MOBILISING RESOURCES

FOR

A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY OF NINE BILLION PEOPLE



Delft University of Technology

Prof. Ir. H. Beunderman

Key points

- TU Delft: an overview
- Raison d'être: driven by urban global societal needs
- Case for action and many challenges ahead
- Strategy process facilitating the paradigm shift to European and Global networks
- Networks and talents are key
- Course of action: success factors, boundary conditions and reasons for concern
- No time to spare: commit and double up speed



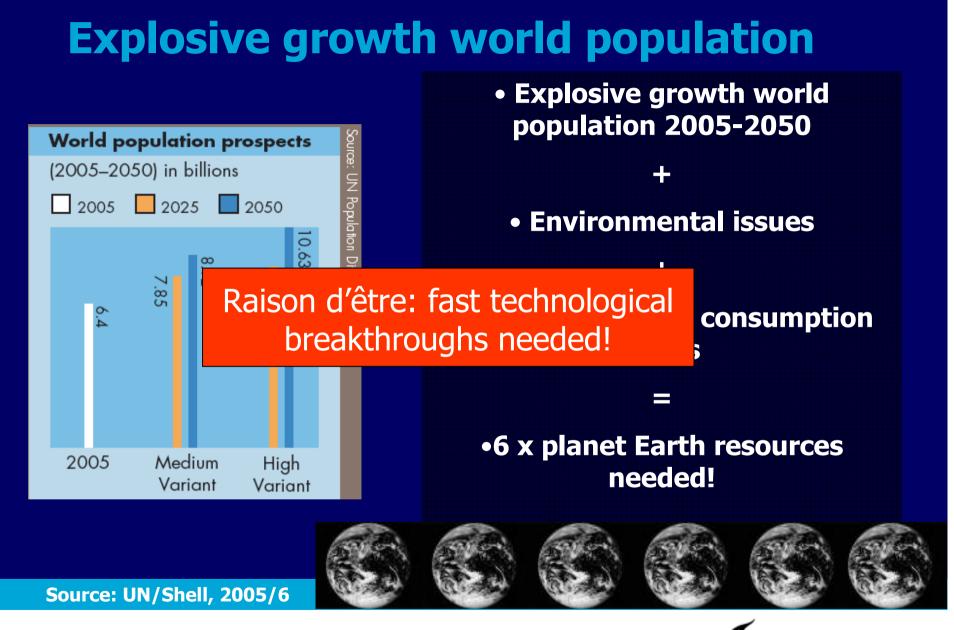
TU Delft - characteristics



- Driven by demands of society
- Well known profile brand name, campus and facilities
- Excellent (international) ratings
- High International reputation on Research and Education
- Strong (mono) disciplines
- 11 focused multidisciplinary research themes (DRC)

- Founded in 1842
- Eight faculties
- 14 BSc, 38 MSc programmes
- 13,000 students, Academic staff of 2,100 (including 200 professors)
- Annual budget 480M€, incl. 78M€ ext.
- 220 PhD dissertations annually
- 6,500+ annual publications in scientific journals







Case for Action for Europe

- Sustainable society at stake
- A global arena, rate of change
- Future of knowledge transfer, fluidity of knowledge
- Knowledge and innovation transfer paradox
- University brands under pressure: reactive modes do not suffice

Challenge for universities: to move from the exclusive model to the inclusive model

