

Conclusions “Science against Poverty” Conference La Granja, 8-9 April 2010

Ten years ago, the United Nations and main global leaders approved a global alliance against poverty which established a series of assessable commitments, known as the Millennium Development Goals, set for 2015. Also a decade ago in Lisbon, Europe committed itself to becoming the most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010 respecting social cohesion and the environment.

Today, according to data from the World Bank, halfway through the timescale established for achieving the **Millennium Development Goals**, 190,000 children under the age of five and 10,000 women die every week from treatable illnesses and pregnancy complications. Five million people die each year from AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, and thousands of millions of people suffer privations long overcome by the privileged minority that are fortunate enough to have been born in a socio-economic environment like that enjoyed by the majority of Europeans. Approximately 1,000 million people suffer from starvation, double this figure are malnourished, and around half the developing world lacks access to basic sanitation facilities.

In 2010, the European Union enters a new stage established by the **EU 2020 Strategy**, which is focused around “smart, sustainable and inclusive growth” and incorporates the fight against poverty as one of its main initiatives in order to “raise awareness and recognise the fundamental rights of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion, enabling them to live with dignity and to take an active part in society”.

Europe is facing new challenges and new realities, in a different geopolitical setting to that of 2000, with greater presence of the economies of Asia and of other emerging powers such as Brazil, but maintains one fundamental objective, formulated in Lisbon: the definitive development of knowledge-based society and economy.

The **Spanish Presidency of the European Union** firmly believes that a Europe of knowledge ought to strive for a committed and more **sensitive science**. With this objective in mind, during two days on 8-9 April 2010, Science against Poverty conference created a **space for debate** within the European Union, open to the world, regarding the role played by European science and innovation in the fight against poverty and inequality. It was considered as a starting point of a future series of world class conferences.

The conference counted with the participation of 200 people attending the conference, 30 press journalists, in addition to the 230 interested ones who followed the conference live via web-streaming. **The participants came from 46 countries across the five continents**, while the speakers were from 25 nationalities representing enterprises, organisations, institutions and governments.

The contributions of research and innovation were presented in 12 parallel sessions that dealt with thematic and cross cutting issues of poverty and social exclusion. A vivid debate took place among experts, which brought to conclusions and recommendations that will be given below.

The results of this conference were taken to the Competitiveness Council of Ministers on 26 May, and were adopted as Council Conclusions of the Social Dimension of the European Research Area



The conference concluded that the **contribution of all sciences is necessary to eradicate poverty**. This can be achieved by a multifaceted approach such as creating incentives for researchers to shift scientific attention to relevant social problems; building partnerships and developing long term fora between scientists and policy makers with accountability and putting development issues under the science focus; by measuring rigorously the effectiveness of policies. Social sciences can play a role for this matter.

More specifically research and innovation can contribute to **answer poverty issues** related to climate change and access to renewable energies; health; nutrition and agriculture; water and sanitation; bridging the knowledge and technological gap; and education and training in Europe and abroad.

During the conference it was pointed out that there is **room for improvement** in the efficiency of **cooperation programmes** as too frequently they fail to fulfil recipients' requirements and expectations, hence the need to better combine top-down initiatives with bottom-up approaches. To be policy efficient needs to be evidence based.

People are an essential asset for alleviating poverty as the poorer countries need to achieve critical mass of scientific and technical skills; therefore the requirement for strong capacity building and a strong need to enhance mobility was reiterated at the conference. More mobility would make possible more knowledge interaction. The social contract for all the researchers and gender mainstream policies are essential for raising researchers' motivation. Recognition of international cooperation experience to all researchers will raise their awareness towards societal issues.

There is a constant need for an **efficient use of resources** by finding ways of public-private partnerships and enhance the private sector engagement, whose role is central. It is necessary to find and take into account the right balance between IPR protection and open source technologies. A new asset is to promote the ethical side of R&D on poverty. Most of the times the right way out combines a technological/engineering solution plus a particular social approach.

Parallel Thematic Round Tables Conclusions:

1. Food and Nutrition

Context:

There are more than 1 billion hungry people in the world today, and as the World in 2025 Report refers, malnutrition will grow rapidly in the future.

This session dealt with issues on the global food crisis, nutrition for the needy ones, agriculture research for development and gender perspective. It raised the issue on the impact that the poverty-related food and nutrition problems have in our societies and how policy-making can help to alleviate this dramatic problem.

