



UCA strategies and policies for research management

MINERVA Study visit 22th, April 2021

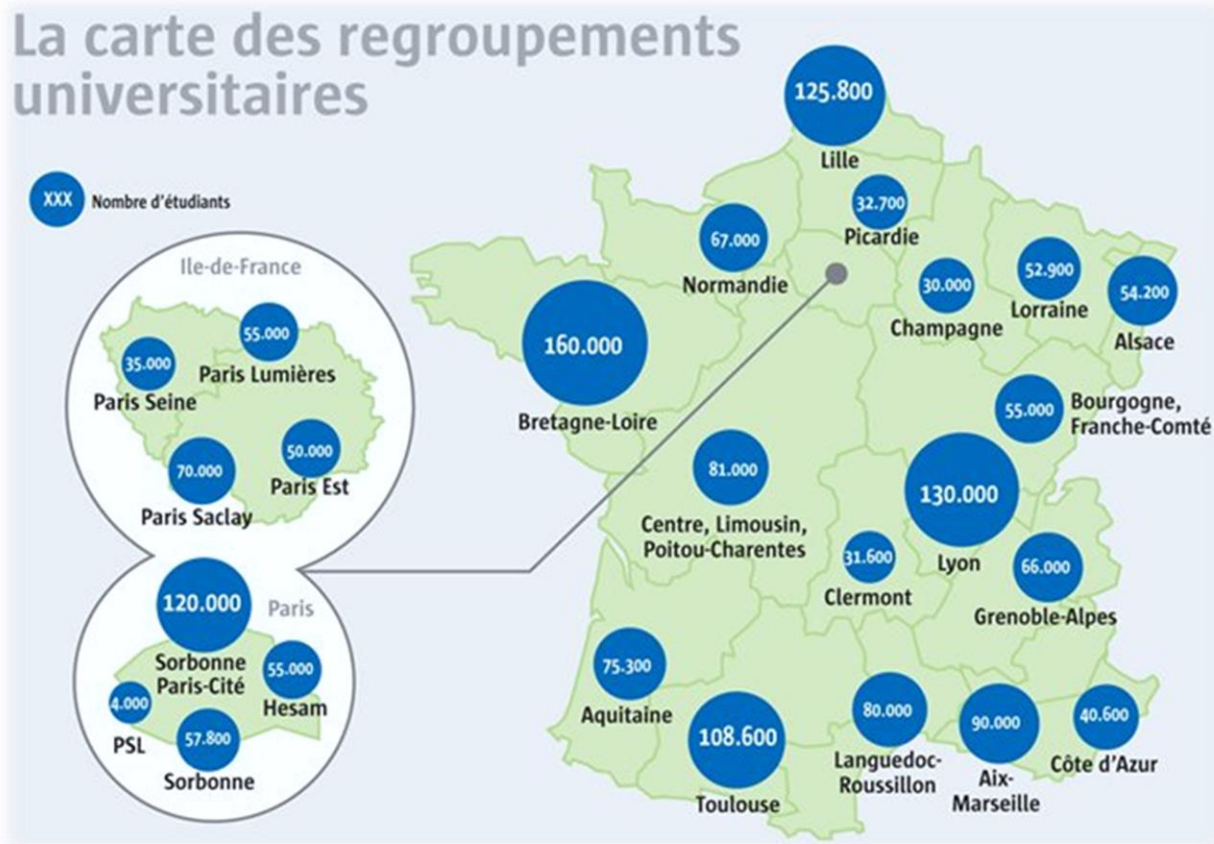
Diana Sebbar

Executive director of research program



A regroupment of Higher Education institutions with an IDEX (Initiative of Excellence « UCAjedi »)

