



# **Knowledge and technology transfer in an innovation ecosystem: why, how and where?**

Lithuanian TTO Summit

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# **THE ROLE OF A TTO IN THE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM**

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# What is an innovation ecosystem?

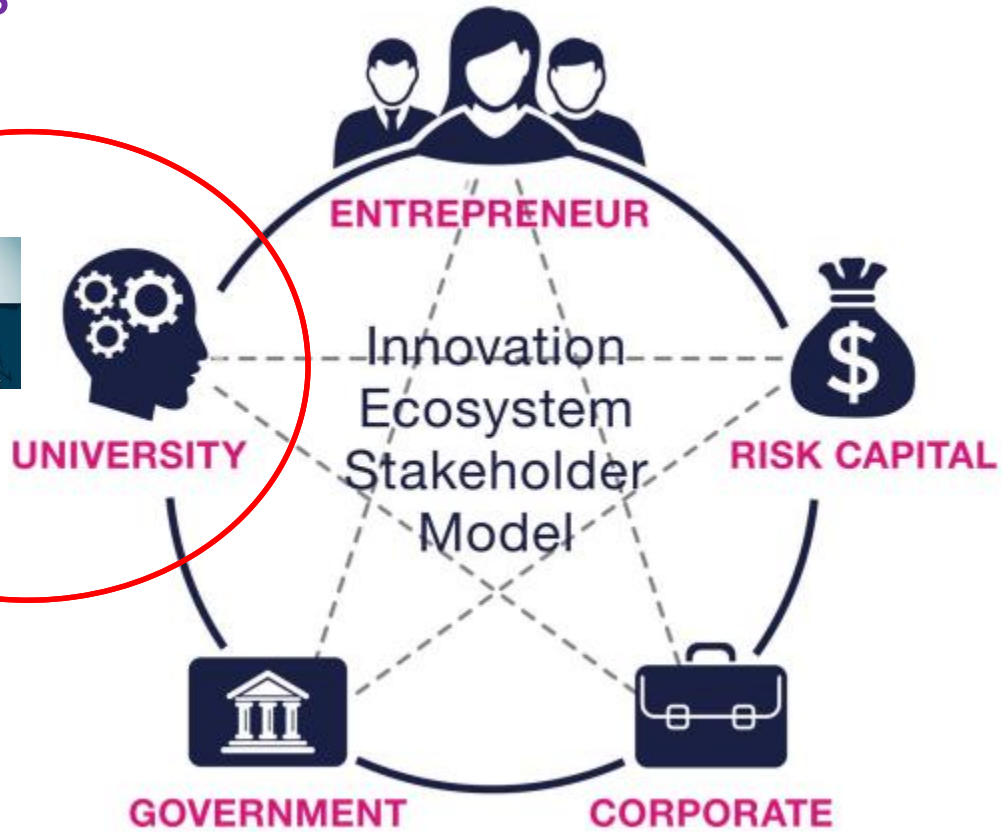
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*Definition: An innovation ecosystem is the evolving set of **actors, activities, and artifacts**, and the **institutions and relations**, that are important for the innovative performance of an actor or a population of actors.*

*‘Stakeholder model’*

# Main 'Actors' and their Roles?

TTO Role: Access to Knowledge?



Current university  
Role: Knowledge  
provider



# Starting 'role' for a TTO in the innovation ecosystem: 'facilitating access to knowledge'

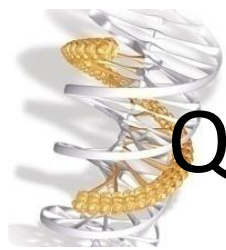
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## Good Practice

- Ensuring good framework conditions for engagement and raising awareness of them.
- Stimulating and managing S2B collaborations.
- **Others?**

## Check-list/ Metrics

- IP Policy
- Awareness and documentation of internal and external stakeholders (active research groups. Enterprises)



