1. The successful, knowledge-based economies are performing well because they developed all the critical ingredients of competitiveness: good human capital, adequate skills and relevant experience, high-tech manufacturing and modern services providers, a sophisticated market with advanced financial infrastructure, and an efficient administration. These economies are characterized by a business-friendly corporate environment, plus they manage to organize various kinds of financial and other support instruments to encourage innovative enterprises and their partnering – at the local, national and the global level.

These support instruments can be divided into:
- creating supportive regulatory environment;
- building human capital and developing relevant skills;
- facilitating access to finance;
- encouraging internationalization;
- tax and fiscal facilities for RTDI.

2. Under conditions of globalization many economic actors, particular the SMEs, experience the disadvantage of not being able to reach the optimal economies of scale. The answer to the problem lies in various types of partnerships: from building long-term supply chains, joining regional and international clusters, entering industrial and science & technology parks, to joining competence and centers of excellence, etc.

Creation of a stable and productive environment for dynamic, innovative companies is a very complex and demanding task for any national or regional government. With modern rankings and advanced system of indicators it is relatively easy to conclude who is successful and who is not in pursuing the strategic goal of making an economy successful and internationally competitive.

The backbone of any knowledge economy strategy is the concern about the results of innovation and entrepreneurship processes, and their cross-fertilisation.

3. The KEN-2012 Istanbul Workshop will follow the standard KEN format: bringing together some 30 experts from Triple Helix Partners, including a few representatives of NGOs and specialized media. The workshop will take about 4 hours, and will be divided into 2 parts: in the first part, after the welcome addresses of COSGEB and KEN, some 6-8 presentations (about 15 minutes) will be delivered. The second part, after the break,
will be somewhat shorter, is intended to discuss and adopt the draft-recommendations (to be prepared by KEN Secretariat).

4. The following draft-programme is proposed:

08.30 Registration
09.00 Opening remarks and welcome by the hosting organization - KOSGEB
09.10 Introductory remarks by KEN Chairman

**Part One – Presentations on Key Issues**

09.15 Support for Innovative Entrepreneurship for boosting knowledge-based Competitiveness – Current state and policies for Horizon 2020, European Commission (name tbc)

09.30 Challenges and Opportunities of Business-Academia partnerships – dr.Boris Cizelj, Chair KEN

09.45 Building human capital and skills for knowledge economy (LLL, eLearning, Mobility Programmes) – Olivier Brusle, Director ACTIOM

10.00 Funding Entrepreneurs with particular emphasis on venture capital, William Stevens, EVCA, Brussels

10.15 Support to clustering, competence and centers of excellence, industrial, science and technology parks

10.30 Role of diaspora and the International Reintegration Programme - Turkish Diaspora Agency

10.45 – 11.15 Break

**Part Two – Adopting Recommendations**

11.15 Presentation and adoption of Recommendations

13.00 Closing of the Workshop – followed by a buffet lunch.

**Brussels, 26 April 2012**