

**A Public Workshop:
PILOT – Policy and Innovation in Low-Tech Industries**

Thursday, 25th November, 2004, Frederick Institute of Technology, Nicosia,
Cyprus

PILOT is a European-funded project under the Fifth-Framework Programme. It is coordinated by the University of Dortmund in Germany and there are ten other partners in nine different countries around Europe.

The starting point of PILOT is a fundamental critique of the widely held view that ‘high-tech’ industries are the key to success and that ‘low-tech’ sectors are unimportant, especially for industrialised countries. Due to the global division of labour, the argument goes, the appropriate place for producers of seemingly mundane goods such as simple gaskets, office material, corrugated paper boxes, standard kitchen furniture, and bath tubs is less developed and low-wage regions; up-to-date economic and technological policy, therefore, should primarily support the emergence and development of knowledge-intensive high-tech sectors. Among the reasons for rejecting these views is that:

- low-tech industries are – and will be in the foreseeable future – important not only for employment and growth but also for knowledge formation in European economies;
- there are underestimated innovative capabilities in low-tech industries that support rapid technological change elsewhere;
- the presence of low-tech products and companies is very often a crucial precondition for the innovative ability of whole value chains and for the design, fabrication and application of high-tech products of various kinds.

The purpose of this public workshop is to present interim findings on the research to date. Further details can be found at the website www.pilotproject.org.

The programme for the evening is as follows:

Workshop: Policy and Innovation in Low-Tech Industries

25th November, 2004, Frederick Institute of Technology, Nicosia, Cyprus

6.00 pm

Introduction to the PILOT project:
Policy and Innovation in Low-Tech Industries

Prof. Hartmut Hirsch-Kreinsen
Industrial Sociology
University of Dortmund, Germany

6.15 pm

Networks: Relationships Among Hi-Tech and Low-Tech Firms and their
Contribution to Success

Dr. Andrea Bardi
Regional Economics
The Institute for Labour Foundation (IpL)
Bologna, Italy

6.45 pm

Case Studies: Close Examination of So-Called Low-Tech Firms

Prof. Holm-Detlev Koehler and
Dr. Hans van den Broek
Industrial Sociology
University of Oviedo, Spain

7.15 pm

Policy: What Can We Say About Appropriate State Policies in Relation to
Low-Tech Firms and Industries?

Prof. David Jacobson
Industrial Economics
Dublin City University, Ireland and
Frederick Institute of Technology, Cyprus

8.00

Open Forum: Implications for Cyprus
Chaired by Dr. Bernard Musyck
Frederick Institute of Technology

8.30

Refreshments