Panel Speakers:

Global Food Crisis

Albert Sasson

President of Bioeurolatina

Nutrition for the ones who cannot afford it

Florence Wambugu

Director of A Harvest Biotech Foundation International

Nutrition for All: Harnessing Innovation to End Malnutrition

Jay Naidoo

Chairman of the Board of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)

Agriculture Research for development and gender perspective

Louise Sperling

Senior Scientist at International Center for Tropical Agriculture

Showcase (tbc)

Results and Methods of stakeholders participation from INCOfish European Project

Silvia Opitz

INCOFish project manager

Conclusions

It is clear that research and innovation can contribute to solve problems in food and nutrition aspects. There is a need for priority setting and strategy in research for development in agriculture. RTD+i in agriculture needs to be harmonised with agricultural policies.

Priority must be given to food crops produced by small farmers. The importance of **biofortification**, which is a novel approach towards nutrition, a technology that enables the rural poor to access nutrition by **building the nutritional value** within seeds and plants of the indigenous crops, is necessary.

Other recommendations, which came out of the session:

- Need for a bottom up approach with the involvement of all stakeholders.
- Need for constant monitoring and evaluation.
- Need to focus agricultural research change toward impact-oriented gender responsive agricultural science.
- Need for a more environmentally-friendly agriculture.
- Innovative solutions are required to end with poverty and malnutrition.
- A new "green revolution" is needed.
- Need for fair agricultural trade regulations.

2. Knowing Poverty

Context:

In order to combat poverty we need to understand what it is, how to measure it, how it is experienced over the life cycle and how it is reproduced. Policy-makers need to draw on social scientists, whilst scientists need to draw on data, theories and research methods.

This thematic session brought together a handful of world-leading social scientist to reflect upon how to improve research on poverty and social exclusion with a focus on what we still do not know.

Panel Speakers:

Setting the scene

Federico Mayor Zaragoza

Presidente de la Fundación Cultura de Paz

Facts and figures

José Antonio Alonso

Director ICEI, Universidad de Complutense

How to improve our knowledge on poverty dynamics

Stephen Jenkins

Professor of Economics, University of Essex

Showcase:

Poverty policy based on scientific evidence: The J-PAL experience at MIT

Rachel Glennerster

Executive Director of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), MIT Department of Economics

Conclusions:

The scientific, academic and intellectual community must lead, at its very forefront, the struggle against poverty and exclusion. In order to narrow the gap between the haves and the haves not, in order to consolidate genuine democracies, in order to build an inclusive human and sustainable development.

In the present situation poverty is multidimensional and all the facets should be taken into account.

- The roots of poverty must be considered.
- The social consequences.
- Poverty dynamics: taking into account the factor of time should be better known and followed.
- The prospective.
- Material poverty in the developing countries is often the result of intellectual and spiritual poverty of the rich countries.
- Most of the diagnosis have already been made. Now is time for action.

Below are some trends to rapidly redress:

- 3 bUS\$ per day for military purposes (armament) while more than 60.000 people (+/- 35.000 children) die daily of hunger.
- Hundreds of billions of US\$ for the "rescue" of financial institutions, but not for the "rescue of peoples" from starvation, AIDS and other diseases.
- Delocalisation of production to the East and the change of "direction" of innovators to the West.
- From plutocratic groups (G-8, G-20...) to multilateral institutions (developing the UN system) to avoid transgressions at the institutional level; to have good "regulatory mechanisms"; to avoid illegal traffic or arms, drugs and tax paradises.
- Change of the international legal IPR protection framework to allow the developing countries to access knowledge.
- Invest in research projects that allow knowing what is really functioning in development issues.

From market economy to global sustainable development:

- An economy based on social justice and ethical principles with social responsibility of scientists and innovators. It is essential to know and take advantage of the experience and wisdom of the "poor people" and to mobilise them in their own context.

- Research in Earth Sciences contributes efficiently to fight the effects of poverty and climate change. The reduction of the impact of geological hazards (earthquakes, floods, landslides, etc.) and the sustainable management of natural resources, in particular water and minerals, are also important factors in the fight against poverty in developing countries.
- Basic themes for development:
 - Renewable energies.
 - Food production (agriculture, biotechnology, research for improvement – nitrogenise complex for instance)
 - Water supply (collection, recycling, conduction, massive production by desalinization)
 - Health (access to basic services, diagnosis and treatment)
 - Eco-building for shelter.
 - Electrical transport.
 - Access to TIC facilities.
 - Access to education throughout life.

