Higher Education & Partnerships in the Regional Economy

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Purpose

• To assess the significance of higher education partnerships.
• To examine the potential for partnerships with higher education content.
• To identify how this potential can be secured

**WHY, WHICH, HOW ?**
What is *The Regional Economy*

- A set of **institutions**: places, platforms, organisations of production, supply and exchange.
- A set of **knowledgable people** pursuing different and competing interests.
- A set of human **behaviours** conducted in the course of daily socio-economic exchanges.
- A set governance and regulatory **mechanisms** which offers acceptable levels of predictability in outcomes.

Adapted from Hudson 2005 Economic Geographies
Attributes of the Regional Economy

• **Hard and Soft Boundaries** – ease/difficulty of movement of goods and services, people, capital across boundaries into markets

• **Size is significant** *(think about 10% - 0.5m : 4.5m)*

• **Reach and Supply Chains** : where / who we draw from and to where / whom we provide.
The Sets in the Regional Economy

• *Small Sets*: a small region in a small open economy (1% of EU)

• *Knowledge levels* of the people (experience, education, disciplines)

• The types of *behaviours*: cooperative, reliable, collaborative, investigative, innovative, creative, resilient, trustworthy, reflective, adaptive.

• The *fitness for purpose* of our mechanisms and organs of governance: input, process, output, outcome orientation.
Significance of Partnerships

It is clear that.... Partnership(s) will lead to increased competitiveness for major research awards, innovation at the intersection of disciplines, and also the intellectual, cultural and financial benefits of a greater internationalisation of our student base in Ireland.

Taoiseach Enda Kenny (2012)
Rationale /Goals for Partnerships

• To align effort / competences with Community/Regional/National problems, opportunities and interests.
• To access skills and resources across the partnership.
• To develop competences within the partnership.
• To contribute to regional innovation and adaption.
• To increase regional attractiveness at home and abroad for economic activity.
# Some Partnerships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HEIs in South East</th>
<th>Ent Irl / IDA / CEBs / BIC / LEADER</th>
<th>SFI / Forfas / IRC</th>
<th>Government Depts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Irish HEIs</td>
<td>Euro Comm</td>
<td>Chambers of Commerce</td>
<td>Multinationals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas HEIs</td>
<td>State Agencies</td>
<td>Trade Associations</td>
<td>Large indigenous firms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National &amp; Intl NGOs</td>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>Professional Bodies</td>
<td>Small Indigenous Firms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Regional NGOs</td>
<td>Research Centres</td>
<td>Academic Associations Domestic &amp; International</td>
<td>Micro firms &amp; Start ups</td>
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</tbody>
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Research Funding Approved by Funding Agency - September 2010 to August 2011

2/3 from EU sources
Partnerships are a key characteristic of e-learning that could help institutions to share knowledge, and good practices, and achieve benefits such as advanced technology and educational quality in addition to enhanced market presence and lower costs.

OECD
HEI Partnership Contributions

- **Research** existing and emerging problems.
- **Teach** : develop life and market ready skills and abilities in the workforce and the community in a flexible manner.
- Deliver **consultancy** on one-to-one or one-to-few for well defined and ambiguous problems.
- Participate in **strategy development and implementation** in regional bodies charged with development responsibilities.
## Partnerships in the Future

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Partnerships</th>
<th>Existing</th>
<th>New</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>New</strong></td>
<td>Green,</td>
<td></td>
<td>HEIs in Delivery Modes &amp; Content</td>
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## Further Partnerships

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Large Domestic</th>
<th>FDI</th>
<th>SME</th>
<th>Micro &amp; HPSU</th>
<th>Community Enterprise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SpringBoard Courses</td>
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<td>Research Projects</td>
<td>Research Projects</td>
<td>Research Projects</td>
<td>New Frontiers Enterprise Program</td>
<td>Research projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Placements</td>
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<td>Innovation Vouchers</td>
<td>Innovation Vouchers</td>
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<td>Tailored Programmes</td>
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PREREQUISITES FOR PARTNERSHIPS

Nothing is possible without individuals, nothing is sustainable without institutions

Jean Monnet
What will it take? (i)

- Leadership
- Definition of goals and short term objectives
- Making choices & tracking progress
- Commitment and Reconfiguration of Resources – people and some capital and systems
- Appropriate behaviours
- Cohesive engagement at several levels
- Attracting developing and retaining talent.
What will it take? (ii)

- **Alignment** with National and EU priorities
- **Multiple perspectives**
  - What is (or is not) going on in the Region, Nationally, in Europe, North America and ROTW,
  - What are the trends in different sectors
- The development of a richer socio-economic ecosystem
Economic Ecosystem:

**Place & Space**

- Natural Resources
- People & Organisations
- Capital
- Technology
- Exchanges & Interfaces
- Knowledge Creation & transfer

Trade & Innovation
Regional Leadership

• Needs to emerge from within the Region.
• Must command respect and authority.
• Will need to be accorded certain capability for shaping priorities and for charting progress.
• A collective dimension is necessary.
• A small cohesive group.
• Outcome oriented with demonstration / evidence as validation.
Summary

It will take more effort, imagination and collaboration to adapt to the policy imperative for purposeful partnership within the South East.

Are we up for it?
Another Wexford achiever!!!

Geography has made us neighbours. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies. Those whom God has so joined together, let no man put asunder.

John F Kennedy