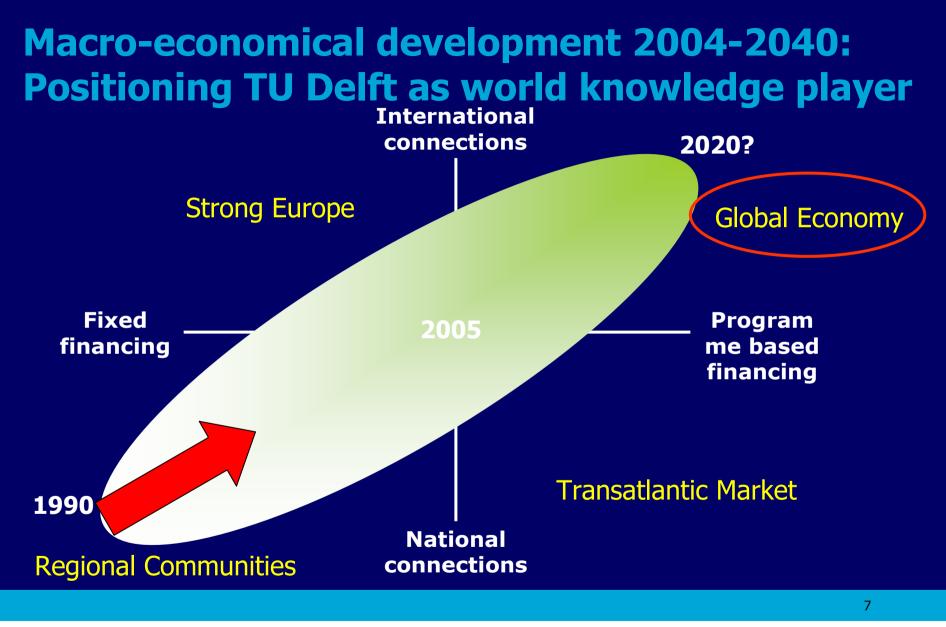


Action supported by strategy process: European networks take central stage

- Based on global societal needs, built on strong knowledge pillars, explicit strategic focus: Energy, Environment, Infrastructures and logistics, Health
- Supported by ext-, internal community: mobilising resources, funding and governance
- Guided by inspiring, challenging talented academic leadership

Effective European collaboration is critical: Knowledge triangle networks, with strong individual nodes





