



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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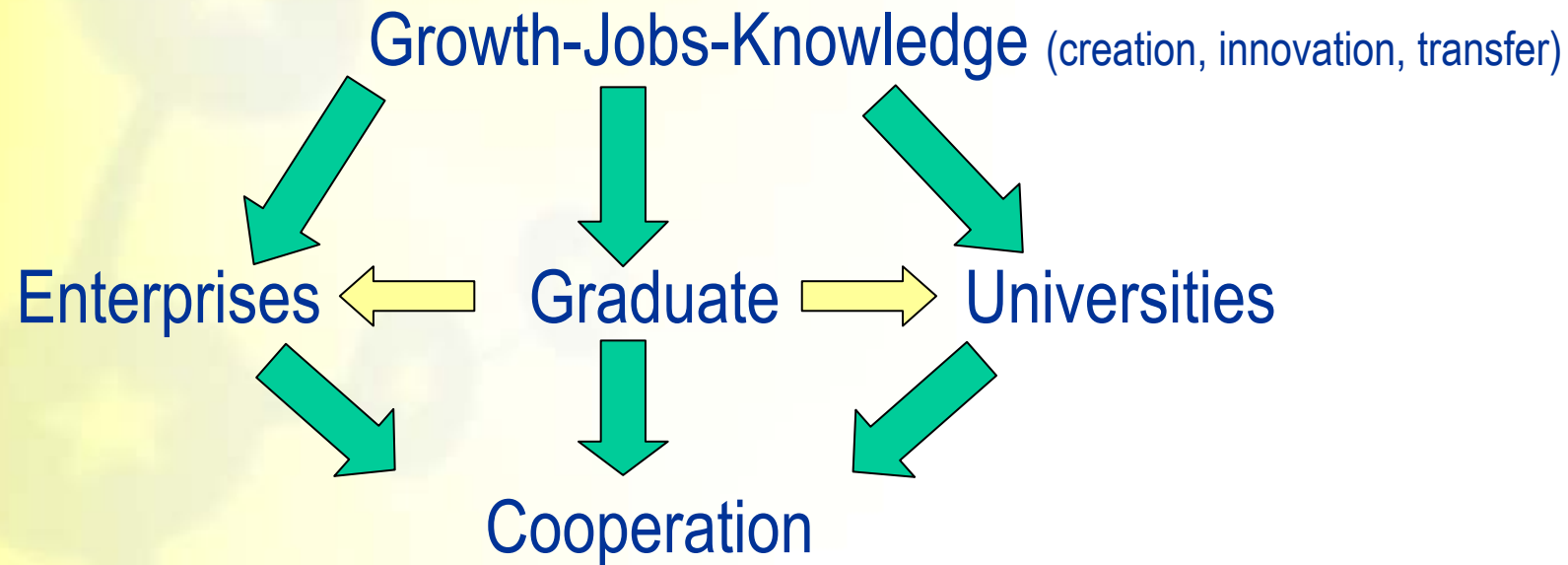
EUE-Net

- 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 existence
- Well established instruments
 - Annual EUE-Net Conference
 - Special Interest Groups = Sub-Networks
 - Technical meetings – each 3..4 months



