

Firm-university collaboration: the role of peripheral and metropolitan regions

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BACKGROUND

- Firms have to overcome institutional distance to collaborate with universities (Bruneel, D'Este, & Salter, 2010)
- Firms in metropolitan regions → close to a variety of industries with related knowledge bases (Fitjar & Timmermans, 2017) and a range of universities (Tödtling and Trippel, 2005)
- Firms in peripheral regions → less access to organisations that can show how to overcome the institutional distance with universities, compared to metropolitan regions

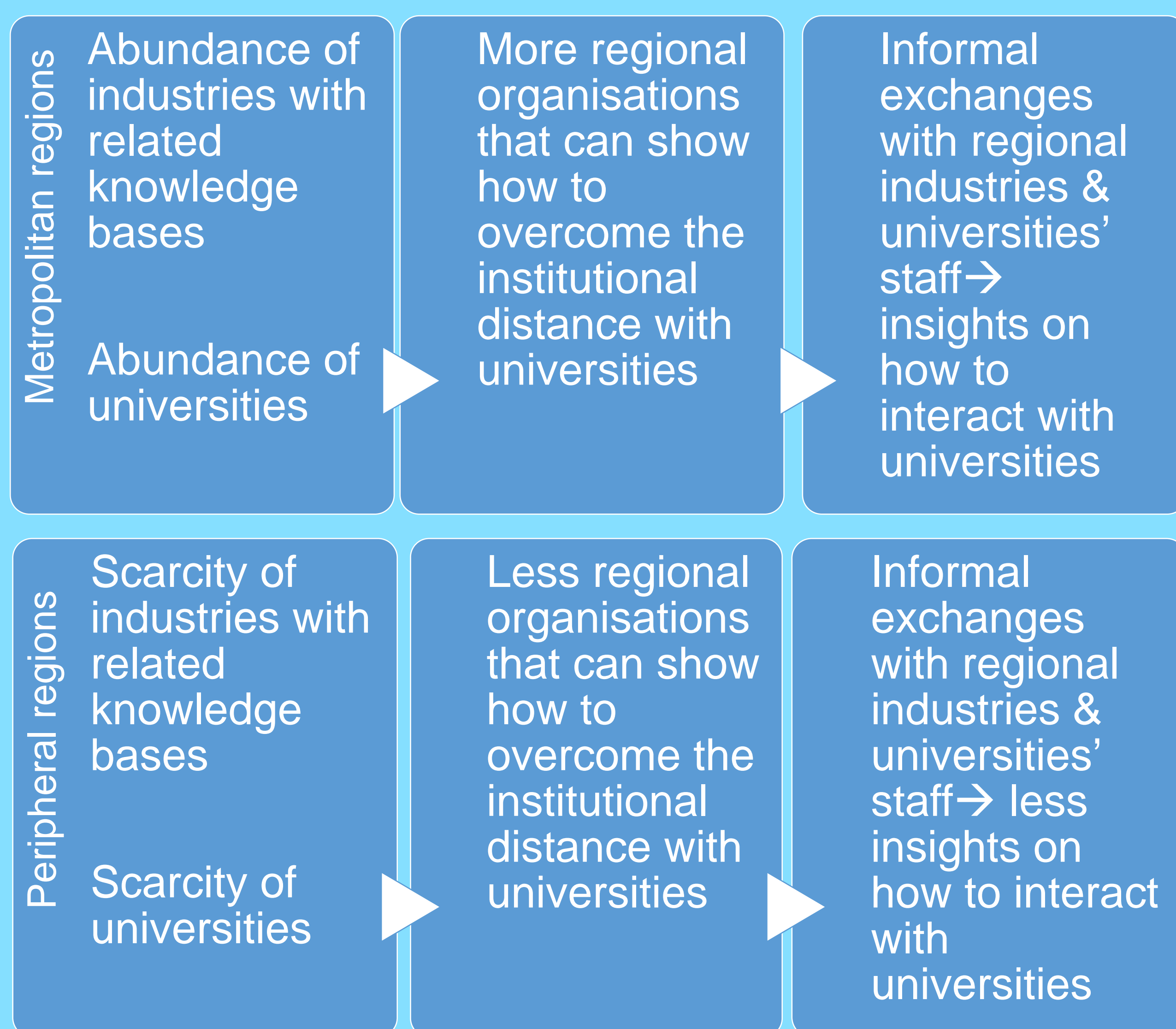
RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- RQ: How does firm-university collaboration take place in peripheral and metropolitan regions?