# Q1: Does your TTO have a clear Mission?

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## Yes

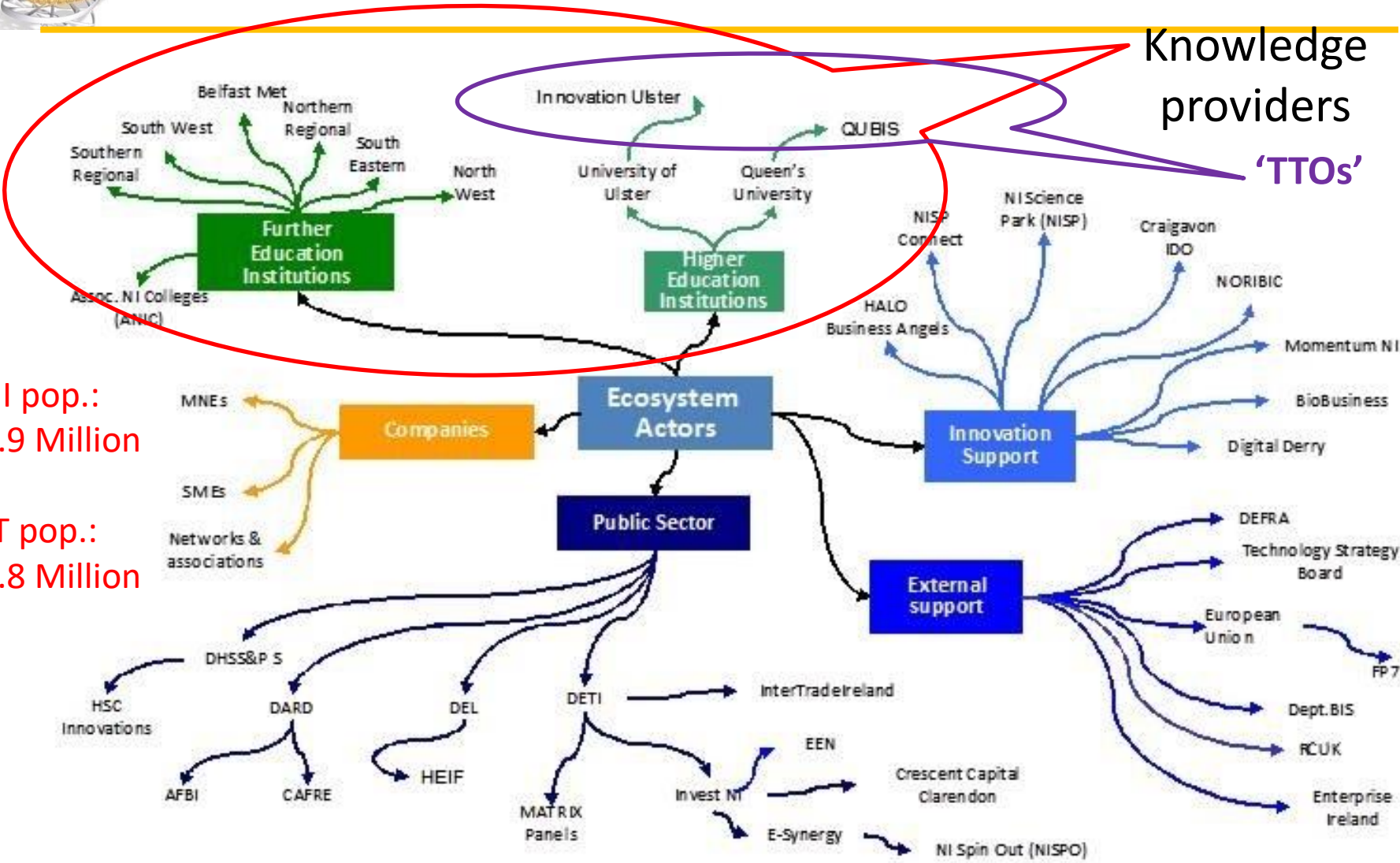
- Does the mission provide you with a clear and distinct role in **‘the ecosystem’** that serves your University?