Lisbon agenda

A simple model

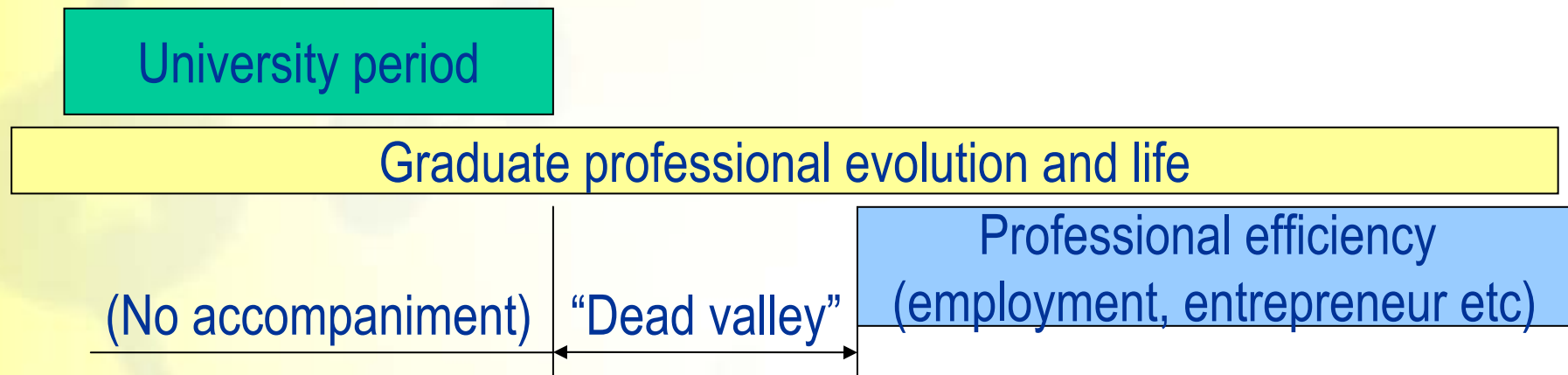


- Demonstrates the crucial importance of U-E cooperation
- Cooperation \Rightarrow graduate !
- EUE-Net addresses this challenge systematically



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:

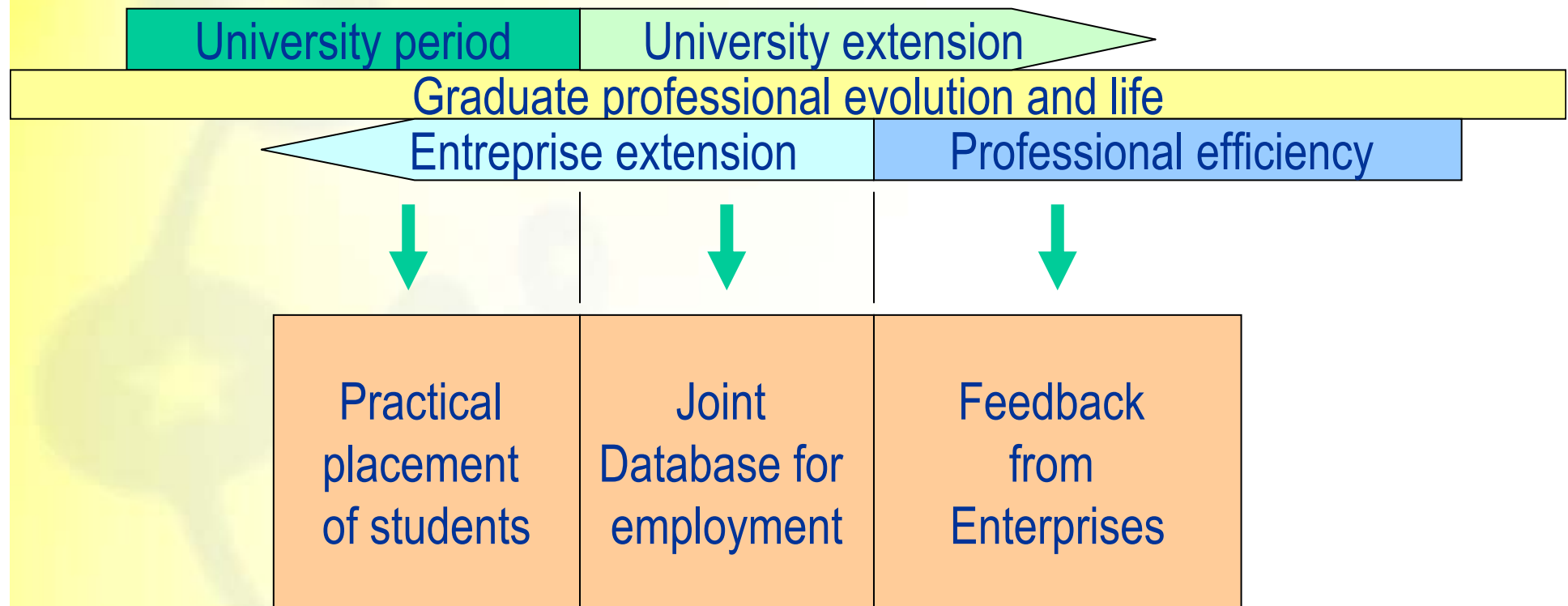


The main cooperation area → at the border !



