

Higher Education & Partnerships in the Regional Economy

John Maher

Centre for Newfoundland and Labrador Studies

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Purpose

- To assess the significance of higher education partnerships.
- To examine the potential for partnerships with higher education content.
- To identify how this potential can be secured

WHY, WHICH, HOW ?

What is *The Regional Economy*

- A set of **institutions** : places, platforms, organisations of production, supply and exchange.
- A set of **knowledgable people** pursuing different and competing interests.
- A set of human **behaviours** conducted in the course of daily socio-economic exchanges.
- A set governance and regulatory **mechanisms** which offers acceptable levels of predictability in outcomes.

Attributes of the Regional Economy

- **Hard and Soft Boundaries** – ease/difficulty of movement of goods and services, people, capital across boundaries into markets
- **Size is significant** (*think about 10% - 0.5m : 4.5m*)
- **Reach and Supply Chains** : where / who we draw from and to where / whom we provide.

The Sets in the Regional Economy

- ***Small Sets*** : a small region in a small open economy (1% of EU)
- ***Knowledge levels*** of the people (experience, education, disciplines)
- The types of **behaviours** : *cooperative, reliable, collaborative, investigative, innovative, creative, resilient, trustworthy, reflective, adaptive.*
- The **fitness for purpose** of our mechanisms and organs of governance : input, process, output, outcome orientation.

Significance of Partnerships

It is clear that.... Partnership(s) will lead to increased competitiveness for major research awards, innovation at the intersection of disciplines, and also the intellectual, cultural and financial benefits of a greater internationalisation of our student base in Ireland.

Taoiseach Enda Kenny (2012)

