



Motion on Cooperation between Universities, Research community and Business sector

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8 We, the European Democrat Students, the student organisation of the European Peoples'

9 Party, keeping in mind and further promoting our motion on University and Business

10 cooperation, call for even further attention to the cooperation between Higher education

11 institutions (HEIs), Research institutions and business sector.

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13 Almost one year after adoption of motion on University and Business cooperation we can

14 see many encouraging incentives put into practice by various levels of policy makers. We

15 welcome the foundation of *European Institute for Innovation and Technology*, the

16 foundation of *EU Forum on University and Business Cooperation* and various good

17 practices on the field of research cooperation like *Joint European Torus*, project *ITER* and

18 *CERN*.

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20 However, there is still a wide space for improvement on all levels, as much on the

21 national level of each EHEA state as on the common European level.

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23 First of all we would like stakeholders on all levels to recognise the special place of

24 research community and include it as an important partner in the cooperation process

25 with HEIs and business sector. These three sectors, aka *knowledge triangle*, are in

26 practice very much interlinked and interdependent and should not be treated separately.

27 The research community as a motor for creativity and innovativeness cannot exist

28 without quality HEIs, HEIs provide education and training for employees in research and

29 business sectors and finally, business sector employs the work force and new knowledge

30 from HEIs and research community.

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32 Furthermore, we acknowledge the important role and place of research institutions as

33 key promoters and experienced mediators of cooperation between business and HEIs as

34 most of the cooperation between those two sectors already exists through different

35 research institutes that were founded by HEI.

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37 The main obstacles we have to tackle to improve the cooperation are the lack of tools for

38 communication between and amongst all three sectors, slow and inadequate application

39 of Bologna reforms in the EHEA member states, slow implementation of the Quality

40 Assurance Framework, insufficient and inadequate funding of HEIs or/and research

41 institutions, lack of real actions and steps towards removing the obstacles to mobility of

42 students, researchers and academic staff etc.

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44 We call EHEA member states to:

45 - put on adequate means of communication between research institutions, HEIs and
46 business in their respective countries

47 - prepare and adopt national strategies for cooperation between these three
48 sectors,

49 - adequately implement Bologna reform to HEIs and adequately fund both HEIs and
50 research institutions,

51 - provide sufficient number of scholarships and internships for young researchers
52 and support their further education and mobility,

53 - promote cooperation between national HEIs, research institutions, business sector
54 and European institutions.

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