



European University-Enterprise Network

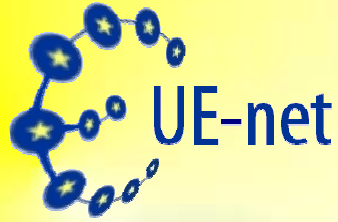
## **Enhancing the transfer of know-how: European strategy for closer cooperation between the academia and small enterprises**

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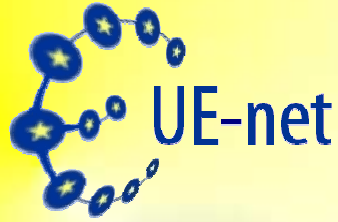
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President of EUE-Net



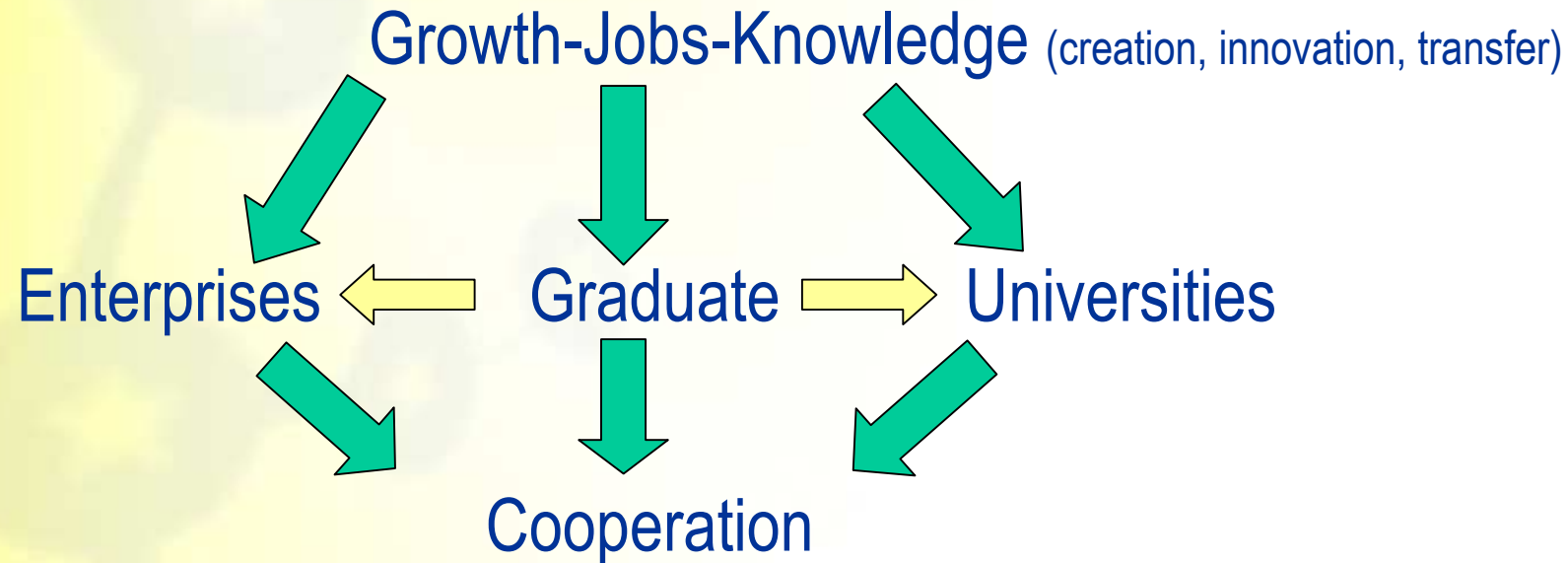
# EUE-Net

- Initially started as EUI-Net
- EUE-Net – a new stage – addressing the needs of micro and small enterprises
- 82 Partners in all European countries
- 3 years of EUI-Net
- Well established instruments
  - Annual EUI-Net Conference
  - Special Interest Groups = Sub-Networks
  - Technical meetings – each 3...4 months