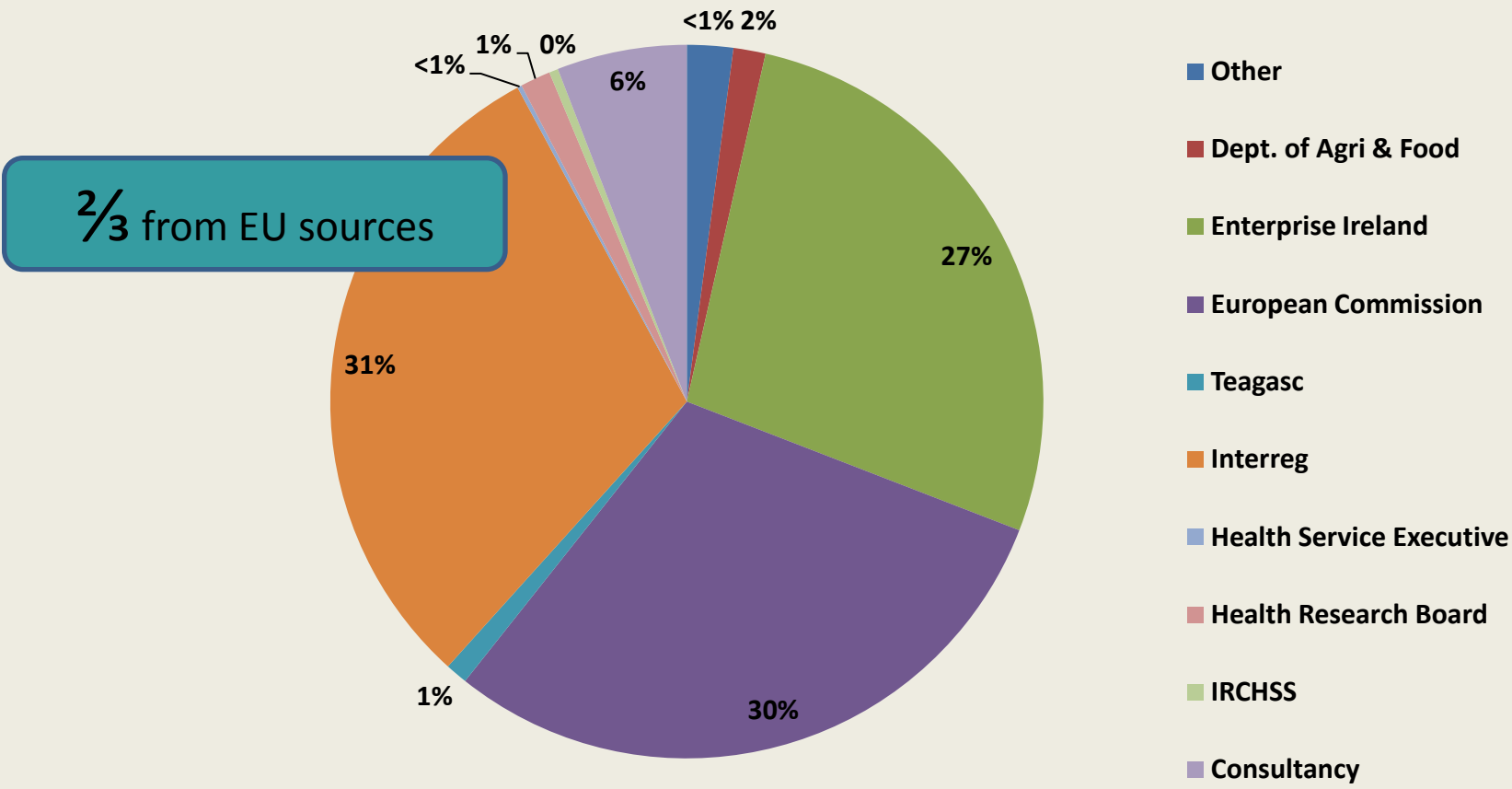
Rationale /Goals for Partnerships

- To **align effort / competences** with Community/ Regional / National problems, opportunities and interests.
- To **access skills and resources** across the partnership.
- To **develop competences** within the partnership
- To contribute to **regional innovation and adaption**
- To increase **regional attractiveness** at home and abroad for economic activity

Some Partnerships

HEIs in South East	Ent Irl / IDA / CEBs / BIC / LEADER	SFI /Forfas/IRC	Government Depts
Other Irish HEIs	Euro Comm	Chambers of Commerce	Multinationals
Overseas HEIs	State Agencies	Trade Associations	Large indigenous firms
National & Intl NGOs	Local Government	Professional Bodies	Small Indigenous Firms
Community & Regional NGOs	Research Centres	Academic Associations Domestic & International	Micro firms & Start ups

Research Funding Approved by Funding Agency - September 2010 to August 2011



POTENTIAL FOR PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships are a key characteristic of e-learning that could help institutions to share knowledge, and good practices, and achieve benefits such as advanced technology and educational quality in addition to enhanced market presence and lower costs.

HEI Partnership Contributions

- **Research** existing and emerging problems.
- **Teach** : develop life and market ready skills and abilities in the workforce and the community in a flexible manner.
- Deliver **consultancy** on one-to-one or one-to- few for well defined and ambiguous problems.
- Participate in **strategy development and implementation** in regional bodies charged with development responsibilities.

Partnerships in the Future

Partnerships Sectors	Existing	New
Existing	Bio Science Telecommunications Financial Services Food Materials/Mfg Tourism / Hospitality Leisure	Value Chains, Beyond OECD, Region to Region in UK & Europe & North America, Community Enterprise.
New	Green,	HEIs in Delivery Modes & Content

Further Partnerships

Large Domestic	FDI	SME	Micro & HPSU	Community Enterprise
SpringBoard Courses				
Research Projects	Research Projects	Research Projects	New Frontiers Enterprise Program	Research projects
		Innovation Vouchers	Innovation Vouchers	
Student Placements				
Tailored Programmes				

PREREQUISITES FOR PARTNERSHIPS

Nothing is possible without individuals ,
nothing is sustainable without institutions