Test whether collaboration in peripheral regions depends on:

- Cooperation with institutionally distant organisations and institutional navigators
- How national policies affect cooperation between firms, other organisations (institutionally distant/navigators), universities
- RSQ: Which processes lead synthetic knowledge based SMEs to engage in collaboration with universities, in peripheral and metropolitan regions? Firm-university collaboration less likely (Asheim and Coenen, 2005; Laursen and Salter, 2004)

HYPOTHESIZED REGIONAL DIFFERENCES



METHODS

- Case study on the relationship between Aalborg University and two industries in North Denmark (ICT, biomedical)
- Quantitative analyses with community innovation survey and register data in Denmark, Portugal and Norway
- Case studies on the processes that lead synthetic knowledge based SMEs to engage in collaboration with universities (2 per region and country, 12 in total)

IMPACT

- Policymakers can identify organisations promoting firm-university collaboration in peripheral and metropolitan regions

RESULTS

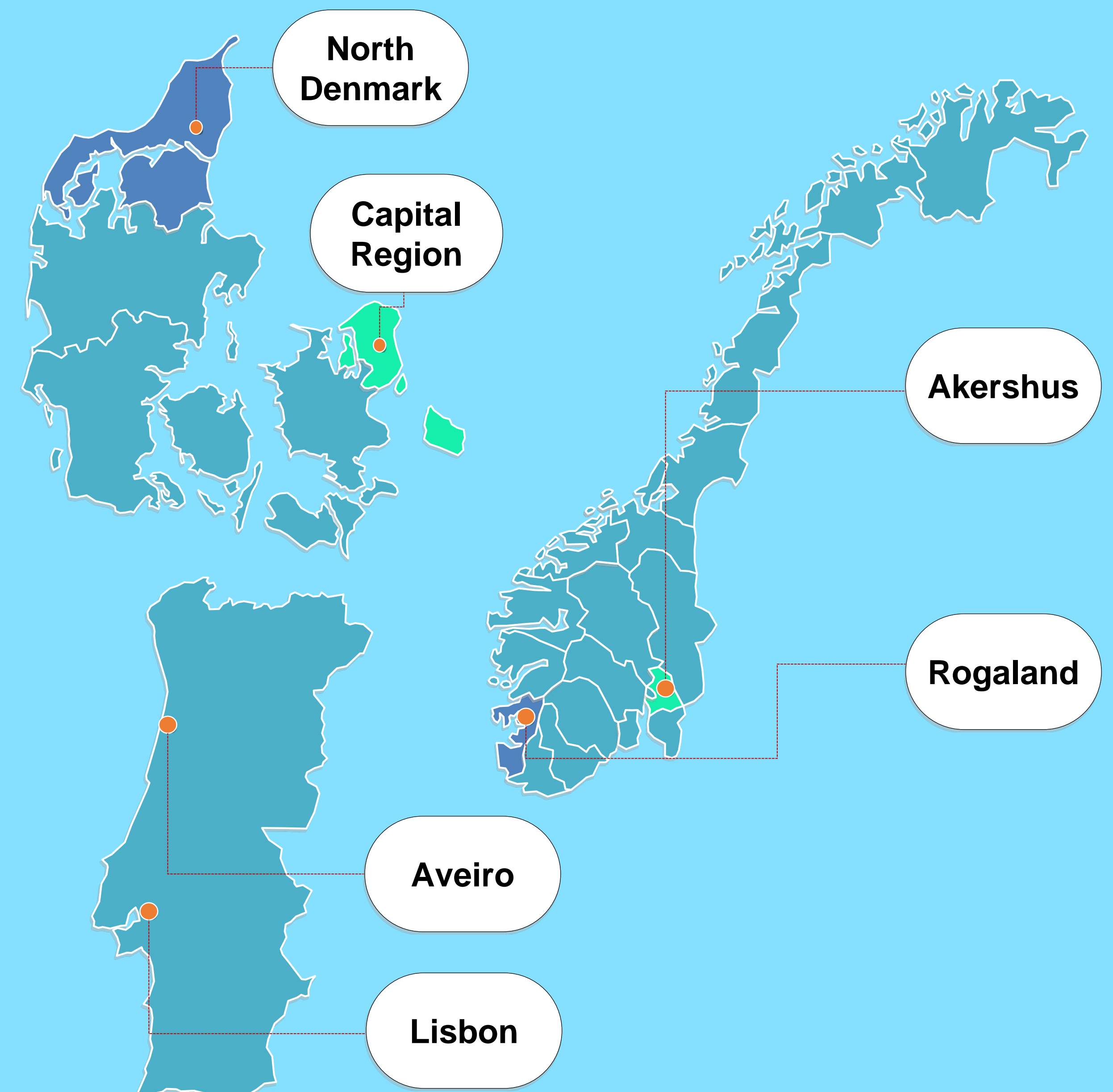
- If higher variety of institutionally distant non-academic partners:
 - Firms rural regions +likely to interact with national universities than firms in metropolitan regions
 - Firms metropolitan regions +likely to interact with foreign universities
- Firms rural and metropolitan regions: cooperating with institutionally distant organisations and/or institutional navigators +likely to interact with national and foreign universities

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REGIONS COVERED IN THE PROJECT

(source: yourfreetemplates.com. Changes introduced in the original design)



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