

Green Economy Exchange: Collaborating for Sustainable

Growth and Resilience

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"Academic Transfer with Sustainable Impact" *by Prof. Jan Kratzer*

Workshop Brief:

Academic transfer as transfer activities of universities and other research institutions mainly focuses in its core on patenting and licensing, industry-university linkages and start-up or entrepreneurial support systems. In the entire breadth of different approaches and definitions sometimes activities such as transdisciplinary efforts, open access or career services next to others are counted as "transfer". These activities, however, will not be considered in the workshop.

All core transfer activities have their roots in academic research or education. Therefore, all transfer offices or entrepreneurship centers at academic institutions are closely linked to research and education. However, when having a closer look at it a huge variety appears. Some offices or centers concentrate on all patenting/licensing, industry-university linkages and start-ups and in addition conduct research and offer educational programs such as MScs or MBAs, while others are specialized concentrating on one pillar and leaving academic education and research entirely in the responsibilities of academic departments.

A second dimension of complexity is subject-specific specialization. Very obvious it makes a difference at art universities to support students to create their self-employment or to support start-ups at technical universities to apply for their own patents and work in interdisciplinary teams. Moreover, the differences even increase when transfer activities require laboratories or test equipment as in many disciplines in engineering or science.

A third dimension refers to the embeddedness and structural configuration of transfer activities. Is it organized as a large center within the academic institutions as its own entity or belonging to a faculty or to the administration or is it organized in many small units within and even sometimes as a private entity outside of the institution? In reality, there are numberless structural configurations.

The workshop will engage in all these complexities and explore best practices. This part of the workshop will lead to the actual frame and issue: **How much can academic transfer contribute to sustainable transformation or phrased differently – What is the sustainable impact of academic transfer?**