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Deloitte held a round table entitled “High-potential areas of technology business and modern education development in the Ulyanovsk Region”

Moscow, Russia, 25 March 2016. *Deloitte CIS held a round table entitled “High-potential areas of technology business and modern education development in the Ulyanovsk Region.”*

With support from the Ulyanovsk Centre of Technology Transfer and the Education Ministry of the Ulyanovsk Region, Deloitte CIS and the government of the Ulyanovsk Region held a round table to discuss high-potential areas of technology business and modern education development in the region.

Round-table talks included presentations of projects that involve the creation of an innovation ecosystem in the Ulyanovsk Region: “Smart School” and “Cerebrum.”

In his opening speech, **Alexander Smekalin, First Deputy Chairman of the Ulyanovsk Region Government**, noted that technology business and modern education are among the top-priority areas for the region's development, which will help “build an economy of today – rather than yesterday – enabling Russia to deal with global challenges.”

Andrey Redkin, Head of the Ulyanovsk Technology Transfer Centre, Ulnanotech, discussed with the round table participants the possibility of creating an innovation ecosystem, which will be aimed at comprehensive development of modern education and promotion of cooperation between educational institutions and technology companies in the region. During the round table, it was noted that the prerequisites for such a system already exist in the region. The participants also discussed the need to cultivate partner relations with international universities and share best educational practices, including the involvement of leading representatives of the global scientific community in the development of modern educational approaches in the region.

Alexander Krasnov, Senior Consultant at Deloitte CIS, elaborated on the topic of innovation ecosystems by delivering a presentation on the leading innovation ecosystems in Europe and the specific nature of cooperation between technology transfer centres (TTC) and R&D groups in universities.

Marina Strulnikova, Nanocenter Legal Counsel, introduced the concept of the “Technocampus School” and the educational project (“Smart School”): a modern educational institution that aims to develop flexible thinking, technological knowledge and capability to

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implement ideas in school children. “An interest in receiving new knowledge is a child’s supreme motivation during the learning process. Creating conditions where a pupil will enjoy the educational process is Smart School's key task,” she said.

Ekaterina Pershina, Director of the Ulyanovsk Regional Art Centre for Children and the Youth, presented a project that involves the creation of the “Cerebrum” scientific interactive educational centre. This additional education project is aimed at developing children’s talents and includes the creation of innovative, social and administrative, touristic and industrial zones, with each zone facilitating the development of knowledge and skills that are in demand in today’s world.

Furthermore, the participants discussed legislative initiatives that would help develop an innovation ecosystem in the region. Such initiatives include the simplification of the migration regime, the provision of tax benefits for the technology park, housing subsidies and the simplification of government procedures for the park residents and employees as well as fostering internal generation of electricity for the park’s needs, etc.

In conclusion, **Svetlana Chekmazova, Senior Manager at Deloitte**, emphasised the technology business and modern education’s strategic value for the Ulyanovsk Region. “The development of an innovation ecosystem with the application of leading educational practices is the best way to invest into the regional economy,” she said.

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