

HUMANE

Heads of University Management & Administration Network in Europe

SEMINAR

Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, 1st to 2nd April 2005

Financial Management: Intellectual Property, Research Overhead, and VAT

Abstracts

Research Funding of Italian Universities

Giuliana Zotta Vittur, Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati (IT) and Pasquale Mastrodomenico, Università degli Studi di Torino (IT)

The presentation illustrates the situation of research funding in Italy. Starting from a brief outline of the Italian University System, the speakers will focus on the different possibilities to financially support research in Italian Universities. Research can be financed by public, private and international funds. A short analysis of each source will be provided, with particular stress on the funds allocated by the Ministry of Education, University and Research.

The general reduction in public funding, a reality which universities (not only in Italy) are currently facing to differing extents, has forced them to seek new sources to supplement those received from the state. Alternative sources of funding are thus gaining in significance; among them that of the commercialization of research through patents and investments in spin-off companies.

After a general outline of the situation in Italy, two different experiences will be given: one by Giuliana Zotta, Head of Administration of the International School for Advanced Studies in Trieste, one of the smallest Higher Educational Institutes in Italy and the other by Pasquale Mastrodomenico, who, on the contrary, represents one of the biggest, the University of Torino.

New Challenges and New Structures: the experience of the creation of an Industrial and Commercial activity in a French great scientific University Nicolas Carboni, Director S.A.I.C., Université Louis Pasteur Strasbourg 1 (FR)

Properly managing industrial relations and commercial activities is an increasingly strategic issue for scientific universities, and the stakes are high. Deploying efficiently the proper structure implies many challenges of various kind.

Strasbourg's Université Louis Pasteur has chosen to create a SAIC, "Service d'Activités Industrielles et Commerciales", one of the few options provided by the French law to manage commercial activities.

Nicolas Carboni, Director of ULP-Industrie (ULP's SAIC) , will walk us through the rationale behind this choice, highlight the challenges implied by the deployment of the structure, and share key learning.

Research Management at the University of Helsinki: structures and financial aspects

Heikki Kallasvaara, Head of Research Affairs Unit, University of Helsinki (FI)

Finnish science and technology policy is characterised by long-term development. It has been progressing from discrete scrutiny to a more comprehensive approach, in which the producers and users of knowledge are regarded as an entity.

The Finnish national innovation system has been formed into a comprehensive entity composed of producers of new knowledge, users of knowledge and the various interactive relations between them. The major components of the innovation system are education, research, product development and knowledge-intensive business. The system is permeated by wide-ranging international cooperation. New knowledge is produced by mainly in universities, research institutes and business enterprises. The foremost users of knowledge are enterprises, private citizens, and policy-makers as well as administration responsible for societal development.

This presentation highlights certain features and processes of the Finnish innovation system. The main emphasis lies, however, in the role of the universities and their research support functions, with additional insight to the research support arrangements at the University of Helsinki. A few acute challenges that face the contracted research will be elaborated, especially in the context of the forthcoming 7th framework programme.

From Research to Industry: the role of a great scientific University

Yves Chaimbault, Secrétaire Général and Dominique Droma, Service Relations Université-Enterprises , Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille 1 (FR)

We shall discuss first if we speak of «role» or «place».

After having presented the characteristics of our university and the apparent complexity of our relations versus the apparent simplicity of the question we shall present the questions and paradoxes that we must face on.

Why is this question important now?

Because France has been boosted by the idea of lack of relations with industry and because a 1999's law created new conditions for a new policy (but we had a true policy before).

Enumeration of the different points of this law.

Now we shall examine

1 - Two questions for our service's action :

a) International communication:

How to make the searcher concerned versus the Research isolation (going to laboratories, finding interesting researches, speaking of industrial and intellectual property)

b) External communication:

Many meetings in under-institutional statement versus an institutional acknowledgement

2 - Two questions for the policy definition

a) For the university:

A multi-customer tool versus a tool reserved for university's agents

b) For the country:

Competitive poles versus Research poles

VAT in Dutch Universities: the case of Groningen

Leo Wenneger, Treasurer, Rijksuniversiteit Groningen (NL)

Abstract not available.

VAT and Taxation in German Universities

Dietmar Ertmann, Universität Karlsruhe (DE)

Abstract not available.

Intellectual Property Rights in EU funded projects: presentation from the IPR Helpdesk

Heike Scheuerpflug, IPR Helpdesk Officer, EURICE (European Research and Project Office)
(DE)

Intellectual Property (IP) is the driving force behind innovation on the technology market. Without the rights that govern the marketable potential of innovation, the commercial value of such products proves little incentive for stakeholders. However, stakeholders need to know the tools with which to protect knowledge as well as how to exploit it. The main objective of the IPR-Helpdesk is to assist the potential and current contractors who take part in Community-funded research and technological development projects on intellectual property rights (IPR) issues. The IPR Helpdesk advises also on Community diffusion and protection rules and other issues relating to IPR in international research projects. Another important objective of the IPR Helpdesk activities is to raise awareness of the European research community on IPR issues.