Liège creative – a new experience for boosting creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship on campus

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Liège: some figures

- Liège: City of 600,000 in a Province of 1 Mio
- Industrial tradition: steel, mines, mechanics, energy
- Long and deep crisis from the 70's till the 90's
- New developments
  - 2nd harbour in UE, 7th airport for freight, HS train, Highways
  - Logistics: 100 Mio inhabitants within 3 hours drive
  - Aeronautics and space industry
  - Imaging technology – ICT
  - Environment technologies – water treatment technologies
  - Biotechnology
  - Culture historical sites – musea - new station
  - Green energy
  - Materials
The University of Liège: some figures

- Grounded in 1496, state university in 1817
- 11 faculties: the only complete state university in W-B
- 22,000 students
- Campus in Liège, Gembloux, Arlon
- Open to the Euregio M-R, and Great Region (Lu, De, Fr)
- 600 professors, 3000 scientists
- University Hospital (4000 employees)
- 400 Mio€ total budget (50% for research)
- 1000 concurrent research contracts (70 FP7)
- 45 Mio€/year direct contracting from companies
- Science park with 100 high tech companies
- 100 spin-off companies grounded
- 25 patents a year – 20 licences a year
# Interface Entreprises-Université

## Les 4 domaines d’actions

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Background of ULg-Interface

- 1989: Founded by Ulg, with several company associations, und funded by large companies
- 1994: Supported by EU (Feder, FSE)
- 1998: IP regulations, TT official start
- 1998: set up of Gesval sa (TT)
- 1999: creation of Spinventure sa (Seed capital)
- 2001: WSL incubator
- 2005: WBC incubator
- 2007: Mirval project: interuniv TT
Cross fertilisation …
How to deal with?

• 89-94: letting labs known by industry, SME’s specially; proactive visits into SME’s: University show interest to SMEs

• 93-03: local clustering activities: Aerospace, Biotechnology, Energy, Water, Logistics, Nutrition, Imaging technology, …: now 6 poles of competitiveness, 14 clusters in Wallonia

• 03-10: Innovation breakfeasts, conferences, opening doors of laboratories

• How to emphasize these interactions?
Cross fertilisation …
3 new programs

- **2007**: launching an initiative of continuous education for companies (technology wise)
  - Non academic programs (short or long seminars)
  - Can be tailor made program for large companies
  - Companies can be refunding partially (education technology vouchers)
  - Program set up with industry

- **2009**: launching of the “Lab In’sight” concept
  - All Walloon universities together, on a specific theme
  - Dedicated to SME’s
  - One lab is hosting the event, with a visit
  - Other labs are visited virtually (video)
  - Than Match making event
  - Ex : Imaging in health, food quality, biomaterials, …

- **Nov 2011**: Liege Creative
Cross fertilisation …
Liege Creative

- Common project: University, companies, public services, cultural institutions, …
- An umbrella for boosting creativity, Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Aim to connecting creative people, whereever they are, what position they have
  - A shared agenda for events
  - Web 2.0
  - Young style approach, full interactivity, low pricing
  - Breakfasts, conference-lunches, evening conference
  - An event every two days in the Colonster Castle (in the Science P)
- 11 mixed program committees are involved
  - Agrofood, human health, culture, entrepreneurship, engineering, environment, human sciences, materials, ICT, city evolution
  - 120 people involved
  - Team of 3 FTE to launch the system, and to have companies as partners
- 840 participants in 42 events after 6 months
Some outputs …
Partenarial research projects

• Project for set up new theatrical and opera productions, more fitted to the web media
• Biomimetism materials (functional coatings of steel f.i.) applied to semiconductors
• Functional robots developed by students
• New projects for recycling rare materials
Thank you for your attention

- www.interface.ulg.ac.be
- www.liegecreative.be