

Globelics Conference 2017, Athens, Greece, 11-13 October

The **15th Annual Globelics Conference (11-13 October, 2017)** will be organised by the **Laboratory of Industrial and Energy Economics** in cooperation with **the Institute of Communication and Computer Systems at the at the National Technical University of Athens**. This is an event of **international impact**, as the Globelics network has a global synthesis and addresses the scientific community of innovation and development studies, policy makers and policy shapers as well industrial, technology and business experts.

Globelics (the acronym for the Global Network for Economics of Learning, Innovation, and Competence Building Systems) is a global network of **more than 2000 scholars** with a primary objective to stimulate and raise the quality of research on innovation and development worldwide. Since 2003, when Globelics Conference was first organized in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, it has been hosted by all BRICS countries (**Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**) and by other countries in different continents but Europe. The 15th Globelics, Conference will be held in Athens, Greece on 11-13 October 2017. This choice reflects a significant interest in further enhancing the global debate on how innovation can foster economic growth and economic development, focusing on the European environment, but from a global perspective.

Globelics was founded by Bengt Ake Lundvall, Luc Soete and other distinguished scholars, inspired by the work of Christopher Freeman and Richard Nelson, and was initially built on conversations among scholars in the South (Jose Cassiolato, Mammo Muchie and Shulin Gu) and in the North (Bengt-Åke Lundvall, Christopher Freeman, Richard Nelson and Luc Soete) and developed by economists and experts on innovation systems. Over time it has integrated expertise from a wider social science background and experts on broader aspects of development. In this regard, Globelics is being developed in a worldwide, open and diverse community of scholars and young researchers working on innovation and competence building in the context of economic development.

A founding principle of Globelics network is that economic development involves innovation and that successful innovation requires multiple layers of interaction and learning among a wide range of individuals, organizations and institutions. This aspect of the development process is often neglected in the economic growth literature and a principal objective of Globelics is to embed its implications more clearly in research and policy discussions. The Globelics perspective is systemic,

socio-economic, institutional and evolutionary. It aims at theoretical advancement based on three broad observations:

- Learning and interaction are key to successful innovation and development: Process and outcome are often inseparable and this needs to be built into analysis and policy work.
- Local context matters: Highly abstract analysis or policy that ignores the specifics of particular environments can only be of limited use in understanding and promoting innovation and development.
- Innovation goes beyond R&D: Successful innovation often requires a mix of experience-based learning and learning from R&D activities as well as knowledge emanating from social, organizational and institutional change

The 15th International Globelics Conference will be hosted by the **Laboratory of Industrial and Energy Economics (LIEE)** in cooperation with the **Institute of Communication and Computer Systems** at the **National Technical University of Athens**, the oldest (established in 1837) and most prestigious Greek academic institution in the field of Technology and Engineering. LIEE, a partner of the European Network of Excellence DIME (2005-2012), is a well-established research unit with research focusing on several topics, including the study of innovation, research and innovation networks, knowledge flows, firm's dynamic capabilities, entrepreneurship and international competitiveness, as well as the socioeconomic impact of technological development and globalization in different contexts. LIEE's research activities are entirely funded through national and European research contracts.

The Conference will bring together around **400 world leading scholars and young scholars** from all over the world. Travel grants provided by Globelics make it possible for young scholars (half of the participants) and scholars from poor countries to take part and contribute. The conference also aims at building research capacity and orienting research toward the local challenges of the host country, while exploring possible synergies with other European institutions, as well.

Athens will be the first European city to host the Globelics Annual Conference. This was considered as an opportunity to highlight the challenges for a country hit by the recent economic crisis. Innovation and competence building in the context of industrial and institutional change can be of great importance when envisaging a strategy out of the crisis. The conference will combine **plenary sessions, presentations of research papers** in parallel tracks, **thematic panel**

sessions or special sessions, poster presentations, a book presentation session and debate. Special attention among conference tracks will be given on issues related to smart cities and creative industries, open innovation and open science and the impact of disruptive market-creating innovation that is required to turn best ideas into new opportunities, businesses and jobs. In addition, we plan to **organize a series of parallel activities during the conference, to highlight the opportunities, achievements and the role and prospects of the Greek research, production and business system and in particular the importance of industry cooperation with universities and research centers.** Our aim is to enable enterprises (new and established ones) and organizations (academic, research, regulatory, etc.) to present their research and innovation projects in an effort to **showcase** the prospects of the Greek production and innovation system.