

Innovation policy in Croatia, Slovenia and Finland: Towards multiple 'best practices'?

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Evaluation of innovation policies and RTDI systems

- ❑ Incorporation of monitoring and evaluation into policy processes – a precondition of effectiveness
- ❑ Innovation processes are complex, systemic and pervasive, whereas the history of innovation policy is relatively short
- ❑ widespread recognition of innovation policy in Europe, but underdeveloped evaluation practices
- ❑ trade-off between complexity of evaluation and comparability of evaluation results across countries
- ❑ Innovation Union Scoreboard, ad hoc evaluations, OECD reviews of innovation policy, other research

Comparing Croatia, Slovenia and Finland (1)

- analyse in detail innovation policy in a smaller group of relatively similar countries at different levels of innovation performance, overall economic development and EU integration
- Finland: a developed EU economy which is often used as a best practice example (innovation leader)
- Slovenia: a new EU member state that aims towards developing a knowledge-based economy (innovation follower)
- Croatia: the newest EU member state which has been developing innovation policy while lagging behind in terms of economic restructuring and EU accession (moderate innovator).

Comparing Croatia, Slovenia and Finland (2)

- ❑ small peripheral European countries
- ❑ Croatia and Slovenia have largely shared institutional background
- ❑ Finland is perceived as a global innovation leader with a particularly strong culture of evaluation related to innovation policy
- ❑ Innovation Union Scoreboard: innovation leader (Finland), innovation follower (Slovenia) and moderate innovator (Croatia)

Research methodology

- Assessment of various aspects of innovation policy measures and their basic outcomes (structure, levels, and trends of R&D and innovation activities)
- Country case studies of innovation policy and innovation activities
- Use of relevant descriptive statistics, indices, Innovation Union Scoreboard indicators
- Enterprise-level data from the Community Innovation Survey (CIS) are used for modelling of determinants of innovation activities
- Interviews with experts in innovation policy in each country

Development of innovation policy (1)

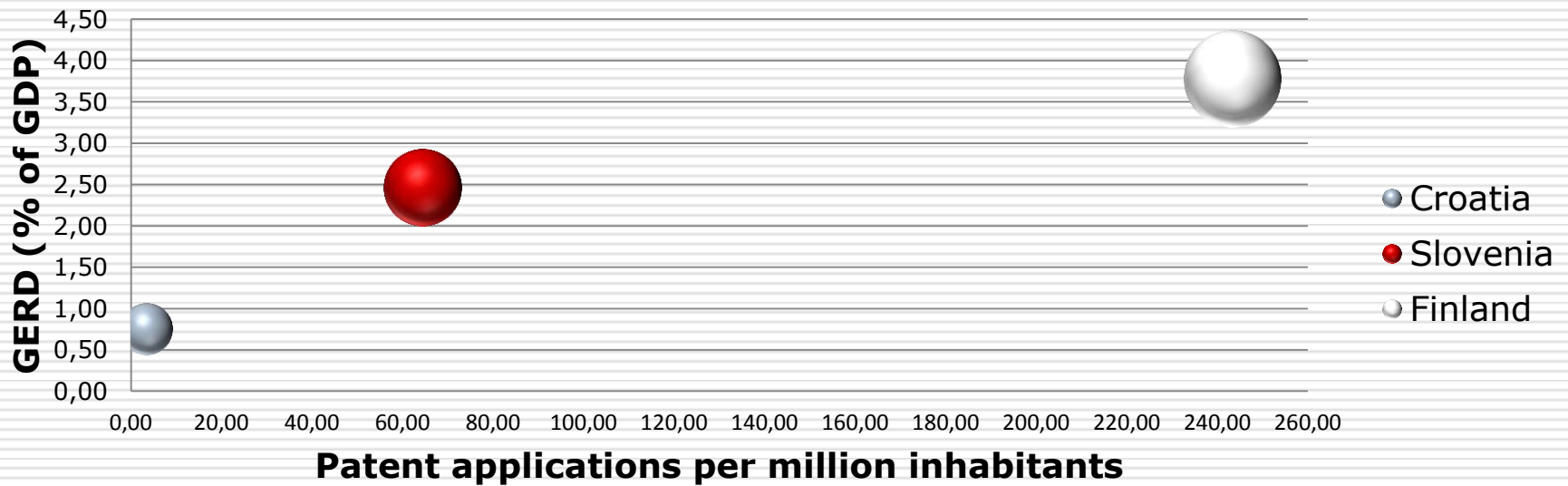
- When Croatia, Slovenia and Finland are compared, one can observe an increasing complexity of innovation policies, whereby focus changes over time



