

1. Developing more coherence between policies in the fields of education, research and innovation

There is a need for more coherent policy-making at European and Member State level fully integrating the three components of the knowledge triangle. Policies within the fields of education, research and innovation should be mutually reinforcing to ensure the development of a fully functional knowledge triangle and to speed up the transition towards a true knowledge-based economy and society. In the framework of existing reporting processes in the open method of coordination, the Commission should report back to the Council on measures taken in the areas of education, research and innovation to support the integration of the knowledge triangle. The report should include identifying obstacles and suggestions for further development.

2. Accelerating pedagogical reform

Member States should encourage education and training institutions to ensure that curricula, as well as teaching and examination methods at all levels of education, including doctoral level, incorporate and foster creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship. One way of doing this is to develop curricula on an ongoing basis in cooperation with research institutions, industry and other stakeholders, as appropriate.

3. Partnership between universities and business and other relevant stakeholders

Member States and the Commission should respond promptly to the invitations for action set out in the Conclusions of the Council and the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, of 12 May 2009 on enhancing partnerships between education and training institutions and social partners, in particular employers, in the context of lifelong learning. In the context of developing closer links between universities and the communities which they serve, particular attention should be given to the development of incentives for staff mobility between the university and business sectors, including staff exchange programmes. University business cooperation should be enhanced as part of universities education, research and innovation strategies.

4. Measures to develop an innovation culture in universities

Member States should encourage universities to accelerate their efforts to develop an 'innovation culture' through, inter alia, more dynamic and interactive learning environments and incentives to staff to engage in projects with an innovation dimension. Funding arrangements and incentive structures at institutional level could be developed to foster a 'cultural change' so that cooperation with industry is recognized as an important factor for career advancement. The crucial role of higher education leaders in supporting the effective development of an 'innovation culture' should be acknowledged.

5. Creating incentives for universities to develop transferable knowledge

Member States should examine whether there are adequate incentives for universities to develop knowledge which can be transferred to the wider economy for development into innovative goods and services. Where legal provisions, governance structures or financial provisions prevent institutions from making a profit from such knowledge development

and transfer, Member States should seek to adjust the framework within which their institutions operate so that such barriers are removed and universities are given sufficient autonomy. Universities should develop specific strategies for knowledge creation, development and transfer.

6. New approaches to quality assessment

In particular for higher education, Member States should work together to develop 'knowledge triangle' criteria for assessing the quality of their institutions, which should focus on how successfully research and innovation have been integrated with teaching and core educational functions and how successful the institutions are in creating learning environments that stimulate creativity and entrepreneurial approaches to harnessing knowledge and in preparing its students for their future social and economic lives.

7. Developing the EIT as a model for the future

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), being the first EU-level initiative to focus on coherent interactions between all actors of the knowledge triangle, should be developed as an example of good practice for Member States, higher education and research institutions and the business sector with regard to integrating all three sides of the triangle. The future Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), the EIT's main operational entities, should have the potential of showing new ways to tackle economic and societal challenges (e.g. sustainable energy and climate change mitigation and adaptation) via holistic and multi-disciplinary approaches, as well as via new models for governance and funding aimed at stimulating innovation of the highest standards. The EIT should disseminate these models, which should inspire the creation of other joint initiatives at various levels and across borders, paying special attention to the need to develop the role of education within the knowledge triangle.