

# Round Table on “Universities and S&T Development - Regional and International Dimensions

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## Universities - Central Pillar in S&T Development

- Universities are placed strategically at the interplay of RTD, educational and regional development policies
- Universities hold the main responsibility for providing the supply of trained researchers
- Core missions of fundamental and collaborative research – crucial underpinning role in enhancing the economic competitiveness of regions and of Europe
- Europe's universities have traditionally fostered international collaboration reflecting their historical development, trading relations, etc
- ERA policies should build upon regional and international dimensions of universities activities with instruments to encourage joint approaches

## Instruments and Actions for Regional S&T Innovation

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### Key factors for University Partners:

- Clarity of institutional mission based on regional audit of strengths and weaknesses
- Seek to complement neighboring universities
- Create adequate internal structures and management systems, particularly developing career opportunities
- Work with other actors at regional level (“osmosis”)
- Promote the ‘science and society’ dimension
- Promote the international dimension

## Regional Policy Initiatives Involving Universities as Stakeholders

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Key factors for success:

- Interconnection with all the actors at formal and informal levels (government, university-research centres, industry and enterprises).
- Political support to undertake major actions for innovation in a region (“upstream” strategies: attracting world class work force and investment).
- Projects need to address societal needs.
- Use of EU Structural Funds where applicable.

## Conclusions

### Implications for the Strategic Management of University Research

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- Evidence-based from case studies at EUA Brno Conference 2006
- Develop a coherent university institutional strategy for research and innovation linking European and national funding opportunities
- Develop strategies for ensuring institutional regional focus and global outreach in areas of competitive strength
- Develop more differentiated strategic missions for research and innovation, including new approaches such as regional clusters of universities, and working with other partners
- Greater linkage between the ERA and EHEA policy instruments to foster continuity in the strategic development of the university's teaching, research and innovation missions

## Final Remark

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- There is no “one size-fits-all” approach. Every region needs to analyse its own strengths and socio-economic perspectives