In the EU/ERA:

- Reinforce the ERC
- Promote the research infrastructures (ECRI) in order to be competitive
- Increase the public investment in RTD&i and its connection with cooperation.
- Innovative solutions as the “electronic transaction tax” agreed by the President of the Government of Chile, Brazil and France in the UN Summit, September 2008

The scientific community is ready to lead the transformation of the EU as **a leader** of the “knowledge based society” but now is essential the political willingness.

3. Bridging the Knowledge Gap

Context:

The knowledge and technology gap is a substantial aspect of inequality. It is related to all its dimensions, from accessing knowledge and technology, to its effective creation and use.

The process of knowledge and technology creation, diffusion and use is not automatic; it requires carefully designed strategies and policies for the implementation of sustainable actions. The presentations of this session dealt with these issues.

Panel Members:

Open Innovation and Technology Transfer

Francis Gurry

Director General World Intellectual Property Organization

Empowering knowledge access

María Del Pino

President of Fundación Rafael del Pino

Use of ITC technologies for improving health conditions in rural areas

Javier Simó

Representative, EHAS Foundation

ITC for development Cooperation and USHAHIDI experience

Juliana Rotich

Representative USHAHIDI Platform, Kenya

Showcase

The “One Laptop per child” experience

Jan Wildeboer

Solution Architect at Red Hat GmbH

Conclusions:



The public sector has an important role to play in creating a regulatory environment conducive to the transfer of knowledge and technology and in assisting in creating transparency in technology markets and in compensating for market failure. Reflection on the relative lack of success of the international community in influencing the transfer of technology is much needed.

Open innovation is the tendency of firms to look outside to satisfy their innovation needs. Open innovation projects can also constitute **vehicles for the transfer of technology**. Over recent decades a true bottom-up revolution, a revolution sparked by the market, has resulted in unprecedented levels of **growth in the development of private initiative, reduction of poverty** and expansion of the middle classes. During the current world recession we should not forget this period of success.

Millions of people in rural areas have insufficient health services because local health facilities are isolated from remote hospitals or reference centres. Appropriate technologies may give a positive response to this problem. However, the achievement of high impact results on these scenarios is only possible through **sustained long-term research programs**, good-quality funding instruments and institutional support.

A clear necessity for long term programming and capacity building for long term actions is needs to be properly set. The session concluded that there is a need for open sources of information.

4. Energy, Environment and Climate Change

Context:

Environmental sustainability, climate change, and lack of energy resources are affecting drastically social change, poverty and inequality. Sustainable development strategy, energy and climate affect substantially social premises for equality and wellbeing. Lately these changes have reached the political agenda at a very high level. This session dealt with thematic issues like impact of climate change on health, but as well policy issues and strategy building.

Panel Speakers:

Post Kyoto Treaty

John Forgách

Co Director, International Institute for Sustainable Development

Climate change and impact on health

Maria Neira

Director, Public Health and Environment; World Health Organization

Sustainable energy, climate change and poverty

Claudio Alatorre

Climate Change Expert, Inter-American Development Bank

Showcase

Example a Spanish enterprise transformation towards renewable energies

Carmen Becerril

Chairwoman ACCIONA Energy

Conclusions:

Climate change is fundamentally a development issue, more than a pollution problem. Fighting against it should be a poverty reduction priority. There is a clear necessity to change the methods to address climate change as the World has changed into a new geo-political reality and there is a growing need to adapt to new approaches.



We have witnessed too much ineffective top-down recommended action and not enough bottom-up consideration. A new approach would be to do both equally in order to seek alignments of interests for better traction.

There are many opportunities for mitigating climate change that simultaneously provide poverty-reduction and other development benefits, for example in renewable energy, energy efficiency, research in agriculture, forestry and in sustainable transport systems.

However, we are acting almost blindly as we do not have reliable instruments and indicators to provide feedback on the impact and co-benefits of our emission reduction policies. The same applies to environmental private sector investors, who are unable to calculate ROI and therefore do not invest. We need to create such measuring indicators.

Innovation is key to addressing Climate Change but social changes are also required. Low carbon urban transport solutions, for instance, are better addressed as social challenges rather than engineering challenges (same for primitive biomass stoves).

