

## **University, Research Institutions and Industry: what Partnership to Develop in Global Innovation Society?**

The session was asked to respond to the following questions:

*What is the role of universities in developing innovation and entrepreneurship?*

*How to develop best practice on knowledge-based development and private-public partnership to facilitate global knowledge dissemination?*

*How to identify barriers among relevant sectors and ways to overcome them to promote combined investments in education, research and innovation?*

Rapporteur's summary - Carlo Rizzuto

In what follows we extracted the following specific points:

- The role of Universities is highly strategic for the development of innovation and entrepreneurship
- This role is implemented through several channels, the most effective being Education, Knowledge Sharing and Knowledge Transfer
- All these channels must be enhanced by appropriate long-term strategic policies and actions, the most effective being the evaluation as an instrument to increase excellence, and the growth of cultural affinities based on sharing norms giving value to mobility and openness.
- The enhancement of the strategic role of Universities can be pursued by “benchmarking” and best practices. Excellent Industries collaborate with excellent Universities, and know how to find them. The measure of excellence for Universities is on the quality of basic research, while excellence of an industry is measured by its market competitiveness. Appropriate criteria must be applied to define excellence, without mixing them or the missions.
- Once excellence is ensured, competition and collaboration can easily coexist: there is no need to be defensive or fearful of being open.
- The role of Governments is to ensure that a favourable environment exists for growth and for strengthening the links inside the triangle of Knowledge, Research and Innovation. Better to lose a fraction of GNP, than to save on education! Education is the heart of innovation.
- In the globalized World a Region should aim at “capturing the flow” and be able to allow the changes by responding to the rapidly changing world, more than by closing the borders.
- Specific barriers, which should be addressed by Countries to promote combined investments, are the fiscal and institutional barriers: to achieve this requires long term strategies and political focus and persistence.
- Specific barriers to be overcome within and around the universities (some persisting from their origins in the Middle Ages) are the disciplinary fragmentation impeding multidisciplinary, the self reference against Society's judgment and ensuing self-defense reflexes.
- All the above requires developing a strategic approach, by all actors, towards responding to the rapid change of Society with an equal change and flexibility by the Universities, e.g. evolving appropriate role-models capable to join the production, the sharing and the transfer of all aspects of knowledge.