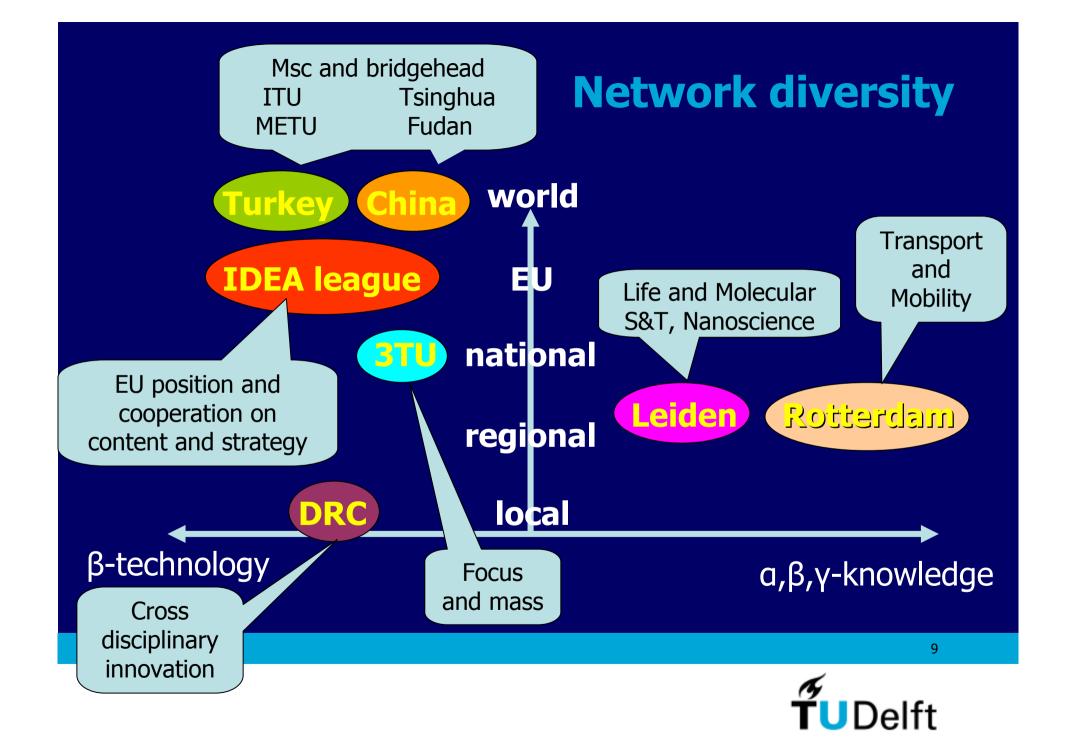


Notion of preferred networks

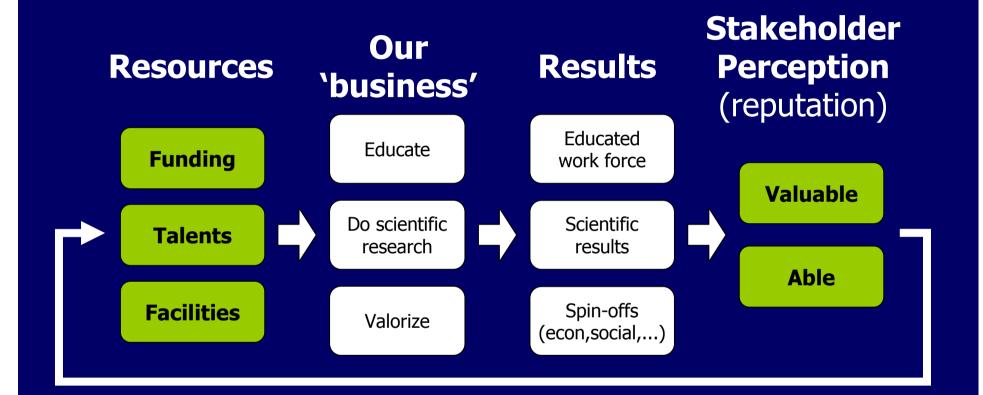
- Need to create leverage
- See and be seen: relevance, excellence and reputation
- Different focus / levels of networks, no "1-size fits all"
- Based on shared values and trust

Adding value in Netherlands, Europe, worldwide





Maintaining a self sustaining 'business' loop



The network is the talent pool "machine", where talent attracts talent



TU Delft in IDEA League: getting ready for EIT/KIC

- Active in EIT, ERA-discussions, ESFRI; fostering exchange of talents and knowledge, eliminate unproductive barriers
- Sharing best practices, focussing on major themes
- IDEA league EU-proposal "a pilot project for cooperation between European institutes of technology"
 - Imperial College London, United Kingdom
 - TU Delft, The Netherlands
 - ETH Zürich, Switzerland
 - RWTH Aachen, Germany
 - Paris Tech, France

Ready & able to contribute to European knowledge & innovation communities



University governance principles

- Based on public values
- Autonomy and accountability
- Less law, more contracts, more sincere understanding
- Funding of education, research and facilities with long term perspective

Guiding and guarding: "Trust and Verify"



Critical success factors

- Sense of urgency
- Shared values and trust
- Daring and attractive perspectives
- Attract, select and foster talents
- Creative environment

Inspiring academic leadership Shared action by government, university, industry partners



Critical success factors in networks

Beware of:

- Complex processes: e.g. visa
- Complex regulations: e.g. joint degrees
- Complex governance: e.g. national EU
- Complex cultures: on all levels: officials staff students

Pay attention to:

- Bottom-up / Top-down: continuous leveraging university position and contacts of academic individuals
- Strong content and quality
- Extending the chain: Education Research Valorization Organization
- "More sizes to fit all various dimensions"
- High alert antennas in rapidly changing arena
- Trustworthiness and trust: time to grow



Boundary conditions and concerns

What is needed:

- Consistent, long term oriented boundary conditions
- Government as chief enabler
- Private sector as essential partner

Reasons for concern:

- Higher education structurally underfunded
- Unstable research funding universities/ funding influenced by political goals – changing strategies
- Difficulties in creating long term significant partnerships with industry/ public sector
- Is programme competition driving short term focus??



Not time to spare!

There are many external and internal drivers for change, and many good studies and reports analysing this and the options for action

If we are serious about a competitive research and learning environment in Europe...

All EU stakeholders need to commit and double up speed