Primitive cooking stoves also represent a health problem for the poor (mostly women and newborns). They are the first to breath unhealthy methane and black carbon emissions. Introducing modern and efficient ovens in a country like India would contribute greatly to reducing Climate Change and improving the health of individuals

We need to shift the Climate Change scare and inhibiting message to a positive and constructive one: "I have a dream" (MLK), "Yes we can" (BHO).

You do not have to believe in the dangers of Climate Change to take positive action towards improving health through good environmental stewardship.

- The key to success in reducing emissions in the future is changing social behaviour and consumer demands. Politicians react to that and so does the private sector.
- We heard this morning that to get out of the 1929 financial crisis, we needed a World War. It may be that to get out of the current financial crisis we could start a Global War against fossil fuels. It will take time but should be started immediately. It seems that China is the only one that understood- and is truly implementing- this growth opportunity.

5. Water and Sanitation

Context:

By 2025 three billion people will be missing water and already more than 1 billion inhabitants do not have access to clean water nowadays and more than 2,5 billion are lacking sanitations systems.

The conference raised the issue of how can science and technology improve the current and future situation. The invited speakers, highly recognised figures in the field helped to bring out conclusions for an improved strategy and policy making in the field.

Panel Members:

Innovative policies

Ms Charity Ngilu

Minister of Water and Irrigation, Republic of Kenya

Policies for water and sanitation as a result of chemical research

Rodney Townsend

Representative of European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences
Chairman of the European Technology Platform on Sustainable Chemistry

How can technology be applied to water and sanitation for improving life conditions

Angel Cajigas Delgado

Executive Director General, Technological association for water treatment (ATTA)

Basic infrastructures for water and sanitation

Maria Jesus Ledesma Carbayo

Executive Committee Member of ISF-ApD (Engeneering without Borders)



Cooperation and Human Development Research
Ricard Gine
Researcher at Polytechnic University of Catalonia

Showcase
Experiences from the South: Challenges of Water and Sanitation in Southern Africa

Chris Buckley
Professor, Pollution Research Group, University of KwaZulu-Natal

Conclusions

Technologists and engineers need to work together with social scientists, governments, business world and particularly the communities to develop not just ideas, but above all innovative technologies and policies that provide sustainable solutions to all.

This will be achieved as a result of planning, designing, implementation, sustainability and involvement of all stakeholders for ownership purposes. Capacity building and institution strengthening are other key issue that were discussed in the session. Knowledge sharing and improvement of infrastructure, need for water mapping and low cost technology especially by accessing renewable energies (solar and wind).

Constant innovation and partnership among the stakeholders, training and future perspective by involving children through education to link what we are doing now with the future, using research and development for reaching the MDGs, using low cost technology and easy to understand and use. building durable partnerships among the universities, research organisations, enterprises, government and communities helps to further steps in the future. All of this will require a strong international and local political will.

Some more examples were given as below:

Chemistry and **chemical technological solutions** are critical for the development of realistic and sustainable solutions. IUPAC-led International Year of Chemistry, sponsored by UNESCO, and supported by EuCheMS. Water chemistry is one of the lead "Global Projects". A summary of proposed activities was presented. It has been reported that the European Technology Platforms on Sustainable Chemistry (SusChem) and Water Supply and Sanitation (WssTP) have formed an alliance to promote sustainable water management projects in Europe and beyond.

Measures should be put in place for the **planning and sustainable management of water resources** through the application of technology in its different forms. **Spain is a good example** where in recent years we have faced problems of quantity and quality.

ISF-ApD Water and Sanitation programs aim to contribute to the fulfilment of the human right to water by promoting the access to adequate an equitable provision of water and sanitation services in rural areas with a special focus in two levels of intervention:

- Establishment of **safe, affordable and sustainable water** & sanitation services, responding to communities demand and focusing on improvement of women position at local level.
- Improvement of **governance practices in water and sanitation** and management of water resources at local, district and basin level.

A range of sanitation options and water delivery mechanisms must be implemented for different urban densities, incomes and types of dwellings.

The utilisation of the nutrient values in excreta need to be explored from an agricultural, animal husbandry and public health perspective in order to promote household security.



Health being this basic component of wellbeing will have its special attention at the conference. Immunization and vaccines, fast growing populations in developing countries, and the role of research in fighting poverty related diseases and the gender dimension are some of the issues, which will be dealt in the conference.

Eminent figures will participate as speakers and participants of this round table where scientific evidence will help to give the importance for a strong policy interface in order to improve health conditions and raise these matters into the political research agenda.