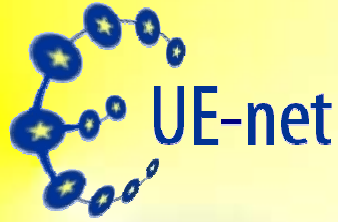


# Lisbon agenda

A simple model



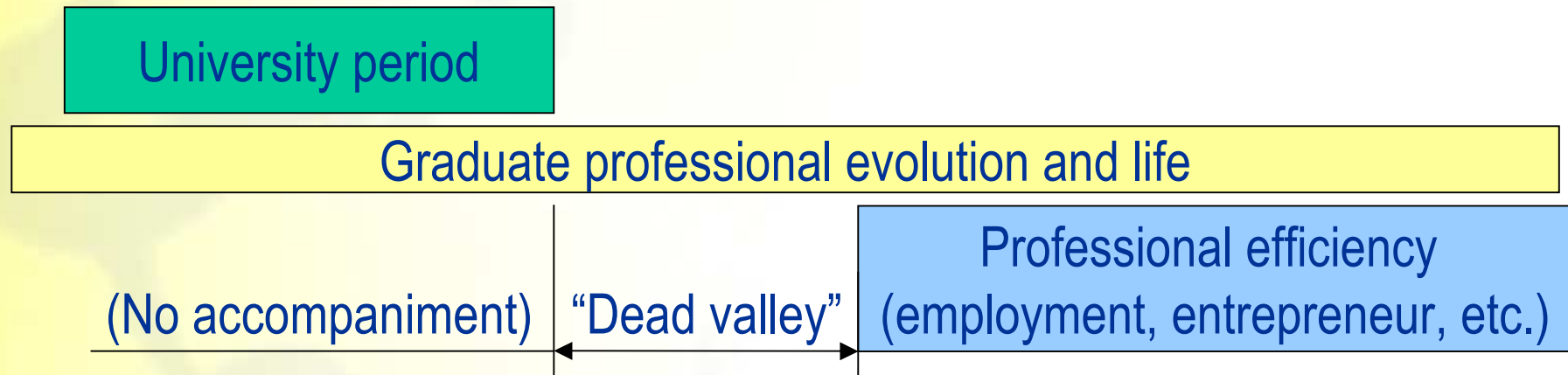
- Demonstrates the crucial importance of U-E cooperation
- Cooperation  $\Rightarrow$  graduate !
- EUE-Net addresses this challenge systematically



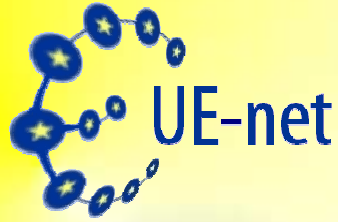
# University Graduate

## the vector of University-Enterprise cooperation

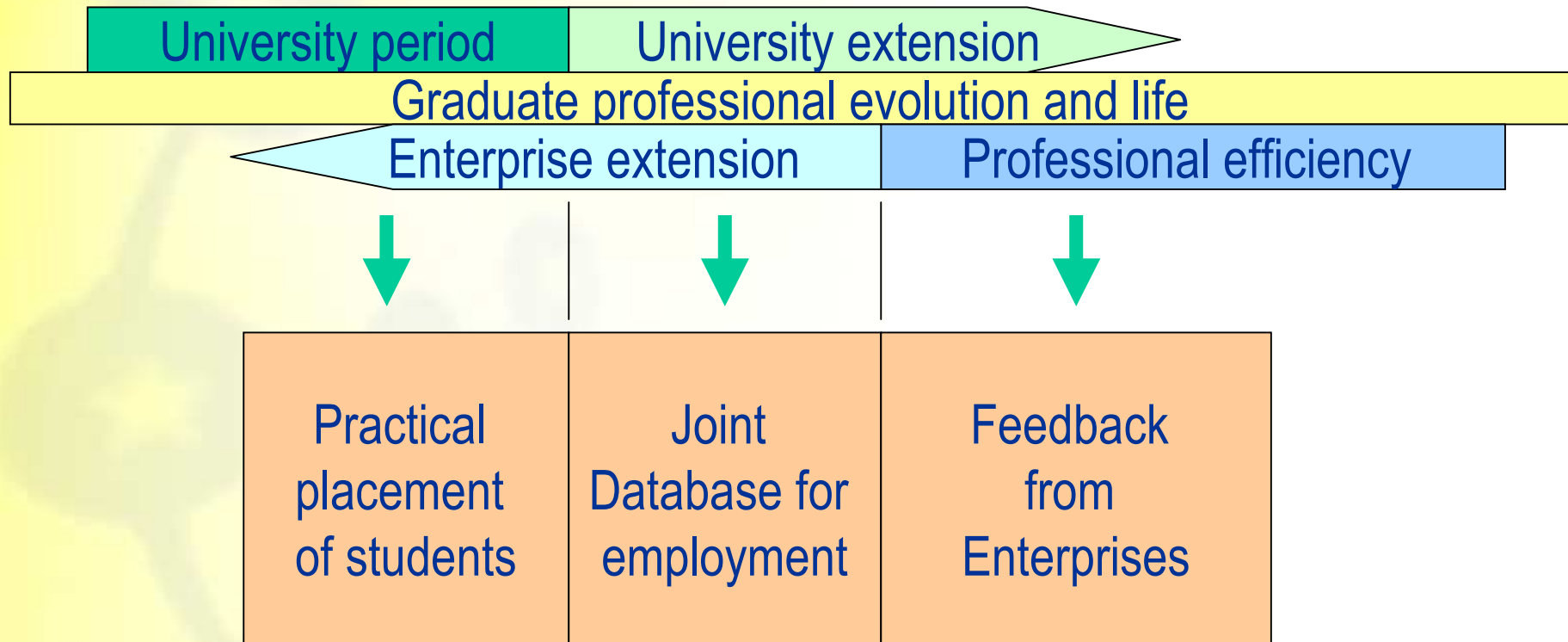
- Knowledge carrier (millions of vectors annually in Europe transferring knowledge from University to the Enterprise sector)
- Current situation:



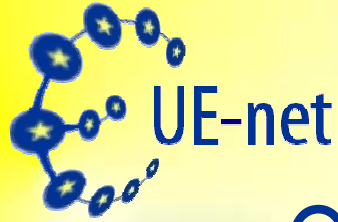
The main cooperation area → at the border !