La carte des regroupements universitaires

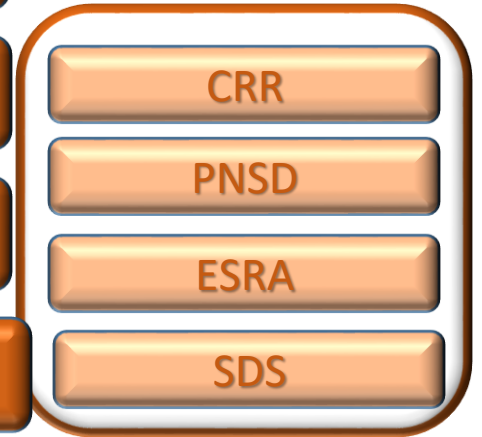
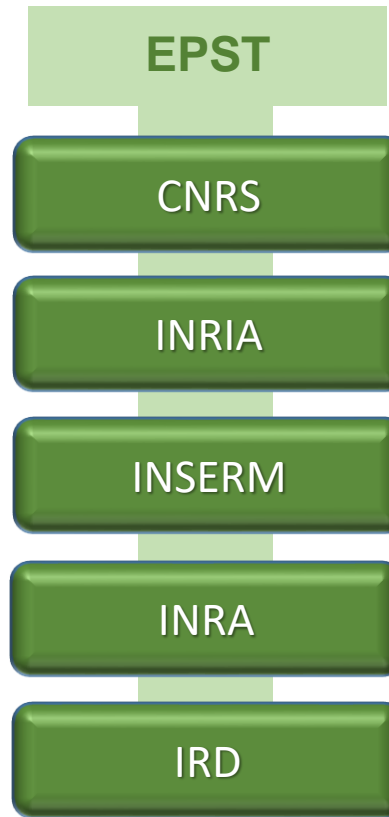


National competition to select a limited number of Campuses of Excellence
(10% of French universities)

UCAJEDI project selected (2016) based on :

- The **strong connection between research- innovation – education**
- The **support of over 120 companies as well as local authorities**
- An **innovative transdisciplinary project**

