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With the collaboration of:



Generalitat de Catalunya
**Departament d'Economia
i Coneixement**



Ajuntament de
Barcelona

Seminar

Territorial Competitiveness and Universities

The role of universities in regional smart specialisation strategies in Europe

Date: 3 June 2015

Venue: St. Pau Art Nouveau Site, Barcelona

Time: 9.00am – 2.00pm

Universities are playing an increasingly important role in the economic, social, technological and cultural development of the regions. The new Cohesion policy framework places specialisation strategies (RIS3) at the heart of regional development. In this context, universities and regions have a unique opportunity to form partnerships, together with the business sector, to maximise the use of European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

This Seminar seeks to look deeper into these issues, highlighting the importance of the governance of the individual stakeholders and the partnerships created. It builds on the high level conference organised by the Smart Specialisation Platform (S3P) and the European University Association (EUA), held in Brussels in June 2014, on how to mobilise European Universities in the context of Smart Specialisation.

The main aim of this Seminar is to perform a general analysis of the role of universities in the implementation of the RIS3 and to find out first-hand about cases of European regions where universities' participation is considered a key factor for successful regional development.

Programme

08:45am – 09:00am: Arrival of participants

09.00am – 09.30am Welcome and opening session

- **Enric Fossas**, President of the Catalan Association of Public Universities (ACUP) and Rector of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC).
- **Wolfgang Streitenberger**, Adviser – Counsellor, Directorate General "Regional Policy and Urban Development", European Commission.
- **Antoni Castellà**, Secretary for Universities and Research, Government of Catalonia.
- **Xavier Trias**, Mayor of Barcelona.

09.30am – 11.00am European regional policy and the strategic role of universities. Current status

- **John Goddard**, Emeritus Professor of Regional Development, Newcastle University.
- **Mario Cervantes**, Senior Economist, Countries Studies and Outlook Division, STI Directorate, OECD.
- **José Carlos Gómez Sal**, Chairman of the R&D&I Committee of the CRUE.
- **Marcelino Cabrera**, Smart Specialisation Platform, Joint Research Centre, European Commission.

Chaired by: **Marcel Prunera**, specialist in regional strategy and competitiveness

This roundtable will be based on Q&A to the expert panel and opened to participation by the audience.

11.00am – 11.15am Coffee

11.15am – 13.30pm Round table: implementing RIS3 in regions and cities of Europe

- **Catalunya**
Albert Carné, General Director of Economic Policy and Promotion, Government of Catalonia.
- **Barcelona**
Marc Sanmartí, Office of Economic Growth, Barcelona City Council.
- **Euskadi**
Jesús María Peña Martínez, General Secretary to the Presidency, Basque Government.
Mari Jose Aranguren, General Director, Orkestra-Basque Institute of Competitiveness.
- **Helsinki Region (Finland)**
Taina Tukiainen, Senior Researcher, Aalto University.
- **Scotland**
Kevin Kane, Business Director, International Public Policy Institute, University of Strathclyde.

- **Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (Greece)**

Ioannis Kesanlis, Officer, Special Managing Authority of the Operational Programme of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace Region.

This participatory session will start with input from different European regions. It will be organised around 4 round table groups where participants will discuss concrete issues, identify possible solutions and how these would work in practice. Each table will have a moderator from the S3Platform team and will be composed of a balanced number of participants in terms of expertise, background and profile.

13.30pm – 14.00pm Conclusions and closing remarks

- **Francesc Xavier Grau**, Non-Executive Director of the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi).
- **Wolfgang Streitenberger**, Adviser – Counsellor, Directorate General "Regional Policy and Urban Development", European Commission.

Limited capacity. Attendance by invitation, please register on the form shown [here](#).

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