



Centre for  
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# **ERIK Action Workshop Innovation Friendly Administration & Culture , Knowledge & Networking**

**Professor Stratos Pistikopoulos**

# Outline

- ERIK Network recommendations
- Administration & Culture – key issues towards innovation friendly attitudes & practices
- Case studies & examples

# ERIK Network: Some (related) conclusions & recommendations

- create entrepreneurial culture, raise awareness
- management, support, finance, market – all important
- region start-up strategy is needed
- financial support & strategy during life-cycle, exit strategy for public

## (Related) Recommendations (cont'd)

- Triple helix (researchers, entrepreneurs, administrators): foundation of innovation
- Rapid support for start-ups/spin-offs is essential, over life-cycle
- Clusters of innovation excellence (new & existing) must be identified & nurtured
- Catalyse the creation of new clusters by providing forums for R&D, tech. transfer

# Administration & Culture – attitude towards innovation – some key issues

- What are the characteristics of an innovation friendly administration?
- How is innovation assessed?
- How is entrepreneurship potential acknowledged?
- At the regional level –
  - enablers/obstacles towards innovation?
  - structure of regional innovation system?
  - pro-active versus re-active?

# Focus on - Innovation assessment

- Procedures, methods & infrastructure
- Risk assessment – IPR management - business plan
- Guidance through next steps – triple helix considerations
- Networking – testing the waters

# Focus on – characteristics/ Administration

- proactive approach
- providing infrastructure with 'optimal' level of support
- managing expectations versus risk (IPR, funding, business plan, etc)
- creating opportunities – networking (throughout the innovation cycle time)
- creating win-win-win scenarios (being the 'glue')



# Focus on – characteristics/ Culture

- importance of training, raising awareness & dissemination of 'success' stories
- communication throughout innovation cycle times – increase credibility by transparency (create element of 'ownership' through sharing)
- structures promoting, encouraging and acting as 'hubs' for innovation
- regions and regional networks should be playing pivotal role – establishing and sharing practices



# Example 1 – Innovation Friendly Culture

- (UK) Royal Society introduced Enterprise Fund (initial £5 million pool) - scheme to help entrepreneurs commercialise their ideas
- Fund is based on the so-called 'venture philanthropy' model, comprising donations from UK industry and business leaders
- Early-stage funding of between £250,000 to £2 million
- Any profits will be fed back into the fund to help more start-ups
- Strategic importance – creating an environment & culture for innovation

## Example 2 – Innovation Friendly Administration

- Imperial College and Imperial Innovation (private company, Plc, Imperial has a stake of appr. 60%)
- Imperial – research turnover of ~ £ 500 million (50% governmental sources, 50% industry)
- Administration model
  - research conducted & validated – typically with at least one ‘industrial’ partner
  - assessment phase – Imperial Innovations manage the entire process (IPR, company formation, patents, business plan, risk assessment, networking)
  - win-win-win scenario – through shareholding (min 30% to Imperial)