

VIENNA COMMUNIQUE: **Global Universities and their Regional Impact**

What makes a university “global” is that

- it strives at hiring the best researchers and academic teachers from a global market
- it attracts talented students from all over the world, equipping them with the skills and analytical abilities to make a difference throughout global society
- it enables its students, graduates and researchers to be competitive globally
- it contributes to the global pool of human knowledge through its educational programmes and research activities, especially through the publications of its members
- it fosters and is committed to the exchange of students and the dissemination of innovative new ideas, across both academic communities and national borders by establishing networks of global collaboration

A global university adds value to its region by

- transferring the knowledge gained from globally competitive research to the region, thereby enhancing regional society, commerce, trade and industry and supporting innovation and entrepreneurship
- driving economic expansion in the region through the skills of its alumni and its on-going research activities, leading to new knowledge and innovations
- contributing to the region’s “brain gain” and to its open social climate through its international exchange programmes and global staff recruitment policy
- feeding questions from the region into the global research discourse and sharing the knowledge acquired

To secure its positive impact on society and to remain competitive, a global university should

- enable and support investigator driven basic research from which real innovations eventually originate in usually unexpected ways
- be open to new developments and respond to these by establishing fresh fields of research along with corresponding curricula
- respond to global, societal and economic challenges, contributing to the development of a knowledge-based society and the competitiveness of regional economies
- build upon its basic research and research-led education to establish links to industry as attractive and responsible partners; such partnerships should be for mutual benefit, both contributing to the competitiveness of industry and triggering challenging questions for basic research
- assume its responsibility towards society also via outreach activities and science communication in order to conduct a mutually advantageous conversation with society and to enable a knowledge-based development of the future
- recognise the diversity of faculty, staff, and students as a key strength and rich source of creativity and productivity, for itself and the region
- use its global network to strengthen its voice internationally and contribute to resolving problems where the resources of a single field, a single institution, or a single state may not be sufficient
- insist on its autonomy to make long term plans and its freedom to form partnerships across boundaries and disciplines in order to create prosperity and wellbeing.

High quality research and research-led education at universities are among the best assets that a society can invest in. Universities educate the next generations of responsible citizens who are able to adapt to rapid change and formulate new approaches that are vital in a world in which knowledge becomes rapidly outdated and where unforeseen new challenges appear. In a time of crises, universities have a key role to play in Europe's revival – and they must be listened to in the debate about Europe's future. Europe needs strong universities, which are economically and politically autonomous to make sustainable contributions for Europe to remain strong and competitive. In order to achieve this, they have to be active on the global scale.

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