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Smart specialisation (RIS3): European workshop on Universities as Regional Lead Institutions

Organised by EUA in collaboration with Universities Austria (UNIKO) and the Conference of
Italian University Rectors (CRUI)

Hosted by University of Graz, Austria

13 November 2018

Preliminary Programme

Background

Universities are more connected than ever before to the regional economy, having an important impact on competitiveness and performance of regions. However, their societal, cultural and long-term impacts are difficult to unambiguously identify and measure. It is important to fully capitalise on tangible and intangible assets that universities can offer for the benefit of culture, society and the economy of regions in order to maximise their contribution in developing regional innovation ecosystems. One of the main challenges that European universities are facing in this regard is the role which they are playing in the design, implementation and monitoring of Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3). RIS3 is the basis for the allocation of the European Structural and Investment Funds to European regions. One of the main aims of RIS3 is to foster the innovation capabilities of regions by promoting university-business interactions and a research-based innovation model. Universities are expected to play a key role to achieve these aims.

Organised in the framework of the activities of the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the goal of this workshop is to discuss visions for universities in regional innovation ecosystems beyond 2020 and to develop a series of recommendations to broaden and clarify the concept of impact of universities on their regional innovation ecosystems. The discussion will be supported by a series of stimulating talks including evidence of good practices showcased by universities leading education, research and innovation initiatives within their innovation regional strategies.

The workshop is addressed to university leaders (rectors, vice-rectors, heads of administration, etc.), municipal, regional and national policy-makers, and all other stakeholders interested in regional innovation. The workshop is the fourth in a series of workshops jointly organised by National Rectors' Conferences and the European University Association (EUA) on RIS3.

09.00-09.15	Welcome Addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barbara Eibinger-Miedl, Regional Minister for Economic Affairs and Science, Styria, Austria • Sauro Longhi, Rector, Università Politecnica delle Marche and CRUI, Italy • Peter Haring Bolívar, Vice-Rector for Research, University of Siegen, Germany; Chair of the EUA-RIS3 Expert Group
09.15-10.30	Setting the scene <p><i>This session will provide an introduction to the topic of impact of universities on regional innovation ecosystems and will address this issue from the regional, national and European perspectives. The presentations will be followed by a moderated discussion.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alessandro Rainoldi, Head of Unit for Territorial Development, Joint Research Centre, European Commission • Armin Mahr, Head of Strategy Unit, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Austria • Sauro Longhi, Rector, Università Politecnica delle Marche and CRUI, Italy <p>Chair: Peter Riedler, Vice-Rector of the University of Graz, Austria; EUA-RIS3 Expert Group member</p>
10.30-11.00	Coffee break
11.00-12.15	Economic, societal, cultural and long-term impacts of universities on their regional innovation ecosystems <p><i>This session will focus on the topic of economic, societal, cultural and long-term impacts of universities on their regional innovation ecosystems, and in particular on the necessity of intra-regional stakeholder collaboration (i.e. university-business) to generate greater impact, and on possible ways of capturing impact beyond purely numerical measures. The presentations will be followed by a moderated discussion.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philip McCann, Chair in Urban and Regional Economics, Sheffield University Management School, UK • Thomas Krautzer, Head of Economic and History Institute, University of Graz, Austria; “From an old industrial area to a modern knowledge region. The role of the Universities in Styria’s economic transformation” • Helena Acheson, Managing Partner, c3 - solutions Stuttgart, Germany • Athina Karvounaraki, Statistical Officer, Knowledge for Finance, Innovation and Growth Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission <p>Chair: Lidia Borrell-Damian, Director for Research & Innovation, European University Association</p>
12.15-13.15	Lunch

13.15-14.30	<p>Universities in their regional innovation ecosystems: designing, implementing and monitoring RIS3</p> <p><i>This session will showcase successful RIS3 strategies and the university's role in the designing, implementing and monitoring of RIS3, as well as present the benefits that universities bring to regional development across Europe and challenges that universities face when adapting their educational, research and innovation activities to RIS3 priorities. The presentations will be followed by a moderated discussion.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antti Syväjärvi, Vice-Rector for Research, Lapland University, Finland, and Päivi Ekdahl, Director of Regional Development and Head of the S3 process in Lapland, Regional Council of Lapland, Finland "Smart specialisation programme in Arctic Smartness Excellence" • Angelita Luciani, ERDF ROP managing Authority, Regione Toscana, Italy • Daniele Carati, Director of the Research Department, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium "Boosting ICT innovation in the Brussels Capital Region" • Thomas Jorgensen, Senior Policy Coordinator, European University Association "EUA Ecosystem Innovation Project on impact of universities – first results" <p>Chair: Donato Iacobucci, Rector's delegate for Innovation and Technology Transfer; Marche Polytechnic University, Italy; EUA-RIS3 Expert Group member</p>
14.30-15.00	<p>Coffee break</p>
15.00-16.15	<p>Entrepreneurial education and training for regional development</p> <p><i>This session will present the role of universities in developing an entrepreneurial mindset and providing entrepreneurial skills, which are essential for adapting regions to the new opportunities emerging from global trends. The presentations will be followed by a moderated discussion.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alfred Gutschelhofer, Head of the Department of Corporate Leadership and Entrepreneurship, University of Graz, Austria • Karl Tombre, Vice-President European and International Strategy, Université de Lorraine, France "Entrepreneurial training at Université de Lorraine: learn to design, learn to combine, learn to take risks, learn to network" • Christine Volkmann, UNESCO-Chair in Entrepreneurship and Intercultural Management & Chair in Entrepreneurship and Economic Development, University of Wuppertal, Germany "The role of universities in strengthening regional entrepreneurial development - the case of Wuppertal" • Jonathan Potter, Head Entrepreneurship Policy and Analysis Unit, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities <p>Chair: Ray O'Neill, Vice-President for Innovation of the National University of Ireland Maynooth, Ireland; Vice-Chair of the EUA-RIS3 Expert Group</p>
16.15-16.45	<p>Coffee break</p>

16.45-18.00	<p>Roundtable discussion: Visions for Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategies and the role of universities in regional innovation ecosystems beyond 2020</p> <p><i>The roundtable discussion will focus on the visions for RIS3 strategies and the role of European universities in regional innovation ecosystems beyond 2020, as well as on general outlines of post-2020 policies for regional research and innovation in Europe. The discussion will bring together views from the university sector and from regional, national and European policymakers.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jana Kolar, Member of the High-Level Group of Innovators for a European Innovation Council; Central European Research Infrastructure Consortium • Peter Berkowitz, Head of Unit for Smart and Sustainable Growth, DG REGIO, European Commission • Patrizio Bianchi, Counsellor, Ministry of Education and Economic Development of Emilia-Romagna Region, former Rector of the University of Ferrara, Italy • Friederike Welter, Professor at University of Siegen, President of IfM Bonn, Germany <p>Chair: Peter Haring Bolívar, Vice-Rector for Research, University of Siegen, Germany; Chair of the EUA-RIS3 Expert Group</p>
18.00-18.15	<p>Conclusions and final remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christa Neuper, Rector, University of Graz, Austria
18.15-18.45	<p>Networking drinks</p>

Workshop rapporteurs: Kamila Kozirog and Rita Morais (EUA)