Panel Speakers:

World health: Setting the scene

Tadataka Yamada

President of the foundation's Global Health Program; Melinda & Bill Gates Foundation

Immunization and Vaccines

Jean-Marie Okwo-Bele

Director of Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals, World Health Organisation

Ageing populations

Alex Kalache

Director of the International Centre for Policy on Ageing

The role of research on fighting AIDS, TB and Malaria

Mary Ann Lansang

Director of Knowledge Management Unit, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Health and gender issues

Charis Thompson

Professor, Department of Gender and Women's Studies, University of California

Showcase

The health research centre in Manhiça, Mozambique

Nuria Casamitjana

Executive Director, Barcelona Center for International Health Research (CRESIB), Hospital Clínic - Universitat de Barcelona

Conclusions:

There is a need for an increased global response to the challenges of global health. While the global response to date has had an impact, innovative new solutions and additional resources are needed to sustain progress against the world's deadliest diseases.

It is important to support technological innovation in health, which will improve existing interventions and drive the development of new ones.

Partnerships and increased resources in developing and delivering new technologies to the people who need them most. Need trained personnel, sufficient supplies of vaccines and injection technologies, application of appropriate, tailored strategies and financing, all of which can be facilitated by political commitment at all levels.

Immunization is crucial. Introducing new vaccines will help prevent some 1.3 million child deaths attributed to pneumococcal disease, meningococcal disease and rotavirus. Immunization also provides an opportunity in which to deliver other health services, thereby contributing to a reduction of child mortality, from a number of causes.

Ageing is another worrying issue. In order to positively react to it, countries both North and South will need to adopt policies that are affordable, sustainable and committed to equity. The World Health Organization developed an "Active Ageing policy framework" in which such policies can be anchored, coherent with the principles and values embraced by countries signatories of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.



The Research for Fighting AIDS, TB and Malaria can provide an arsenal of knowledge and tools, **ranging from the results of basic science and applied research to health policy and systems research, including implementation research.** In addition, the Global Fund can act as a 'pull' mechanism for further research and innovation.

Moving **specifically to women's health**, a life course perspective is essential: from pre-natal gender issues such as fetal selection for son preference, to adolescent health and sexuality, to childbearing and raising, to menopause and beyond. Particular attention needs to be paid to women's mental health, LGBT health, reproductive health, health in conflict zones, health of immigrant and refugee women, and the health of women with disabilities.

Programme, Friday 9th April **Parallel Cross-cutting Round Tables:**

1. Stakeholders Involvement

Context:

This session aims at creating an open dialog and draw conclusions and recommendations from the interchange of opinions and expertise of policy makers, parliamentarians, agencies, sponsors, founders, NGOs and citizens representations.

The role of universities, civil society, third sector actors, the European Parliament will outline the general expected results of the session, which will be taken into the final conference conclusions and will draw recommendations for future policy making in and enhanced interaction of research and cooperation stakeholders.

Panel Speakers:

The European Parliament view

Teresa Riera

Member of the European Parliament

International Cooperation Development and Policy Involvement

Carlos Alberdi

Cultural and Scientific Relations Director, AECID

The NGOs view

Miguel Ángel Pantoja Molina

President of ISF ApD

Universities as knowledge generators in the fight against poverty

Jaime Cervera

Director for International Cooperation, Representative of Universities, CEURI Cooperation Commission

Governance key to development, the role of civil society

Susana del Rio

Professor in Political Science and Sociology

Member of Experts Committee of the European Commission in Science, Society and Governance and in: Citizens and governance in the knowledge based society

Showcase

The African perspective

Alfred Nhema

Chief Executive Officer of the Pan African Development Centre

Conclusions:



There is a need to shift RTD priorities to developing issues and exclusion problems by having researcher focused and long-term planning policies. Focus must be put on strengthening the S&T systems and capacities of developing countries. Capacity building is the key. Another need to restructure international relations in the field of S&T. Society must get more involved in the definition of scientific policies and agendas. Need to connect people with institutions

The European Parliament showed full commitment with the Social Dimension of the European Research Area. There is need for focus to be put on strengthening the S&T systems and capacities of developing countries, restructuring international relations in the field of S&T, improve North-South cooperation in S&T.

The Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID) made clear the need to introduce impact assessment mechanisms and have in mind strategic objectives such as RTD capacity building, knowledge transfer, promotion of innovation.

