

Unleashing North and Central Asia's Innovation Potential for Sustainable Development

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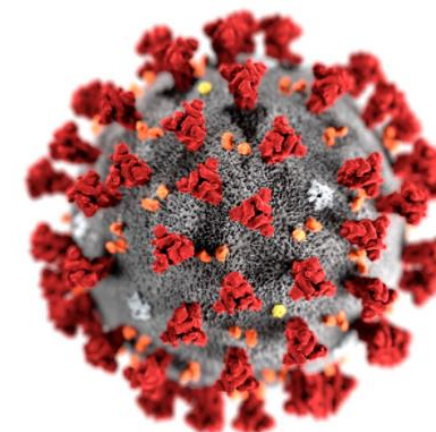
We are facing challenges...



Climate change



Economic development, diversification
and employment



Pandemics and other disasters

Innovation and technology are the keys for green transformation
for Sustainable Development

What are the innovations?



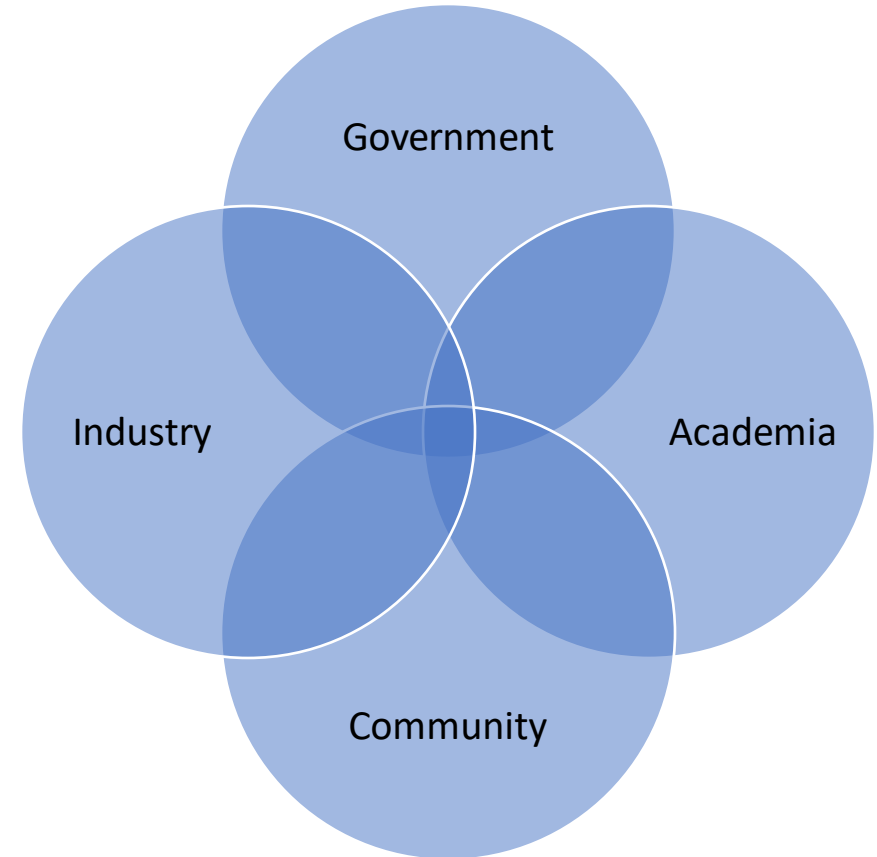
Product innovation, Process innovation, Business model innovation, Service innovation

