Regional Governance, Knowledge & Talent in the Knowledge Triangle

Session 4: Governance and Institutional Leadership
OECD High-Level Event on the Knowledge Triangle:
Enhancing the contributions of Higher Education and Research Institutions to Innovation
Paris, 15-16 September 2016

Prof dr Erik Stam

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem & Knowledge Triangle

• The effect of the Knowledge Triangle on aggregate value creation cannot be understood without taking into account the entrepreneurial ecosystem
Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

• a set of interdependent actors and factors coordinated in such a way that they enable productive entrepreneurship within a particular territory (Stam & Spigel 2016)

Knowledge Triangle at the heart of the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

I. Talent (human capital) = necessary input to (knowledge based) entrepreneurship

II. Creation of knowledge based entrepreneurial opportunities

III. Entrepreneurial action: Discovery and exploitation of knowledge based entrepreneurial opportunities (innovation)
• How can the interaction between research [knowledge] and education [talent] be coordinated [by networks and leadership] in such a way that it enables productive entrepreneurship in a regional entrepreneurial ecosystem?
Propositions

1. The knowledge triangle will only be productive if it is embedded in a well functioning entrepreneurial ecosystem. No Cathedrals in the Desert

2. Effective governance of entrepreneurial ecosystems necessitates the input of regional business leaders with a long term commitment to the region. Contextual Knowledge

3. Effective governance of entrepreneurial ecosystems necessitates a sufficient density and diversity (education, knowledge institutes, business innovators) of innovation networks in a region. Bridging Knowledge
Five Case Studies NL

Qualitative and quantitative:
- Metropolitan Region Amsterdam (MRA)
- Twente
- Brainport

Quantitative:
- Utrecht
- South-Holland

Propositions: NL evidence

1. The least well developed *Entrepreneurial Ecosystems* (EE) have no fully developed KT (Universities missing)

2. Involvement of *regional* business leaders in regional governance is rare

3. Better developed EE tend to have more *diverse* innovation networks, not necessarily more *dense*
   - Amsterdam: 0 dense; Twente: + dense
   - Amsterdam / Utrecht / Brainport: + diverse; Twente: 0 diverse
Productive Entrepreneurship

• Can be enabled by (effective) leadership, but also thrives without (Amsterdam, Utrecht)
• Interaction of education and knowledge institutes without involvement of business innovators = ineffective

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem & Knowledge Triangle

Outcomes: Aggregate Value Creation
Outputs: Entrepreneurial Activity
Systemic conditions: Finance, Talent, Knowledge, Leadership, Regional Governance, Networks
Framework conditions: Formal institutions, Culture, Physical infrastructure
Interaction & direction of actors
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