## No/not – Possible TTO action

- Consider (re)formulating one in collaboration with your university management and other stakeholders.

Emerging question: What do we mean by **‘the ecosystem’**...? (How do we know what we have got?)

# Ecosystem Mapping

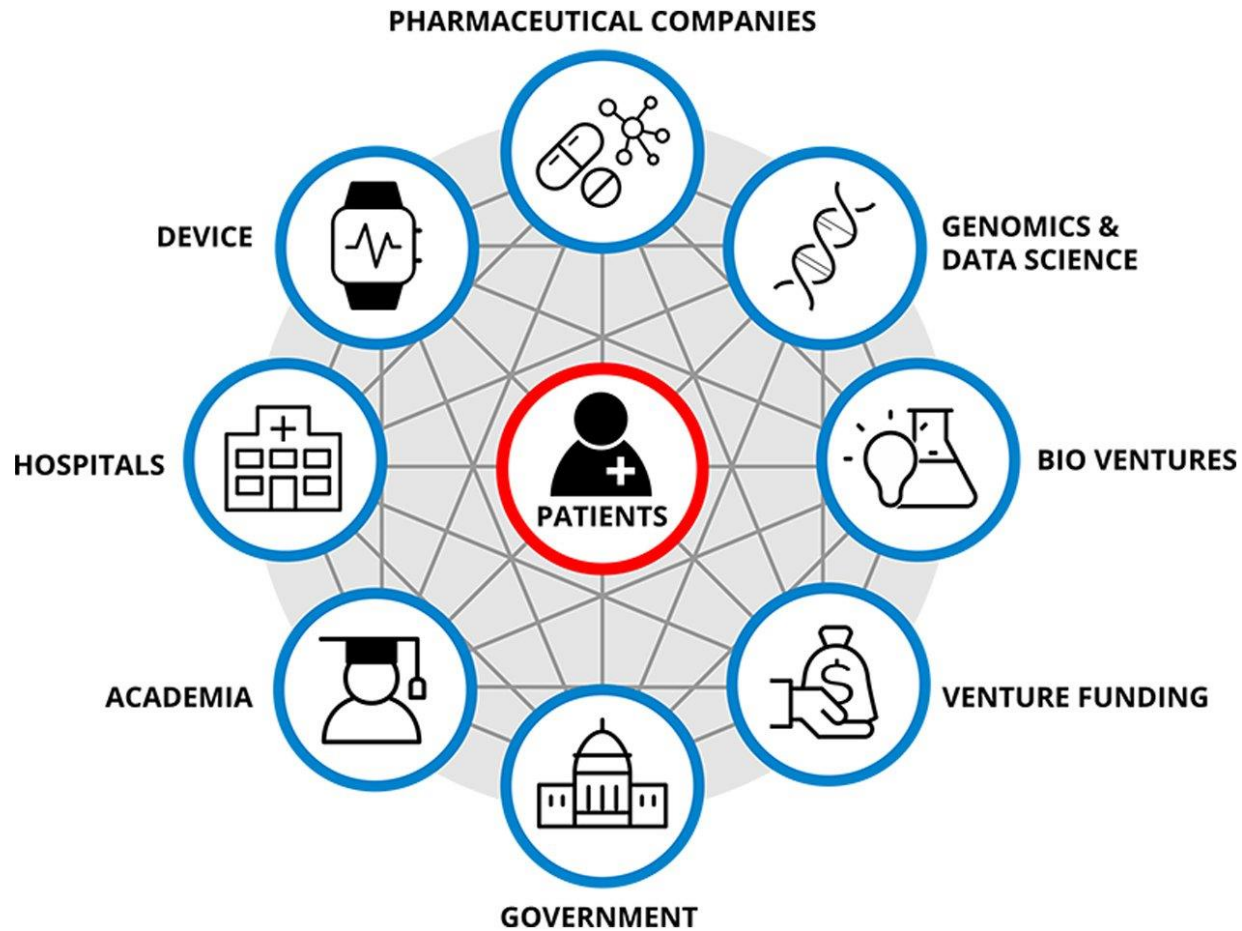


NI pop.:  
1.9 Million

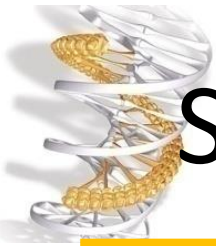
