



**EUA**

European University Association

# “European Universities as Catalysts in Promoting Regional Innovation”

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EUA Autumn Conference 2006  
The Brno Universities  
Brno, Czech Republic, 19-21 October 2006

# I. Rationale and background for the conference theme (1)

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## The Glasgow Declaration (April 2005):

- **On Excellence in Research and Innovation, the Declaration stated:**

“Universities must exercise their own responsibilities for enhancing research and innovation through the optimal use of resources and the development of institutional research strategies. Their diverse profiles ensure that they are increasingly engaged in the research and innovation process, working with different partners at the **regional**, national, European and global level”

# I. Rationale and background for the conference theme (2)

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## **The EUA Autumn 2005 Conference**

- In Uppsala, members discussed strategies and funding of research in European Universities.

## **The EUA Spring 2006 conference**

- In Hamburg, members discussed on how to improve institutional governance and on diversifying funding to secure their own future.

## **The 4th EUA Convention, 2007**

- In Lisbon, participants will discuss on how to articulate their views on how universities should respond to the growing demands of society and rapid globalisation.

## II. The Brno Conference (1)

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### **“European Universities as Catalysts in Promoting Regional Innovation”**

- New topic field for the Association, seeking to bring the voice and experience of the universities into the debate on the future development of regional policy, particularly given the new emphasis being placed on science and technology investment.
- Aims to provide a “showcase” university “good practices” in working at regional levels.

## II. The Brno Conference (2)

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The Conference will address:

- New roles of universities as key drivers of innovation in their regions
- Case studies of initiatives to foster regional innovation
- The European Union policy support
- Key factors in developing regions of knowledge
- Relations of universities with governments, industry and social actors

## II. The Brno Conference (3) Presenters

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- 39 presenters from 20 different countries, from which:
  - 19 case studies
  - 7 policy practitioners and regional authorities
  - 7 knowledge transfer body representatives
  - 3 Directorate Generals from EC: Research, Regional Policy and Enterprise and Industry

### III. Objectives of the Brno Conference (1)

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- Enable exchange of good practice drawn from different regional examples including exchange of experience between different public and private partners;
- Identify instruments and actions universities themselves can adopt and implement to enhance their contribution to regional development;

### III. Objectives of the Brno Conference (2)

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- Develop strategies for ensuring both local/regional focus and global outreach as components of institutional mission;
- Clarify the role of European policies and actions in promoting universities as key partners in regional development. Identify synergies between the 7th FP activities and actions co-financed by Structural Funds and the CI Programme.

## IV. Outline (1) Plenary Sessions

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- „Missions and Strategies of Universities in their Regional Context“  
To set up the scene
- „Linking Policy Frameworks for the „Regions of Knowledge“ –  
Education, Research and Innovation“  
Analysis of university-industry-government relations
- „Enhancing Research and Innovation: Regional Focus and Global  
Reach“  
Capacity of innovation of regions
- „Building Partnerships for Regional Innovation“  
Presentation of the new EUA report „The Rise of Knowledge  
Regions“  
Debate on good practices in university-industry-regional  
authority partnership

## IV. Outline (2) Work Groups

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### Showcase of good practices

- „Specific Instruments and Actions of Universities in Contributing to Regional Innovation“
- „Good Practices in Regional „Clustering“: Networks of Universities
- „Regional Policy Initiatives Involving Universities as Stakeholders“
- „Professional Skill Development in Higher Education for Knowledge Based Regions“