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Three areas of cooperation

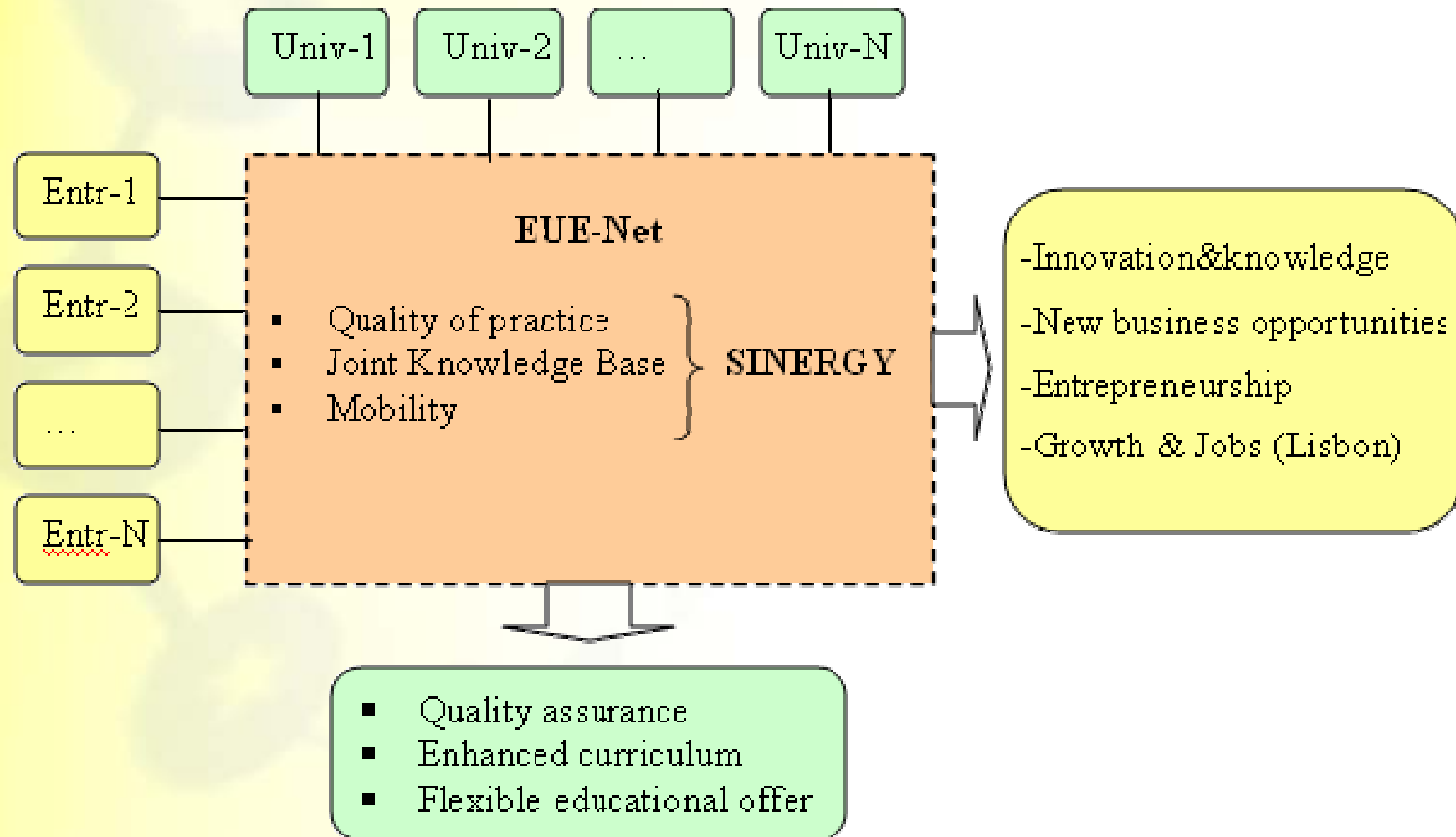


The three dimensional approach of EUE-Net

→ Three corresponding projects currently under definition



The main tool → Networking = EUE-Net cooperation model





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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 system 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



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

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



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Project 3: *Enterprenaut*

- Goal: Boosting new Entrepreneurship in Europe
- 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 University curricula)
- Two EUE-Net actions at European scale:
 - Defining, [fine] tuning and promotion of Entrepreneurship subjects in University curricula
 - Promotion of mobility of entrepreneurs within University (*Enterprenaut*)



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Two experimental Entreprenaut mobility flows developed

- Partners:
 - Entrepreneur from Brussels
 - Entrepreneur from 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 teaching”)
 - Drawing the first lines of their business expansion in Romania with selected students
 - Follow up (in May – July ‘07): corresponding student mobility
 - Expected result: students will create their own job or business



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
- Unless an official European framework for U-E cooperation is established targeting Education and Training, U-E cooperation will remain scattered, just as 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 → Standards and guidelines (for example integration of the process of “Practical placement of students” explicitly in ISO 9000 standard and the Academic quality standards)
- All European countries must participate → a bottom up approach (call for projects) to boost innovative paths for cooperation and rapid generalisation 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 become the starting point for a well dimensioned European approach
- New strong partnership with JEUNE and UEAPME
- For the moment – still a small Erasmus initiative



Thank you for your attention !