The Valorization Program in the Netherlands

Authors:

Martijn Janmaat, Sander Kes, Joost Dieleman, Jelle Wijnstok, and Eline Casteleijn The case study analyses, from a policy analyst perspective, the Valorization Program supporting knowledge transfer activities in Dutch regions, describing regional valorization centres, interactions with other policy instruments, and impacts.

Discussant: Job Teurlinx

Topics covered

Regional centres, TTOs, entrepreneurship education, academic spin-offs

What is the Valorization Program?

- Launched in 2010, the programme provides funding for entrepreneurship education and research valorization structures
- First national programme to provide institutional funding for valorization activities
- Funding is provided to 12 consortia and their regional valorisation centres
- Consortia consist of universities, universities of applied science, firms, municipalities, provinces and societal actors
- Participants to decide which type of valorization they would like to focus on
- Co-funding of 50% of project costs is required
- Funding provided by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate and the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science

Valorization activities supported

Entrepreneurship education

Screening and scouting of Technology
Transfer Offices

Intellectual property (IP) management

Pre-seed funding

Proof of Concept funding

Networking events

Regional valorisation centres

Valorization centers provide support activities to researchers, students, and firms in a region

Interaction with other policy instruments/ programmes

- NWO programs Take-off grant/loans
- StartupDelta
- Other regional valorization policies

Impact

Key findings of 2014 evaluation:

- **Methods**: Desk research, microdata analysis, a CATI survey (>300 respondents), 12 site visits, interviews, and workshops
- Increase in entrepreneurial attitude amongst researchers, students, and regional SMEs
- Strengthened local connections between science, education and application
- · Need to increase high-tech, high-growth academic start-up activity

Policy recommendations

Give priority to screening and scouting of high-tech start-ups by Technology Transfer Offices

Develop national valorization plan with relevant stakeholders

Provide stable, longterm funding for regional valorization centers Up-scale activities of valorisation centres by creating a national network of valorisation centres

Find balance between national policy supporting excellence and regional/local development policy

Create evaluation and monitoring structures