People need to have major participation into Science and Technology agendas, which need to be shifted towards Social Inclusion issues. They need to influence political agendas, with new drivers, not just economic ones.

It was shown that International Cooperation Programmes have not been very efficient in this. Need to know the recipients needs (NGOs can help in this). There is a need for the mix of technological-social solutions

There is a general need for having a knowledge map. As well the need to create "Research Groups for Development", experts in their field, rigorous, with bottom-up approaches and coordinated with their counterparts in the South. To put poverty under the focus of research we need incentives and Drivers: Financial, recognition and strategy: Networks of knowledge, long-term sustainable programmes

2. Education and Training

Context:

Education and training are essential for building a better future for the individuals and societies. Education for equality and inclusion, issues such as capacity building, online education and training will be raised at this session.

The outcome of the discussions drew the attention on the role of education and training initiatives for promoting better tailored inclusive policies in the future.

Panel Speakers:

Education for social inclusion

Carlos Malpica Faustor

Professor and Consulting Expert; Ex-Minister for Education in Peru

Brain Circulation and Mobility

Yevgeny Kuznetsov

Senior economist, World Bank

Initiatives to access to education

Ramón Flecha

Professor of Sociology at the University of Barcelona

Capacity Building, Online education and training

Nelson Sewankambo

Principal of College of Health Sciences, Uganda

Showcase

The Arab experience

Gema Martín Muñoz

Director General, Casa Árabe Madrid

Conclusions:

Education might contribute to the fight against social exclusion and poverty, using modern and free or low-cost technologies, through:

- Programmes oriented to build up institutional and personal capabilities to acquire existing scientific and technological knowledge (using modern information and communication technologies)
- Discover, create and revalorise scientific and technological knowledge (using scientific research methods)
- Formulate plans, programmes and projects with scientific and technological inputs and goals (using participative planning methods and techniques)
- Implement and evaluate the dissemination of development-oriented scientific and technological innovations (using management, monitoring and evaluation systems).

Education builds up scientific and technological knowledge, skills and attitudes, both at the individual and the collective level, and scientific evidence, methods and attitude applies at all educational levels and modalities. For this reason the educational efforts require:

- Innovations in contents and methods (curriculum development);
- Supply of appropriate institutional and community facilities, equipments and services (investment in educational infrastructure);
- Enhance research and development capabilities (personal and institutional capabilities) and
- Attract, develop and retain teams and networks of qualified personnel (staff development)

Brain Circulation is a means to fight poverty and social exclusion for home less developed countries. The most direct mechanism for knowledge creation and transfer to the home country would be for the highly educated migrants to return to their home countries.

Some other ways are:

- Skilled diasporas can be very useful for home countries but to develop their potential, concerted effort is required. This concerted effort takes time.
- In the short term, individual champions and tangible success stories (demonstration effects) are the key
- In the longer-term, institutions of the home countries are the key (Diasporas are not a panacea)
- Focus on pragmatism: relying on individual champions to develop institutions

As a summary, **research in education and training needs to contribute to policy making**. Critical communicative research perspective has shown to have a significant social and political impact on the European educational and social systems.

Science role is very important to lead toward scientific analysis oriented towards identifying strategies that lead to social inclusion and those which lead to social exclusion

Dialogue and developments contrasted with all the social actors is crucial.

3. Innovative Solutions

Context:

Innovative solutions, supporting sustainable as well as social innovation, are key for managing and overcoming the economic and social crisis and for reducing poverty.

This session dealt with transversal issues such as entrepreneurial innovative solutions, innovative processes, innovative technology parks and innovative financing. It built upon the importance of innovating for achieving better results for fighting poverty and building upon strong recommendations for common learning and policy making.

Panel Speakers:

Translation of Innovation through technology parks

Manuel Cendoya

Founder of the San Sebastian Technology Park and European Union Project Leader for the International Technopark of Panama



Gender perspective

Judith Sutz

Professor at the University of Uruguay (tbc)

Innovative results through inter-institutional research

María Blasco

Deputy Director for Basic Research, Director of Cancer Programme, Head of telomere and telomerase group, Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO)

Access to Medicines & Neglected Diseases

Olaf Valverde

Representative of Doctor without Borders. Clinical Project Manager at DNDi

Showcase

Practical medical devices for use in low income countries

Jose Gómez-Márquez

Humanitarian of the Year 2009, Program Director for the Innovations in International Health initiative at MIT

Conclusions:

Science and technology parks have become useful instruments in promoting innovation. They would need a more open approach to become a much more powerful instrument to expand knowledge and technology transfer from the industrialised to the developing countries.

