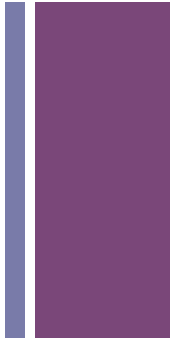




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NETWORK FOR INNOVATION



Territorial Competitiveness and Universities

The role of universities in regional smart specialization in Europe

3 June 2015, Barcelona

**Round table: implementing RIS3 in regions and cities of Europe
Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (Greece)**

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Main Characteristics of the Region of East Macedonia and Thrace

- North - East border of Greece
- Borders with **Bulgaria** and **Turkey**
- Gateway to EU
- Population 608.182 (2011)
- Main economic activity
 - Primary sector
 - Processing sector
 - Tourism and cultural sector

GDP:

- €16,300 per capita (in PPS)
- 66% of the 27 of the EU
- 76% of Greece

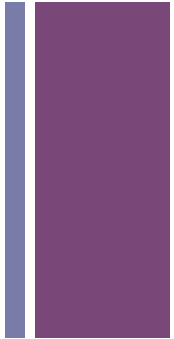
Regional GERD:

- €30,5 million (in PPS)
- 0,33% of the Regional GDP
- 2,25% of the National GDP
- % of Unemployment: 22,5%





The role of universities in the RIS3 design process



Academic and Research Institutions in REMTH

- ❖ **The Democritus University of Thrace**, Thrace (Xanthi, Komotini, Alexandroupoli, Orestiada).
- ❖ **The Technological Educational Institute** of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace (Kavala).
- ❖ **The Fisheries Research Institute**, INALE, (Kavala).
- ❖ **The ATHENA Research Centre** - Branch, in which are incorporated the former Cultural and Educational Technology Institute (IPET) and the Thrace Branch of the Institute for Language and Speech Processing (IEL) (Xanthi).
- ❖ **The Institute of Geological and Mineral Exploration (IGME)** - Branch (Xanthi)

- Contribute to a rigorous **assessment** of the region's **knowledge assets, capabilities and competencies** and **link those with the competences** of the university's departments
- Assist in **the entrepreneurial discovery process** and **bring global awareness and partnerships** providing **specialist research expertise and networks**
- Enhance **skills and competences** through teaching programmes and LLP and link it with the needs of the business sectors.
- Foster an **entrepreneurial culture** to students and academic staff and support innovation, start ups, and spin offs
- **Institutional leadership and governance** building social relations between stakeholders
- **Local knowledge creation** and development of products and public and private services
- **Technology and knowledge transfer** between academia and business



Role of the universities foreseen in RIS3 implementation



Knowledge Generation

Knowledge creation linked with regional strengths (i.e business processes, services, design of new products)

Connectivity

Linkages with national and international networks providing evidence based support to decision making

Capacity building

Sharing resources and equipment to facilitate knowledge and technology exchange; link knowledge supply and demand with regional needs; attract, train and retain skilled people that will develop new businesses

Collaborative

Act as a neutral actor in regional collaborations- detached from political tensions, and commercial pressures by private firms

Shared Vision

Support a shared vision for the uniqueness of the place i.e. industrial PhD, student mobility schemes



Main Obstacles



Design Process:

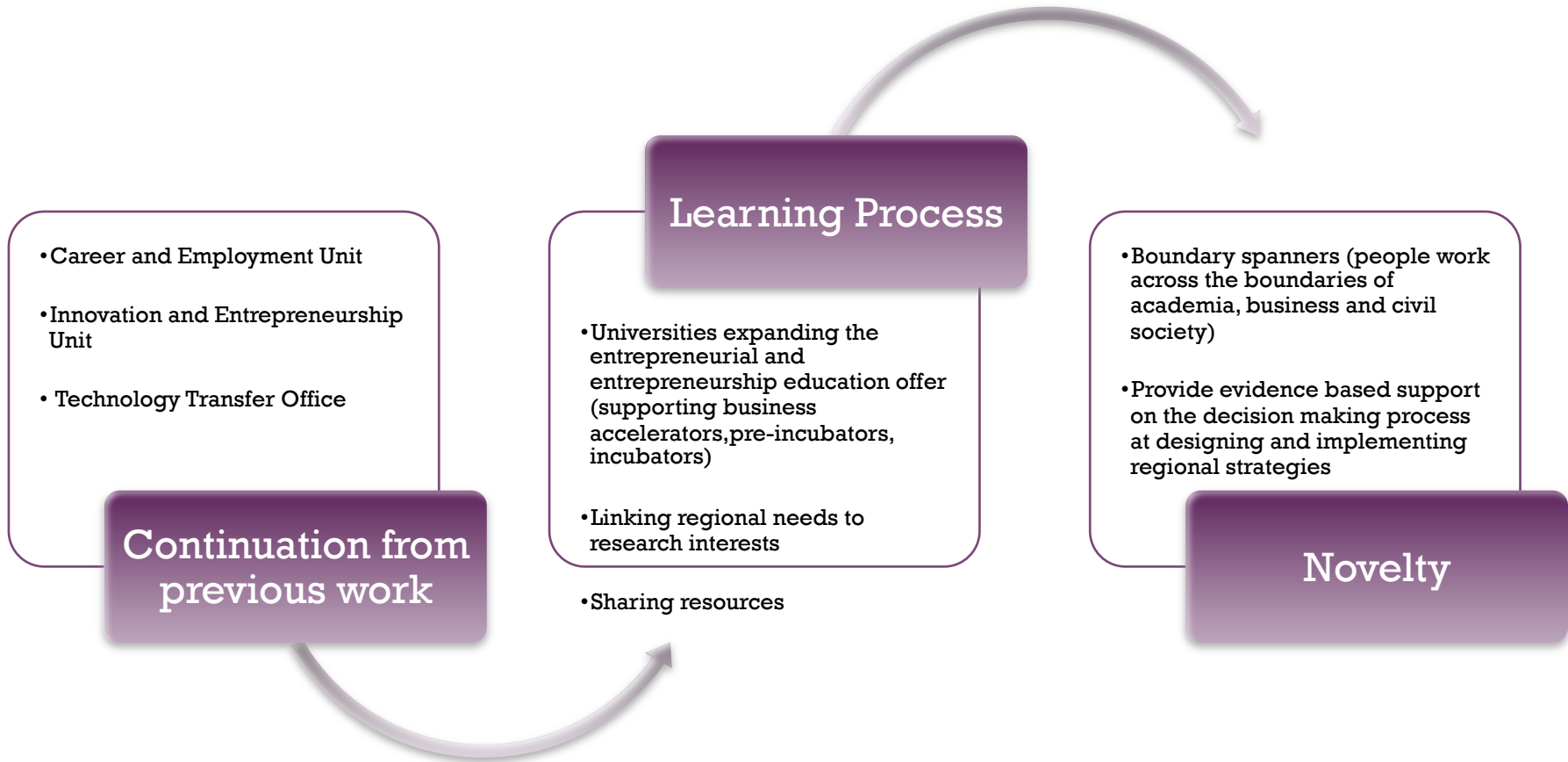
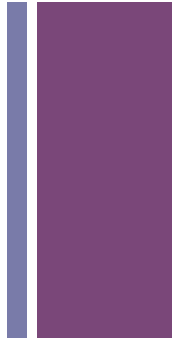
- **Solid data**

Implementation (potential):

- University's capacity to 'reach out' wider region
- 'Disconnections' between the partners of the innovation system
- Capacity - willingness of public & private sector actors in the region to 'reach in' to the university.
- University's "soft packages" mismatch.
- Attracting and retaining highly qualified people.
- National and linguistic barriers.



RIS3: a novelty for universities or continuation for previous work?





Learn from other regions and experiences



How to...

- **Governance:** shift the university culture towards empowering the entrepreneurial agenda
- **Organisational Capacity:** minimize organizational constraints, attract and retain people, incentivize entrepreneurial approach
- **Knowledge and technology transfer:** built long-term relationships and collaboration with stakeholders: i.e. public sector, regions, businesses, R&I organizations.
- **Measure and link impact with regional growth:** graduate entrepreneurship, regional economic development, talent retention, etc.



Thank you for your attention!

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