# Three areas of cooperation



↪ The three dimensional approach of EUE-Net  
→ Three corresponding projects currently under definition



## Project 1: *Q-PlaNet*

# Quality of practical placements

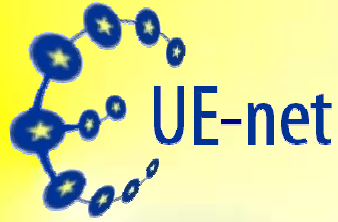
- Background:
  - Practical placement – not enough regulated (U&E)
  - Best practice: local U-E arrangements
  - Increased mobility (Erasmus, Leonardo, etc) – no arrangement, difficult to set up
- Urgent need: the two systems need to interact
  - Ideally – the 2 systems must integrate Practical Placement of students in their current Quality Systems !!
- EUE-Net current action → Quality Standards and “European Network of Regional Reference Centres” for PP



UE-net

## Project 2: Network of Career Development Offices (*CDO-Net*)

- Local actors (several hundreds of CDO's in Europe)
- Maintain databases of graduates or students approaching graduation and available positions in enterprises
- Usually 5000-20000 records
- CDO's are the natural job mediators between U-E
- EUE-Net goal: European Network of CDO's
  - Globalisation of mediation at European scale
  - Assembled database: European barometer of employment needs and qualifications available (matching offer and demand)



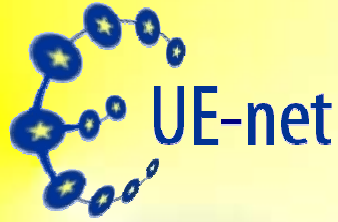
## ...continuation

- Useful for Universities: they will be able to see the Enterprises demand at European level and per region etc.
- Useful for Enterprises: they will be able to see which is the current graduate structure in Europe, at regional level etc.
- Useful for future students: they will be able to see what the enterprises look for and what courses the Universities currently organise and make their CHOICE.



## UE-net Project 3: *Enterprenaut*

- Background:
  - In Europe only 40% of students think about creation of their own business after graduation (60% in USA)
  - Entrepreneurship is not yet a generic skill (and general subject in the curricula)
- Two EUE-Net experiments at European scale:
  - Defining and promotion of Entrepreneurship in University: Tailored offer to entrepreneurs, massively integrating recognition of non-formal and informal learning
  - Promotion of mobility schemes of entrepreneurs within University (*Enterprenaut*)



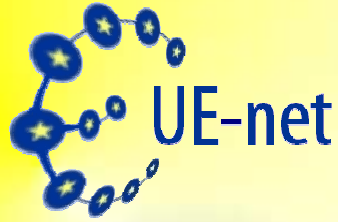
# Two experimental Entreprenaut mobility flows developed

- Partners: Entrepreneurs from Brussels and Brescia
  - Host: University Transilvania of Brasov
- Duration: 1 week. Content:
  - Attending some classes with students (see what and how is taught )
  - Giving some lectures with academics (“learning by doing”, “learning by teaching”)
  - Language training
  - Sketch of their business expansion with selected students
  - Follow up (in May – July ‘07): linked student mobility
  - Expected result: students will create their own job or business, entrepreneurs accumulating formal University transferable credits
- Very positive feedback from the entrepreneurs
- Long term target: Tailored training offers for entrepreneurs, massive non-formal and informal learning



# Lessons learned

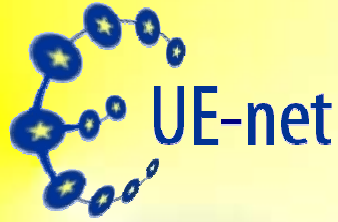
- University-Enterprise cooperation - very complex issue
- Only graduates taken into consideration. What about Research and Innovation ?
  - Some instruments already in place by DG Enterprise Research (IRC's, CRAFT, COST, etc.)
- Unless an official European framework for U-E cooperation is established, U-E cooperation will remain scattered, just as the result of occasional projects like EUI-Net.



# Ideal measure

A permanent European Programme jointly supported by DG Education and DG Enterprise

- Institutional building and systemic approach.
- Powerful instruments and substantial framework creation
- Call for projects - all European countries must participate
  - a bottom up approach to stimulate innovative cooperation schemes and rapid generalisation of successful U-E cooperation schemes at European level



# Conclusions

- EUE-Net is just a small initiative compared to the complexity and dimensions of the U-E cooperation matter
- It identified however the targets and the necessary framework to reach them
- Could be the starting point for a well dimensioned European approach
- New partnership with JEUNE and Academy Avignon (UEAPME)
- For the moment – still an exclusive Erasmus initiative (DG Education and Culture).



Thank you for your attention !

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