Research and innovation for social inclusion is an issue of research and scientific political agenda. Solutions of how to insert social inclusion on this agenda will be explained and recommended in this session

A model of innovation for accelerating the development of global health technologies across a wide array of disciplines. The resulting **collaboration** between researchers, users, and health practitioners has launched **a growing portfolio of inventions** that are at different stages of deployment was presented by the MIT Prize Humanitarian of the Year 2009.

It is of importance the **strong long-run community partners** which show a willingness to understand each other's opinions about healthcare development, the cultural, regulatory, and economic ramifications that result in the promotion of health care workers above their traditional professional requirements, and into the **role of a technology innovator**.

- Collaboration is needed in terms of Intellectual Property Rights, pushing for a fluid communication in knowledge.
- At EU level need for funds in research for the fight against poverty, not only at short term and via project funding- as done now, but also a long term vision needs to be incorporated.

4. Gender and Development

Context:

How do gender issues affect poverty and social exclusion and what can science do to alleviate this? What are some of the gender perspectives in migration and most vulnerable populations? What are some of the reference gender policies? How do we involve the gender dimension to create sustainable policies for developed and developing countries? The session tried to answer these questions and give the importance to mainstream gender policies as well as apply social policies on gender and child poverty into policy making.

Panel Speakers:

Reference Gender Policies

Inés Sánchez de Madariaga

Director Woman and Science Unit, Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation

How can social science alleviate child poverty?

John Cockburn



Professor, Department of Economics at Université Laval

Gender perspective in African and Diaspora Education

N'dri Assie-Lumumba

Professor of African and Diaspora education, Cornell University

Practical solutions against endemic diseases and women's role: Chaga's disease

Pilar Mateo

Director, Inesfly, Ingeniería de Salud

Showcase

UNESCO initiatives in developing Science and Technology policies for poverty eradication

Diana Malpede

Senior Specialist at Science, Policy and Sustainable Development Division, UNESCO

Conclusions:

Gender equality and science policies are **two priorities of the Spanish Presidency** of the European Union. Both are priorities as independent fields of policy action but also as they overlap in two ways.

First, promoting **equal recognition of merit** independent of sex: who makes science or presence of women in research institutions?

Second, promoting **gender mainstreaming** in the content of science and technological development: what science is doing? And for whom, with an objective of promoting a more egalitarian access to resources of all kinds.

No Science against Poverty program can be effective without a full participation of women and without a full consideration of women's realities, needs and expectations.

Gender inequality constitutes **individual and social loss**, a hindrance to social progress. This is said in terms of education conceived as a human right as well as an investment for socio-economic development.

Social sciences can be applied to bring rigorous evidence on the different facets of child poverty in the design of policies that directly or indirectly affect children. By bringing solid data and rigorous policy-relevant analysis, **social science can make a major contribution to alleviating child poverty.**

Issues of child poverty and its in depth analysis for policy making was treated. It was as well outlined the relevance of engaging and supporting developing country researchers, with support from international experts (from the South or the North).

5. Social Science and Policies

Context:

Which policies are most effective in alleviating poverty? Can policies that work in a given context be successful in others? How can social scientist evaluate the real impact of anti-poverty policies? "Social Science and Policies" will bring together a handful of world-leading social scientists to reflect on how science can inform anti-poverty policies.

Panel Speakers:

How to improve the science-policy link in the EU

John Wood

Chair of European Research Area Board

The role of poverty monitoring institutes as knowledge generators and policy making

Lluís Grande

Deputy Director for Social Inclusion
Catalonian Government

Promoting pro-poor and social inclusive policies



Charles Gore

Special Coordinator for Cross-sectoral Issues, UNCTAD

Strengthening national research systems in support of poverty eradication, towards an integrated approach

Paul de Guchteneire

Coordinator Intersectoral Platform on Strengthening National Research Systems, Chief International Migration Section, UNESCO

Scientific Research and Social Development in Latin America

Isabel Licha

Senior Advisor on Social Policy, Spain-UNDP Trust Fund "Towards an Integrated and Inclusive Development", UNDP

Showcase

Contributions from the RISE Network: Evaluating the effectiveness of development policies

Eliana La Ferrara

Professor, Università Bocconi

Conclusions:

It is of importance to **promote links between evidence and policy makers**, to develop long term fora between scientists and policy makers with accountability, to have an holistic approach of all sciences to tackling issues of poverty. It is essential to promote social matters in addition to economic aspects of poverty alleviation, to develop a systematic approach to research and innovation, to ensure aid supports an effective R&D, even for the poorest countries.

