# 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



Regional

Development

and

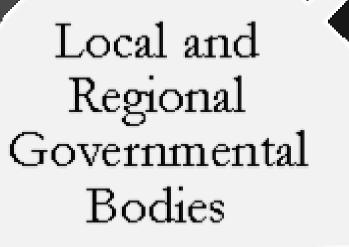
Competitiveness

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#### economic development in a territory

### Universities' Potential as Planning Agents





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

# 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.



Desk-based research Data Collection Semi-structured interviews Focus groups

# **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?

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

#### Application

Analysis

Policydesign Implementation Impacts

# **RELEVANCE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES**



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 Increa Entrepreneurs challe

Increased knowledge for a better adaptation to innovation
 urs challenges

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