LT pop.:  
2.8 Million



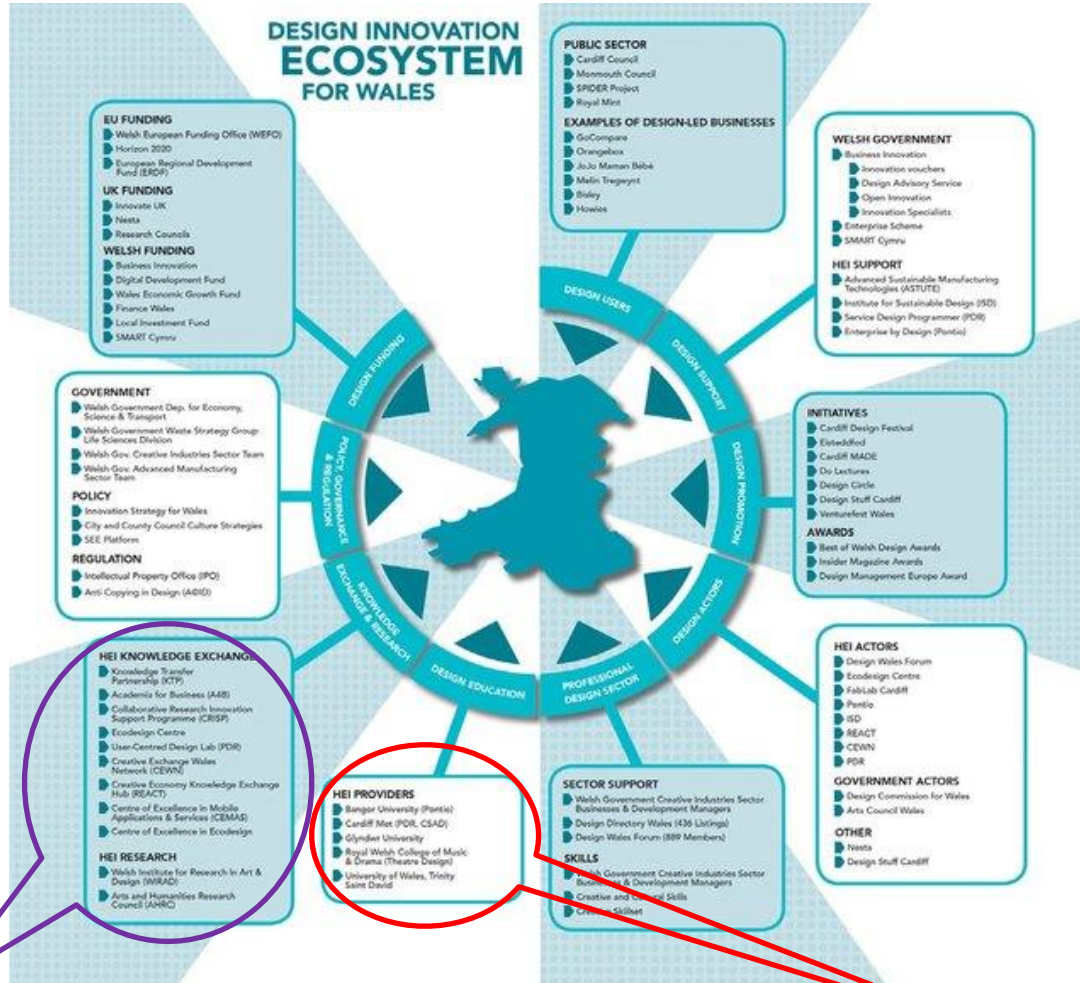
# Specialised ecosystems: 'Health Innovation'







# Specialised ecosystems: 'Design'



Wales pop.: 3.1 Million

LT pop.: 2.8 Million

KT orgs

HEIs



## Q2: Do you know who is present in ‘your’ ecosystem

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### Status quo?