Université Côte d'Azur organization



Components without legal personality



Institute with international visibility

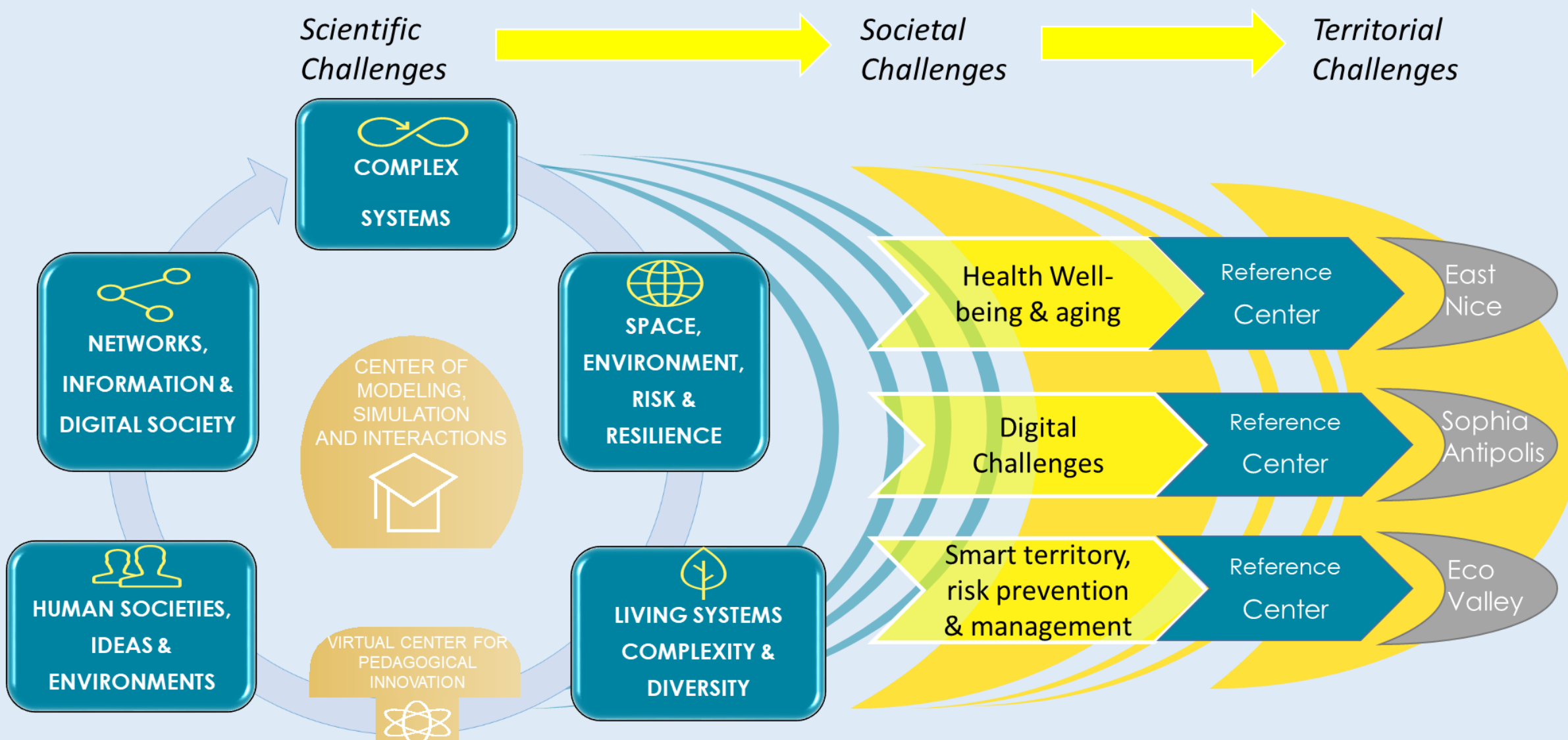
Innovation and partnership institutes

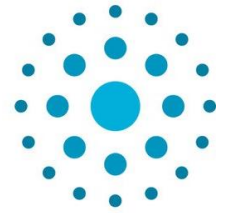


An IDEX focused on six main objectives :

- Break down barriers and create the transdisciplinary approach that is necessary to face the major scientific and social challenges of tomorrow
- Support excellence in disciplinary research
- Invent a new form of coordination between research, training and innovation that will open new opportunities for our students
- Define a new partnership between the public and the private sectors within the Côte d'Azur Region, based on a greater sharing of resources and a convergence in our objectives
- Build an active collaboration with local authorities, to ensure that all regional actors are working together towards the same goals
- Become more visible and attract the best international students and researchers

IDEX UCAjedi at a glance: An innovative organisation motor of growth for the Region





- Definition of common strategic axis shared with university partners:
Some examples of the new strategic priorities for 2021 (*to be defined*):
 - Biocontrol
 - Digital Health
 - Aging & well being
 - Quantum physics Astrophysics
 - Risks in Mediterranean territory
 - Tourism
 - Art and Culture

Policy supported by UCA graduate schools and Academies of Excellence

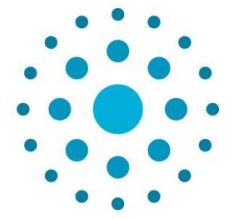
5 transdisciplinary Academies of Excellence reflecting the entire scientific spectrum of the site

The **Academies of Excellence** are composed of laboratories and teams of excellence

They are **flexible and responsive structures**. Their role is :

- to build new intellectual interactions between researchers from different disciplines in order to enable the emergence of new concepts,
- Financially support innovative, original and high level research and training projects so that they can establish themselves in the landscape of national and international research.

A university anchored in its region: Regional public / private collaboration platforms organized into institutes dedicated to innovation and partnership



Cannes Storytelling Institute



Center of Modeling, Simulation and Interactions



Health, Well-being and Aging



3IA Interdisciplinary Institute for Artificial Intelligence



Digital Challenge



Fragrance Science Creativity and Innovation Center



Smart territory, risk management and prevention

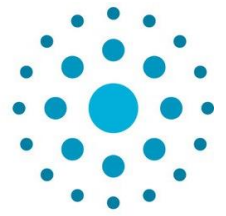
Regional public / private collaboration platforms

UCA research strategy is also really anchored in its region.

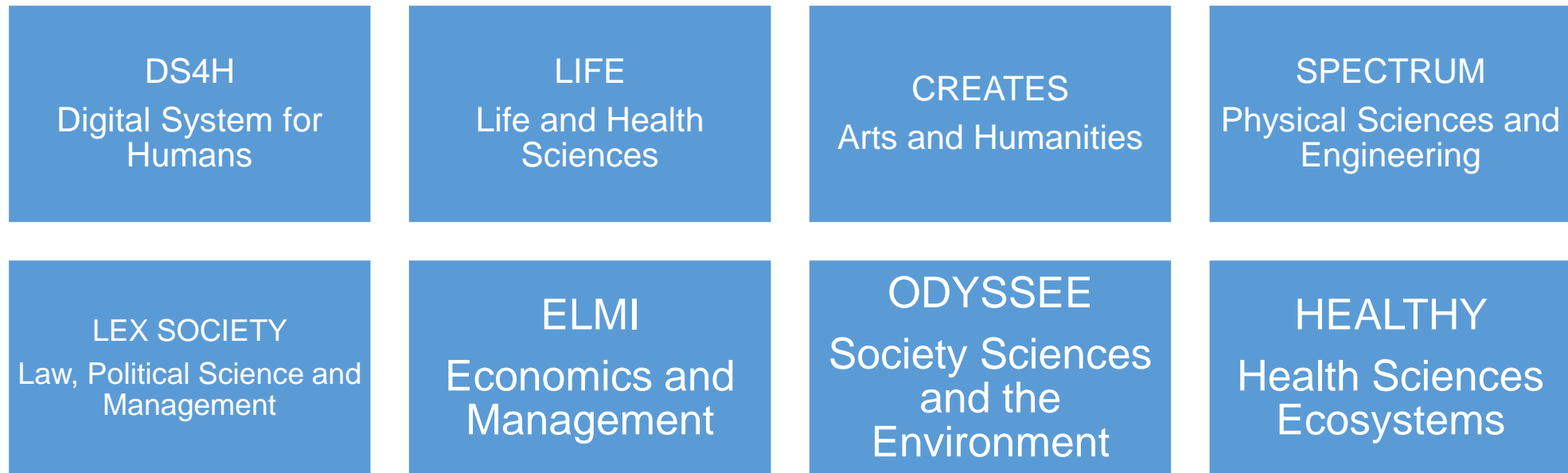
Development of interfaces between the research teams and the potential for innovation present in the university ecosystem through **innovation platforms and institutes dedicated to societal challenges** with the objectives of:

