



KU LEUVEN
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT



Collaboration with business & society: KU Leuven

P. Van Dun
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Europe's most innovative university

- Reuters ranks KU Leuven as Europe's most innovative university in its top 100 of innovative European universities (2016 and 2017).

Reuters top 100: Europe's most innovative universities

1. KU Leuven

2. Imperial College London

3. University of Cambridge

4. Technical University of Munich

5. École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

6. University of Erlangen Nuremberg

7. Université Pierre et Marie Curie

8. Delft University of Technology

9. University of Zurich

10. University of Oxford



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Features that have proven to be important to us ...

- Time
 - For the TTO being around
 - For the actions of some of the members of the university government to “drip down”
- Full (and active!) endorsement of the university top
- Tell the story
- Start with what is within reach

A wide range of possibilities: what is within reach?

- Gatekeeping (two way street)
- Use of infrastructure & facilities
- Consultancy: expert opinions / analysis
- Feasibility studies / simulations
- (Clinical) trials
- Joint R&D: bi- or multilateral
- Licensing: patents, software, materials, ...
- Spin-offs, joint ventures, ...

Features that have proven to be important to us ...(2)

- Incentive for researchers (\leftrightarrow promotion criteria)
- ... and also investments by the institution (policy choice!)
 - In the TTO
 - In incubation / proof-of-concept
- Reality check: vast majority of partnerships find their origin at researchers' level – but you can help to create opportunities
- Access to early stage breakthroughs: close relationship

Major challenges - how to deal with them?

- Business (and society) is speeding up: our answer: one stop shop
- Interdisciplinary research vs. “walls” of faculties
- Flexible terms and constructions: may vary over time (content, volume, ...) BUT continuity required regarding the university policies & strategy!
- More and more: concentration of research partners



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