

VETEC Project

## Position paper on International Knowledge & Technology Transfer

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Public version  
01-09-2019

## International Knowledge and Technology Transfer

The Knowledge and Technology Transfer (KTT) refers to the flowback of knowledge and discoveries to the general public. KTT often occurs from a university context to non-academic environment. We consider that KTT becomes international when knowledge or technology transfer **crosses national borders**.

The established forms of international knowledge transfer within a university context include:

- International staff/student mobility
- Joint research projects
- Internships
- International conferences and workshops

These activities are usually supported by the International Offices of universities.

There are some established modes of international KTT within a university context - such as co-publications - the modes related to valorization/ commercialization remain underrepresented in current practice:

- Spin-offs
- Co-patents
- IP Licensing
- Contract research
- Joint research labs / project outcomes

VUB is “an internationally oriented university in Brussels” & our university consider Brussels a global city and “VUB in that international setting”. The university faces competition from other public and private higher education and research institutions while playing an active role in social and economic development. Emerging and innovation-driven economies become important partners on the global market for KTT. There are many examples of successful international collaborations for the first and the second missions of the university (education and research respectively) with partners in emerging and innovation-driven countries. However, the third mission of the university (valorization of the research results) is much less developed for emerging countries. It becomes a logical extension of existing activities & complementary focus for the third mission of the university. The fast growing economy of Vietnam can bring a lot of opportunities for KTT activities of internationally oriented university.

In our position paper, we identify the main limitations for the key stakeholders to engage in IKTT. To overcome these limitations, we developed a general five steps implementation plan for university management which form the basis for other universities on their way to developing international KTT activities and policies:

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- Integrate IKTT in the strategic mission of VUB & VUB Tech Transfer
- Create awareness on IKTT, a new mindset
- Add IKTT in KPIs by governmental funding agencies, provided funding follows
- Allocate resources to the development of IKTT
- Review incentives for researchers, provide practical information on opportunities & things to take into account

More detailed roadmaps for the university and the government were developed to highlight the short, middle and long term goals and actions. This Position paper will serve as a “Strategic Document” for International KTT development at our home institution, VUB.