Innovation can be Incremental, or Disruptive

National Innovation Ecosystem

Collaboration and coordination among various actors

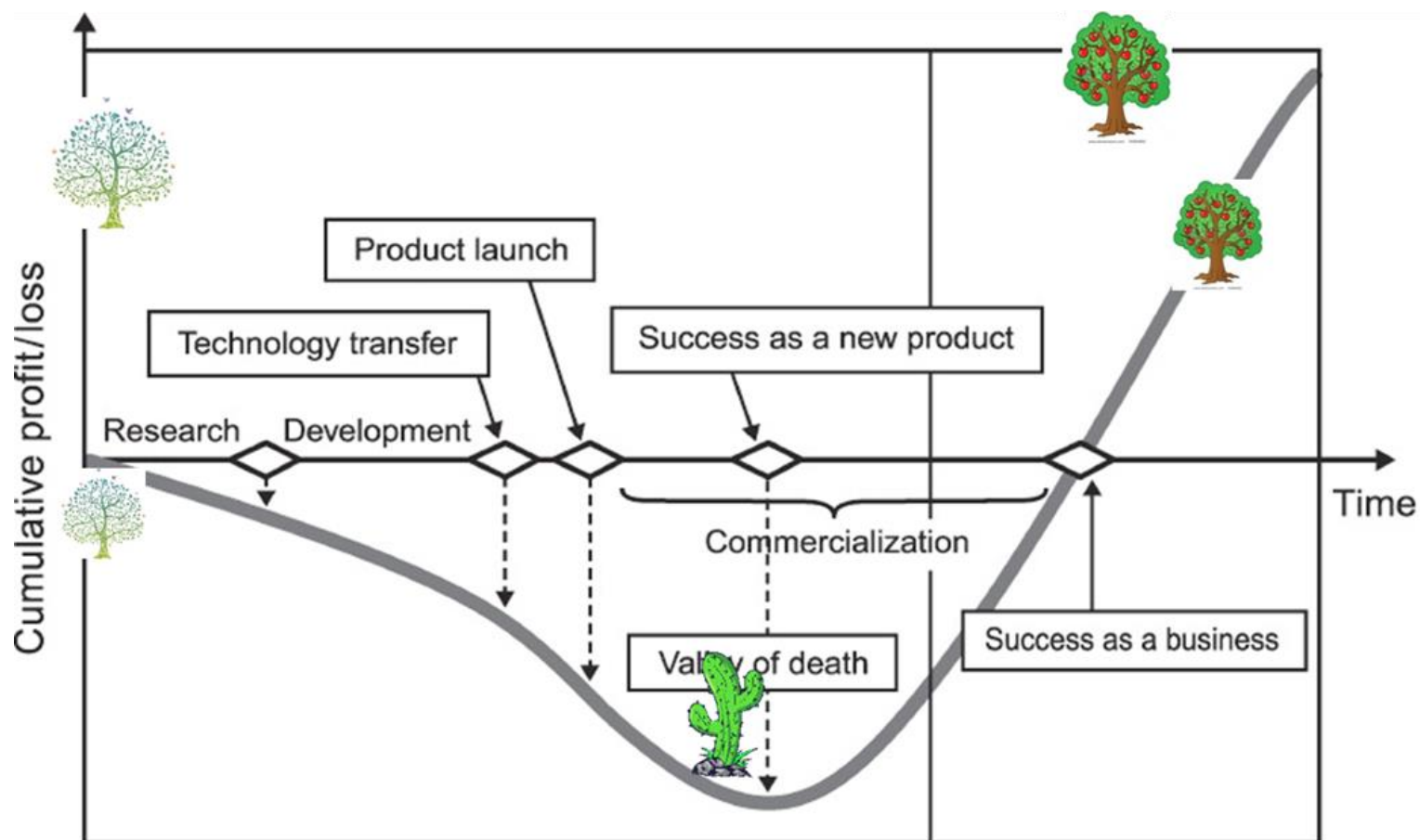
- Research and Development (R&D) Institution
- Government Policies and Initiatives
- Education and Skills Development
- Financial Infrastructure
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Protection
- Technology Transfer Mechanisms
- Networking and Collaboration
- Infrastructure and Support Services



Innovation landscape of SPECA countries

- A high share of low-tech industries, low intensity of research and development.
- Challenges in absorbing and adapting innovations from abroad
- Marginal private sector investment in innovation and a nascent entrepreneurship and start up culture.
- Skills gap and education system challenges
- Inadequate collaboration and networking among key stakeholders
- Good government efforts, e.g. Business incubators, accelerators, S & T parks, etc. with mixed results
- Inadequate physical and digital infrastructure, such as transportation networks, broadband connectivity, and digital platforms
- Limited access to financing: e.g. venture capital and other forms of financing for innovation and entrepreneurship
- Weak intellectual property rights (IPR) protection, and capacity to commercialize

Financing of Commercialization of Technologies – Valley of Death



Suggestions for future actions for consideration of SPECA countries

- Low hanging fruits – technology imports, absorption and adaptation of existing, tested technologies
- Invest in soft infrastructure (education, workforce development)
- Promote entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystems
- Facilitate Access to Financing
- Promote Digital Transformation
- Facilitate integration into the global value chains and promote foreign direct investment
- Improve business environment, and public sector transparency and accountability
- Connect publicly funded research and the market
- Foster Regional Cooperation



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