Policies must be adopted by governments who should account upon evidence. Programmes like the Framework Programme need not just to concentrate on competitiveness, but have a broader view. Impact of policies can and should be measured rigorously and it is from the Social Science methods, which can allow measurement of effectiveness of policies.

It is very relevant to reinforce the role of poverty observatories to monitor the impact of policies, to enhance knowledge sharing between poverty observatories and foster networks creation among them.

A new perspective is needed to promote the ethical side of R&D on poverty, to employ the social contract for all researchers and foster anti-poverty policies based on international rights. Develop research training to ensure all students are aware of the impact of their research on global challenges and poverty alleviation can empower change. Tackle the problem of university governance so that they are more effective in R&D for poverty alleviation is another challenge. And last but not least the panel recommended that investing in innovation in companies and farms to drive development is positive to combat poverty.

6. Creation of Sustainable Businesses

Context:

Creating and growing sustainable business is working at the core of the creation of wealth and jobs in our societies, hence of great importance for the general aspects of combating poverty. Creating inclusive businesses must help with the creation of an inclusive system of production and hence very social.

This session treated mostly about this. Examples given in this session, but as well results and recommendations on business creation in EU countries and beyond helped to formulate better entrepreneurial pro-poor policies.

Panel Speakers:

Growing Sustainable Businesses

Tomas Sales

General Manager Growing Sustainable Business Programme; United Nations Development Programme



Maturation of technologies and critical factors: Enabling the critical role of the private sector in global health

Peter Singer

Director, McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health, University Health Network and University of Toronto

Successful sponsorship

Marc Simon

Director for Social Integration, Fundació la Caixa

Social Entrepreneurship

María Zapata

Director of the International Relations, ASHOKA

Showcase

PATH/WHO Partnership: Elimination of meningitis epidemics in Sub-Saharan Africa

Marc Laforce

Global Program Leader; Program for Appropriate Technology in Health PATH

Conclusions:

Sustainable Business for poverty alleviation are profitable, inclusive and environmentally sound business that integrate the poor, particularly the disadvantaged and most vulnerable population, in sustainable market opportunities that bring about their participation and benefits

Partnerships are very important for **creating sustainable business**. Two examples are given:

- The UNDP GSB (Growing Sustainable Business) Initiative, launched in 2004 as pioneer effort to facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships for **private sector investments and innovative business models to combat poverty** and advance the goals of the MDGs. UNDP GSB has led to several successful partnership such as lead company links to small farmers through value chain agricultural projects in Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania.
- The Meningitis Vaccine Project (MVP), was established in 2001 with Gates Foundation support with the goal of eliminating epidemic meningitis through the development and widespread introduction of an affordable Group A meningococcal (Men A) conjugate vaccine. **Using an innovative partnership model** MVP has developed a Men A conjugate vaccine (MenAfriVac™) with a target price of less than \$US 0.50 per dose.

Social entrepreneurship is also very important for creating sustainable business. Ashoka presented several experiences such Ashoka Hybrid Value Chain, Social Business and Entrepreneurship Models centered on innovative Community Social Organizations (CSO) leadership and goals.

There are many examples of constructive private sector engagement including donation of drugs (such as the Merck Mectizan program) or intellectual property (such as the GSK patent pool), and major contributions to drug and vaccine development, notably the public private partnerships and the advanced market commitment. The example of Foundation La Caixa program for social inclusion of vulnerable children through integrated support to families and social institutions was presented successfully.

It was recommended that EU should provide support and funding to strong policy advocacy, research and multi-stakeholders partnerships to promote sustainable business that are both inclusive and social enterprise oriented.

There exist several examples of concrete private sector engagements initiatives that can be supported including UNDP GSB Program, Ashoka Social Entrepreneurship and the public private partnerships for drugs and vaccine development and advanced market commitments interventions (such as the Merck Mectizan program) or intellectual property (such as the GSK patent pool), and other major contributions.



Social innovation is reached by **supporting particular enterprising models of social inclusion** that tackle fully the needs of groups at risk of marginalisation and that embrace the vision and the participation of all stakeholders