

The Role of Universities in Regional Innovation Policies and Practice

BACKGROUND

Third Mission

- Engaged university in regional development

Knowledge-based Society

- Knowledge as key driver in innovation and economic growth

Regional Innovation Systems

- Universities considered as endogenous to economic development in a territory

Universities' Potential as Planning Agents

Scientific knowledge

Informed innovation policies

Nurturing a competitive environment

This relationship will manifest differently depending on the territorial determinants and policy landscapes of each region.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- ☐ To what extent and how do universities affect the process of regional (innovation) policy design and implementation?
- ☐ To what extent and how do universities, through their planning agency, contribute towards the enhancement of regional firms' competitive capacity?
- ☐ How do territorial qualities affect universities' agency in regional development?

Universities

Local and Regional Governmental Bodies

Regional Development and Competitiveness

METHODOLOGY

The study will follow a qualitative framework in a comparative, multiple case-study approach. This was deemed appropriate given the importance of territorial and contextual determinants as variables.

U.Aveiro

U.A.
Barcelona

U.Twente

Desk-based research
Semi-structured interviews
Focus groups

Academics and universities' top-management
Representatives of local/regional government
Incubators, science parks and tech. transfer offices
Regional firms and entrepreneurs
Content Comparative

Data Collection

Application

Analysis

Policy-design

Implementation

Impacts

RELEVANCE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Creation of a Favourable Innovation Environment

Academia

Increased understanding of institutional and organisational changes in response to external needs

Policy-makers

Integration of stakeholders and tools that enable a more informed and efficient policy-process

Industry and Entrepreneurs

Increased knowledge for a better adaptation to innovation challenges

Liliana de Almeida Fonseca

PhD Candidate | RUNIN ESR 5

Department of Social, Political and Territorial Sciences
University of Aveiro, Portugal

liliana.fonseca@ua.pt