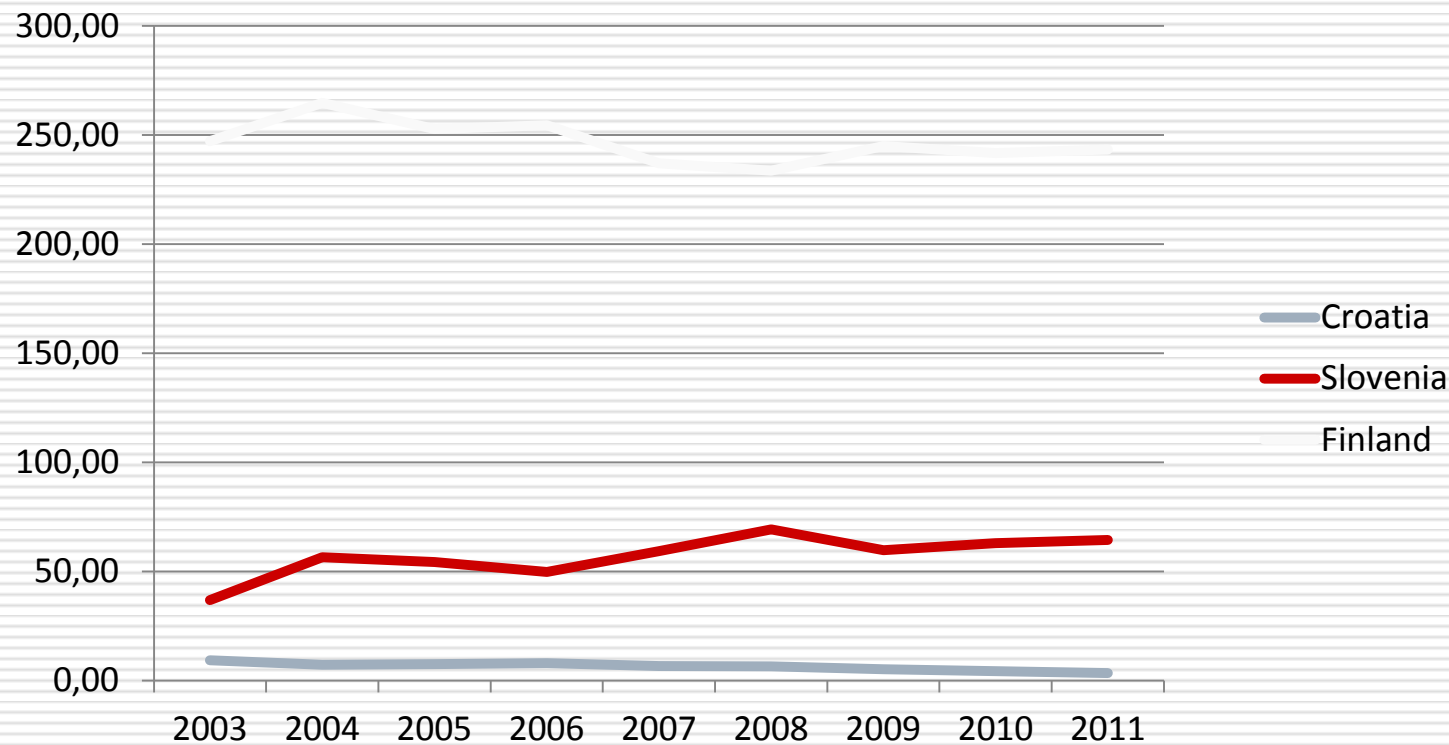
- GERD as % of GDP (2011)

