

Knowledge policy

motives and considerations

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Knowledge policy context in Europe

Wide variety in

- Financing
- Agenda setting
- Science – Policy relations

-> Challenge for all of us:

building the European Research Area

within this highly varied context

context the Netherlands

- agribusiness 10% national economy, 20% of export
- Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality responsible for sci. & educ. within the domain
- main players Ministry of Science and Education and Ministry of Economic Affairs
- Science for impact or science for science?
- Food is hot

Knowledge Policy Arrangements

leading principles:

- Innovation and sustainability
- Stimulate knowledge dissemination and innovation by creating networks
- Demand based financing
- Coöperate with and invest in main policy players

Knowledge Policy Arrangements

Three examples

1. Wageningen University and Research Centre
2. 'Knowledge Cooperative'
3. Special arrangements

1. WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY AND RES. C.

- connect fundamental, strategic and applied research
- increased flexibility and market orientation
- create critical mass for research & education
- science for impact

Within the domain of “agriculture plus plus”

2. KNOWLEDGE COOPERATIVE

- Platform for exchange and cooperation in education (from vocational school to university)
- Improve connection between education and professional practice: inspiration for student and business
- Speeding up interaction between levels of education
- Involve applied researchers in education, knowledge dissemination & innovation

3. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

- **Regional arrangements**
 - Involve regional authorities, stakeholders, applied scientists, (professional) universities
 - Improve local economy, solve local problems
- **National innovation network**
 - Develop radical new concepts, put into practice
 - Positioned outside the Ministry
 - Examples: ‘taste lessons’, ‘glasshouse providing energy’

Further steps

- More involvement of stakeholders & public – private funding
- Crossing the boundaries between the domains
 - Food & health
 - Biobased economy
 - Animal/human diseases
- Specialization and coöperation in Europe:
 - Identify common issues and ambitions
 - Identify and use strengths in research
 - Keep absorption capacity nationally
 - Joint programs

Knowledge Policy Arrangements

leading principles:

- sector is more and more knowledge intensive
- integrate production and use of knowledge by creating short linkages
- demand based financing and other arrangements
- co-operate with and invest in main policy players

Further reading

- Fen Colonies: <http://www.english.veenkolonien.nl/>
- Poppe, K.J. (2008)
Economic assessment of Dutch agricultural research
<http://library.wur.nl/way/bestanden/clc/1884426.pdf>
- Innovation Network: <http://www.innovatienetwerk.org/en/>
- Wageningen UR: <http://www.wur.nl/UK/>
- knowledge policy in the Netherlands
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/agriculture/scar/>
NL page