

# IC Agenda, Regional innovation Policies and Higher Education Institutions

P. Dubarle, OECD consultant

Presentation 1st June

# Introduction

- *Why focussing on HEI?*
- Knowledge investment
- An underused resource
- A link between HEI and the knowledge economy underlined in advanced regions
- A potential to contribute to less developed regions' competitiveness

# Contributions to Regional Development and IC. What impact?

- Direct impacts
- Knowledge effects
  - ◆ Supply of human capital
  - ◆ Provision of technology
  - ◆ Spinoffs and entrepreneurship
  - ◆ Cultural contributions
  - ◆ Policy advice

# Challenges and constraints

- Characteristics of education management and funding systems
- Obstacles to cooperation with firms and market failures (hampering IC potential)

# Regional engagement policies emphasizing innovation and IC

- Promote TTOs and HE openness to contract research
- Favour a better integration of HEI in RIS
- Connect HEI with clusters

# How to improve higher education IC based regional competitiveness policies?

- Mutually reinforcing regional, national and international functions of universities
- Providing public spaces and enhancing IC
- Promoting transfer of knowledge through the transfer of people
- Enlarging the focus to non high tech areas

# HEI and Regional Networks

- HEI and national/regional aspirations
- Partnerships with regional development organisations and development of policy expertise
- Cooperation between HEI

# TO SUM UP

There is a need for:

- More encouragement for HEI/firm cooperation and for the strengthening of incentives for universities to become more entrepreneurial and IC focussed
- The formalisation of partnerships with regional devt organisations.
- Clustering of universities and collaboration with polytechnics in order to broaden HE supply and foster intellectual capital expansion