■ Croatia	0,76
■ Slovenia	2,47
■ Finland	3,78

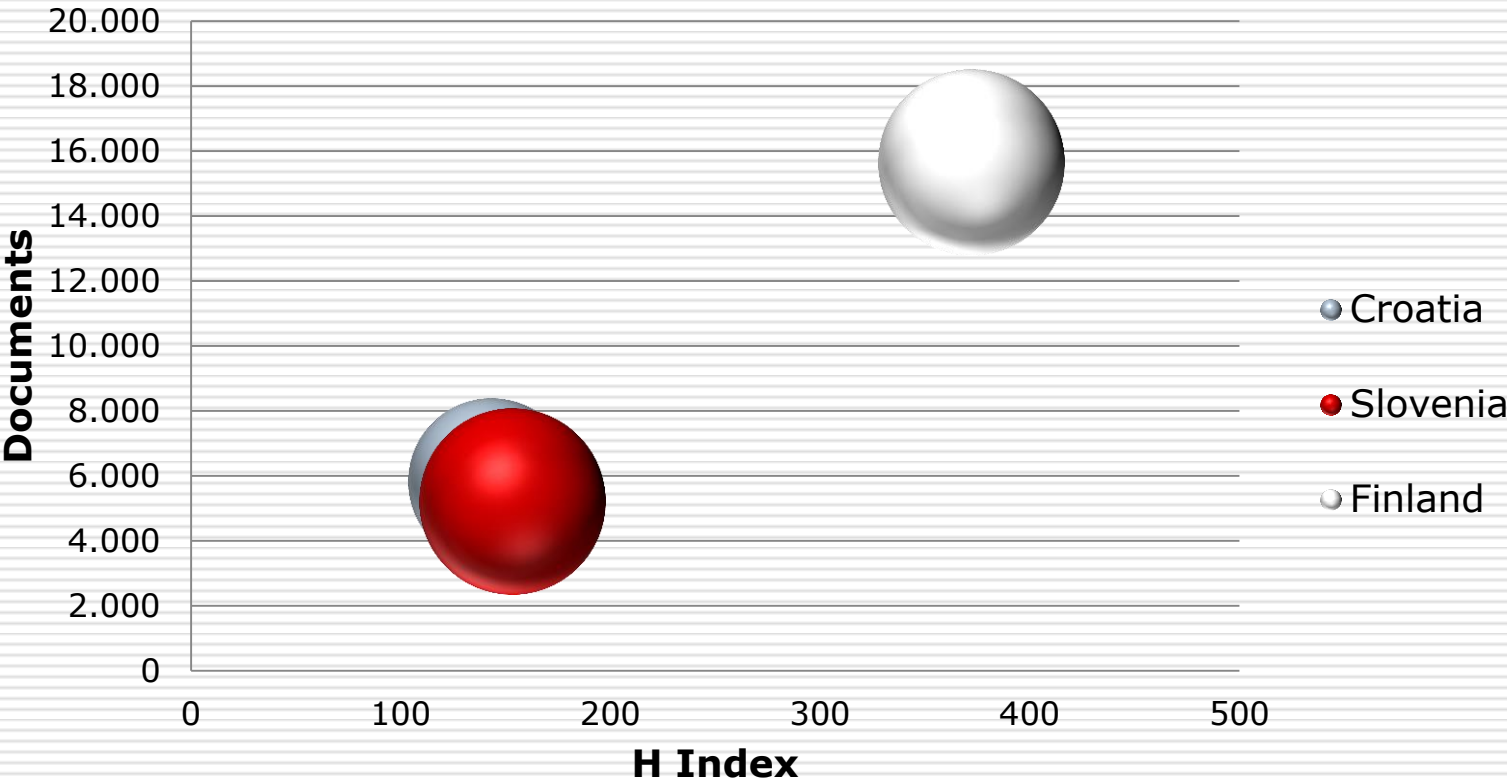
GERD vs. EPO patent applications



EPO patent applications, 2003 - 2011



Published documents vs. H index



Development of innovation policy (2)

- Development of innovation policy corresponds to:
 - the complexity of corresponding innovation systems
 - competitiveness of national economies
 - availability of resources (EU funds, business)
 - degree of internationalisation of innovation activities
 - systematic monitoring and evaluation

- Can this development trajectory be stopped?
 - Economic or political factors may lead to policy turns
 - Merger of 3 Slovenian agencies for entrepreneurship, innovation, FDI and tourism in late 2012

Common elements

- Some common elements of the innovation policy mix are necessary prerequisites for its effectiveness
- Scope and funding of policy measures
- Capacity of implementing institutions
 - Capabilities of actors in each sector (research, business, government)
 - Ministry of science and/vs. Ministry of economy
 - Innovation agency, intermediary institutions
 - (applied) research, technology transfer, science-industry cooperation, new technology-based firms
- Will open and user-driven innovation affect the core?

Specific characteristics

- Specific characteristics of an effective innovation policy depend upon its institutional environment, financial system and industrial structure
- Economic, institutional and technological peculiarities of particular countries, regions and sectors
 - importance of institutions at the meso-level (regions/sectors)
 - levels and types of innovation cooperation
 - bank-based vs. equity based financial systems
 - the role of large firms vs. SMEs
- Convergence towards (Anglo-Saxon) 'best practices'?
 - Marketisation, equity financing

Co-evolution of innovation policies and systems of innovation

- The complexity of innovation policy increases with the differentiation of the national innovation system
 - Complex research programmes
 - Intermediary institutions
 - Policy measures – expanded, differentiated, evaluated
 - The role of innovative start-ups and SMEs grows
 - Innovation collaboration, clusters and networks

- The benefits of increased complexity of innovation policy cannot be extended indefinitely
 - Limits in capabilities of the actors within the NIS
 - Fundamental uncertainty of innovation processes

Thank you!

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