the discourse and in practice) between what is being said in academic forums and in corporate environments. TII can count with my modest contribution to close that gap and help companies adopt simple and straightforward Open Innovation methodologies inside their organisations.

3 Approaching Private firms

For many years, Technology Transfer issues have been associated with public or semi-public bodies, often depending on their supervisory administration structures in terms of prioritizing actions and initiatives. Even though TII’s composition is particularly well balanced and diverse, introducing even more participation of private and independent bodies is certainly a way to improve and enrich the points of view and the interests existing in the Association. Furthermore, this more intense collaboration can lead in the future to public-private partnerships between TII members to deliver joint Technology Transfer projects.

4 Use of emerging collaboration tools to raise productivity

The eruption of Internet-based networking and collaboration tools has given new opportunities for networking in Associations such as TII and, at the same time, has generated a true challenge, and a new competitor for the exchange of information with their members. Far from seeing these phenomena as a threat to TII’s activities, these tools can truly contribute both to expand TII’s communication skills, and to increase efficiency and productivity in the internal processes. This, in turn, can give TII the chance to dedicate more time to rethink and redesign its role among its members in the new Knowledge and Information era, in which information is becoming less and less valuable, and knowledge is becoming more and more accessible to all layers of society. As the analysis and implementation of these tools is one of my professional activities inside organizations, I will be pleased to give support to TII in this field, both internally, and in dissemination/training activities for its members