



# Study on the cooperation between Higher Education Institutions and public / private organisations

## Project Partners

Coventry University, United Kingdom  
Cracow University of Economics, Poland  
Spanish Network of University Knowledge  
Transfer Offices (RedOTRI), Spain  
Vrije University, Netherlands



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European Commission  
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## Project Management

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## Initial Situation

In order to contribute to improving cooperation between higher education and business, the European Commission launched the University-Business Forum, a European level platform, providing for structured dialogue between the stakeholders, stimulating the sharing of good practice and mutual learning. At these events, representatives from the different stakeholders met to exchange experiences and to discuss common problems and solutions. The areas addressed were: Governance; Curriculum Development; Entrepreneurship; Knowledge Transfer; Lifelong Learning and Mobility. Via the Forum but also via other EU activities (i.e. LLL Programme; Framework Research Programme) the European Commission identified and collected a number of good practice examples and learnt about problems and barriers which restrict university-business cooperation. Therefore it was decided to launch a specific study to get a better and more comprehensive understanding of university-business Cooperation in Europe.

## Objective and Assignment

The project aims to contribute to our understanding of university-business Cooperation in 33 European countries, with the core aspects being:

- (1) framework conditions in which the HEIs operate in relation to cooperation with the private or public sectors,
- (2) strategies of the HEIs in relation to cooperation with the private or

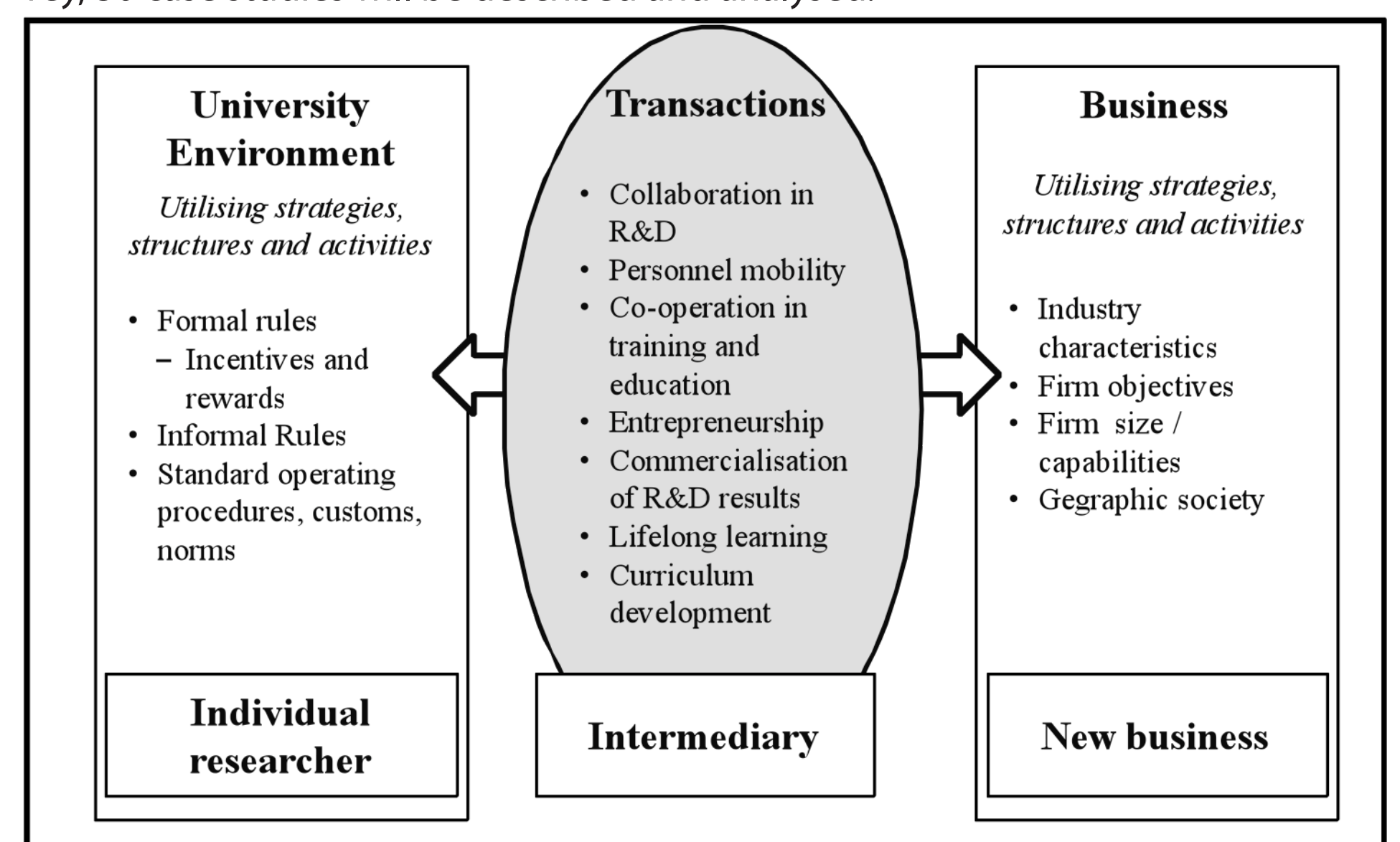
public sectors,

- (3) structures and approaches put in place to promote/develop/implement cooperation with the private or public sectors,
- (4) operational activities in relation to the cooperation with the private or public sectors (what types of cooperation; scope and volume),
- (5) main drivers of cooperation with the private or public sectors,
- (6) barriers and problems that hinder university-business cooperation.

In addition, 30 best practice case studies will be described and analysed.

## Procedure

In the first phase of the project, the research team will explore the topic of university-business cooperation by bringing together literature, experiences of the European Commission and further material which will be integrated in an extensive research summary. Based on this research summary, qualitative interviews will be conducted to deepen the knowledge and integrate new impetus in the following quantitative online survey. The project aims to collect data from at least 3.717 researchers. The minimum number of responses per country is based on the number of universities in each country (30 responses are set to be the minimum for countries with less than 30 universities). In order to achieve this number of responses, the survey will be translated into 22 languages. The survey will be distributed via email to each university in the 33 European countries. More than 11.000 university board members will be identified and send an email with the request to forward the questionnaire to researchers. The results will be analysed using multivariate analysis methods. In addition to the survey, 30 case studies will be described and analysed.



## Results

The project results are expected to contribute to the development of university-business cooperation in Europe by drawing a comprehensive picture of framework conditions, strategies and approaches used, structures implemented as well as main drivers and barriers. Collecting data from several thousand researchers in more than 30 countries will also allow cross-country comparisons.