- Has your TTO been part of an ecosystem mapping?
- Did you start by defining the purpose of the mapping and any specialism e.g.
  - To identify gaps (and take action to fill them)?
  - To improve **connectivity** with existing actors?

### Possible LT TTO network action

- Initiate and lead a ‘purposeful’ ecosystem mapping.
- Follow up on the results (take action).



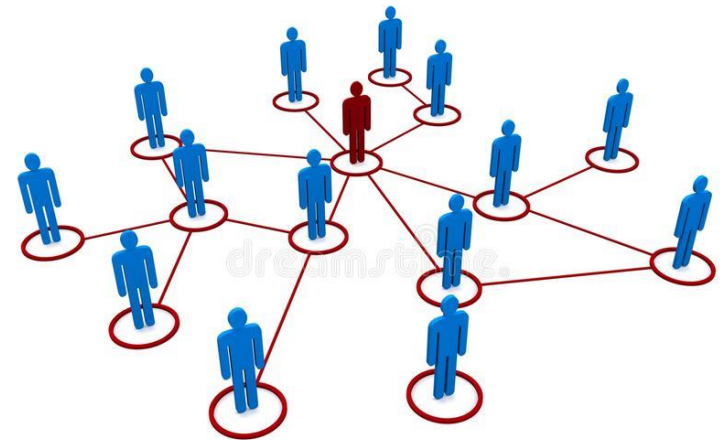
# Actors vs. connections

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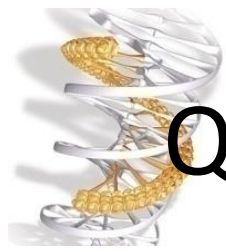
## Nodes



## Linkages (connected nodes)



- Size of node could represent the **quality and quantity of the interactions**, not the size of the organisation.
- How do you know if linkages they are performing 'optimally'?
- How could you monitor and improve?



# Q3: How active are existing linkages?

## Could the TTO network

- measure existing activity?
- set targets (KPIs)?
- initiate activity try to increase linkage activity so it strengthens the over all ecosystem...?



## Possible Metrics

- Are they active?
  - Number of interactions per linkage per time interval?
- How are they (most) active?
  - Type of interactions
- What are the outcomes?
  - Do interactions lead to action
    - Collaborations?
    - Tech Transfer?
    - Knowledge exchange?
- Is there any measurable impact?
  - Funding
  - Company generation
  - Enterprise growth
  - ???





# Building your ecosystem: starting points

## Organisational level

- Identify goals
  - what is your HEI/ TTO trying to achieve?
- ‘Map’ and analyse the system space
  - Identify the actors/ nodes
  - Filter them based on your existing and anticipated goals
  - Identify ‘gaps’
- Analyse and prioritize the linkages
  - Activeness, Strength, Diversity of interactions

## Network level (national/ regional/ wider)

- What is Lithuania trying to achieve...?
- Map etc...



## • Take action

Initiate and lead change in **collaboration** with other stakeholders.



## Summary: Role of the TTO and network in an innovation ecosystem?

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- HEIs/ PROs
  - ‘Knowledge providers’
- TTOs
  - “Access to knowledge”
    - Trusted Guardians and Gate-keepers (gate openers!)
    - Facilitators (Meet and Greet!)
- TTO Network
  - **Catalysis for change and Architects of the future**  
*(Designing the ecosystem of tomorrow)*





# Discussion

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## Contact details for more debate!

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