

University Governance and EU Competitiveness. Jo Ritzen

Thinking the Future

Congress U.Porto 2016; 28 October 9H30 –10H00
GOVERNANCE



A More Competitive EU Requires a Different University Governance

Legislature and funding based on:

- Best evidence on delivering competencies;
- Specifying what how value added in competencies by universities is rewarded by Government.

So that universities have a contract with society under which they operate in accountability on RESULTS, without political interference on processes.

Embedded into Government equality of opportunity policies.

The Path Towards a More Competitive EU Through Improved University Governance

- Universities/HE contribute to society by raising the competencies of graduates to act responsibly, compassionate and engaged.
- The economy is served by raising competencies (through education) and by delivering new public and private knowledge.
- Universities contribute more if they are better funded and more autonomous.
- In most countries the “social contract” between universities and Governments needs to be revisited in order to create consistency between Government goals for HE and their means.
- But universities should also beef up in delivering value added in competencies for society and the labor market of tomorrow.

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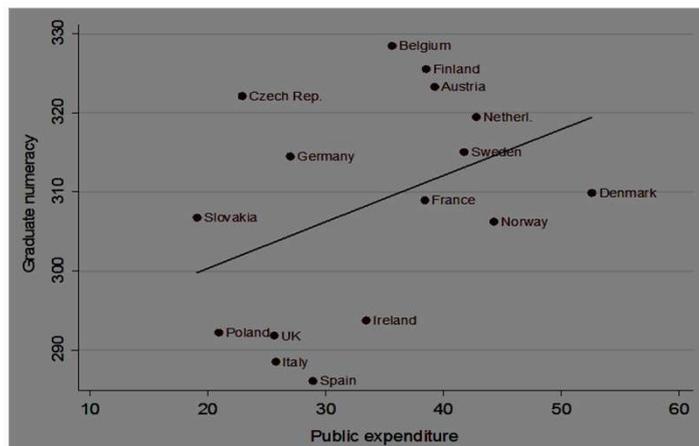
The Evidence

- Universities contribute to the economy by raising competencies (through education) and delivering new public and private knowledge.
- Evidence: ample evidence on public **research** and private innovation starting with Jaffe 1976. Closer to production frontier: more impact of university research. Highest impact in triple helix.
- Evidence: not **education** enrolment but competencies count (PISA, PIAAC/ Hanushek).
- Less evidence on the impact of education on the competencies related to humanism and civic engagement.

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Universities do better if they are better funded and more autonomous; example: competencies/funding.

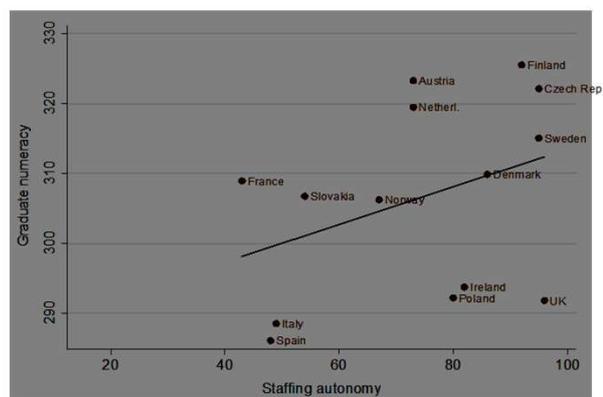


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- Evidence: research productivity and autonomy: Aghion
- Evidence: education output and autonomy: Houreau et al.
- Evidence: research productivity and funding: many.
- Evidence on education and behavioral characteristics: Heckman, Schuster, Seegers

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University autonomy leads to more competent graduates



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Create consistency between goals and means

- The “social contract” between universities and Governments needs to be revisited in most countries in order to restore consistency between Government goals for HE and their means.
- Provide managerial, staffing, financial and policy autonomy of universities (at arm’s length of the government), subject to quality control on **output**.
- Revisit political decision making so that it provides universities with non-partisan long run guidelines.

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Measure Value added in competencies.

- But universities should also beef up in delivering value added in competencies for the society and the labor market of tomorrow.
- Societal demand is for intercultural understanding, for tolerance, for civic engagement.
- Labor market of tomorrow is disciplinary knowledge in a problemsolving and “entrepreneurial” mode, recognizing interdisciplinarity.
- Universities should measure value added and be transparent about process and output quality.

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THANK YOU !