

***Proposal for a plenary session on Thursday, 28 October / 14.00 – 14.45 (CET) – ONLINE***

**Title:** „Universities in innovation ecosystems“

**Subtitle:** „Potential to expand regional innovation ecosystems to an international level“

**Introduction:**

Universities play a key role in fostering innovation processes on regional level. In 2020, the European Commission’s Open Innovation Strategy and Policy Group (OISPG) recommended that innovation policy must be now developed within the context of the emerging paradigm Open Innovation 2.0. This new mode “blurs the lines” within a quadruple helix of government, industry, universities and communities/citizens championing the creation of dynamic open innovation ecosystems.

This multi-actor approach is key and often leads to new organisational forms or collaborative formats to enhance regional innovation. Within this mode, Universities have a central role in making connections and co-creating engagement across trans- and interdisciplinary partners. In line with their core tasks of education, research and transfer, the University also plays an integral part in the knowledge creation and innovation process of cities and regions and contribute to the solutions of global challenges. The question is how regional innovation ecosystems can expand to an international level through strategic partnerships? What are the opportunities to strengthen international collaboration and innovation?

**Aim of the session is:**

- To provide input on the concept and transformation of regional innovation ecosystems and the role of universities in this regard
- To showcase good practice examples from different CARPE partners
- To discuss how CARPE partners can foster innovation by expanding regional innovation ecosystems to an international level (e.g. sharing research facilities, implement challenged-based learning projects, foster entrepreneurship etc.)

**Agenda**

- Welcome and introduction to the session (Moderator: Helen Kennedy, Head of Research UWS)
- Impulse presentation “The Role of Universities in Regional Innovation Ecosystems” (Kamila Kozirog, Policy & Project Officer | Research & Innovation/ EUA )
- Q & A

Good practice examples from CARPE partners:

- Utrecht Science Park INNOVATIONLAB
- Supporting regional strengths and international collaboration through HEI-based ecosystems –  
Turku UAS
- Discussion