Jean Monnet

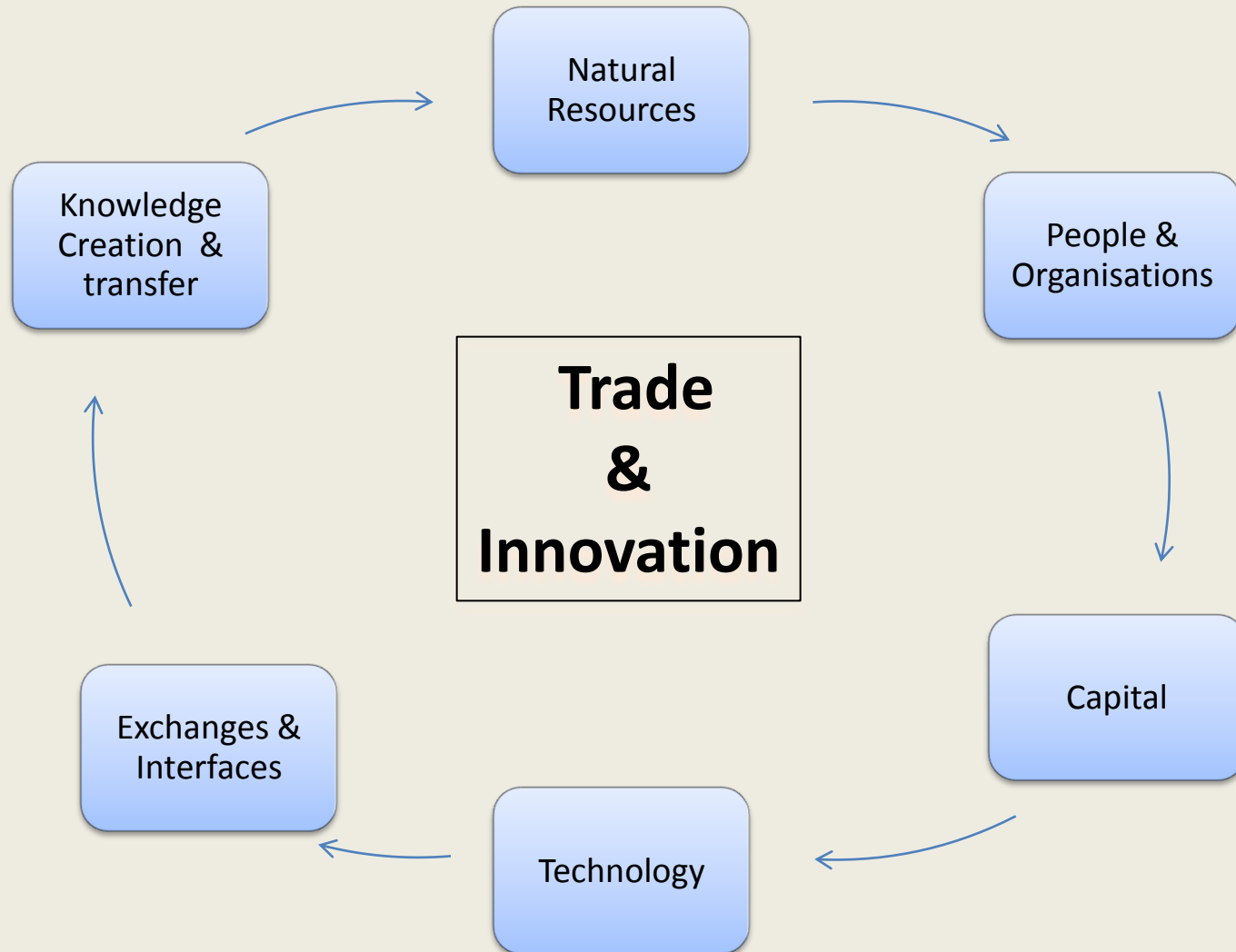
What will it take? (i)

- **Leadership**
- Definition of **goals** and short term **objectives**
- Making **choices** & tracking **progress**
- Commitment and Reconfiguration of **Resources**
– people and some capital and systems
- Appropriate **behaviours**
- Cohesive **engagement** at several levels
- Attracting developing and retaining **talent**.

What will it take? (ii)

- **Alignment** with National and EU priorities
- **Multiple perspectives**
 - *What is (or is not) going on in the Region, Nationally, in Europe, North America and ROTW,*
 - *What are the trends in different sectors*
- The development of a richer socio- economic **ecosystem**

Economic Ecosystem: Place & Space



Regional Leadership

- Needs to emerge from within the Region.
- Must command respect and authority.
- Will need to be accorded certain capability for shaping priorities and for charting progress.
- A collective dimension is necessary.
- A small cohesive group.
- Outcome oriented with demonstration / evidence as validation.

Summary

It will take more effort, imagination and collaboration to adapt to the policy imperative for purposeful partnership within the South East.

Are we up for it ?

Another Wexford achiever !!!

Geography has made us neighbours. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies. Those whom God has so joined together, let no man put asunder.

John F Kennedy