- establishing public-private partnerships based on development and innovation,
- setting up technology platforms
- strengthening the link between companies and both initial and continuing training,

Transversal tool: The Center of Modeling, Simulation, and Interactions (MSI) offers transversal tools and approach in modeling, simulation, and data analysis as a common language to different disciplines.



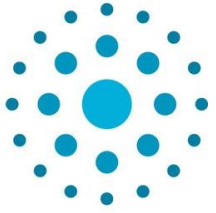
8 Transdisciplinary graduate schools linking research and training





UCA Graduate Schools: a key role in the dynamics of the University

- Create a strong link between Education - Research - Innovation
- Support excellence with a research based teaching
- Promote transdisciplinarity
- Encourage innovative pedagogy
- Foster applications, innovation, and entrepreneurship
- Place UCA in the heart of the Côte d'Azur ecosystem to co-construct regional dynamics



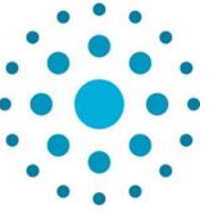
UCA graduate school model is based on three essential elements:

- An **integrative organization** :
Brings together the structures working in project mode (academies) with the traditional structures (laboratories, departments of education, doctoral schools).
- An **openness to the local, national and international context** :
Contribute to increasing the visibility and attractiveness of UCA.
- A **fully modular training program** :
Each student will build his or her own curriculum.



Thanks to its IDEX, UCA has set up support programs and services to provide assistance to a broad range of actors across many disciplines, fields and sectors:

- Research programs (selection, funding and follow-up of research projects through programs that mix capacity building and excellence objectives)
- Innovation programs (funding and support for translation of research projects into practical, innovative solutions)
- Promotion of awareness of research and innovation (Publication support, Communicating results and initiatives, Conference support)
- Assistance and accommodation offered to foreign researchers by the Welcome Center: <https://univ-cotedazur.eu/attending-universite-cote-dazur/welcome-center>



- **Fellowships for young researchers** (annual call):

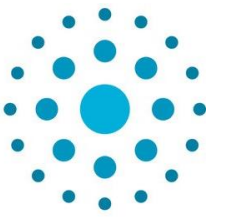
Objective: Attract young researchers who will engage to prepare an application for a CR (chargé de recherche) position in a French national research organization (EPST) nominating Université Côte d'Azur host laboratory as his or her top placement choice

OR

Allow the supervisor of the postdoctoral project to submit an ERC grant application within two years of recruitment

«Bottom-up» Call, with priority for projects linked to the IDEX strategic programs

See: <https://univ-cotedazur.eu/ucajedi-call-for-applications-fellowships-for-young-researchers-2021>



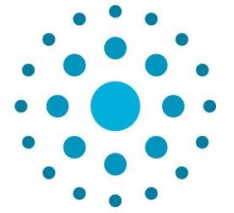
- **Advanced research program (annual call):**

Funding for chairs, from 6 to 18 months

Objective: Attract researchers faculty and artists from outside UCA to develop original and high-level research in all scientific and artistic fields, within UCA laboratories

See: <https://univ-cotedazur.eu/ucajedi-call-for-applications-fellowships-for-young-researchers-2021>

Priority : Mobilise public and private funding to develop new and innovative research projects.



One of the objectives set in addressing this priority: Encourage and support researchers in applying to European H2020 call for proposal.

▪ Several initiatives to support researchers :

- Creation of Joint European support unit:

<https://univ-cotedazur.eu/services-for-research-scientists/setting-up-national-european-and-international-projects>

- search engine for fundings identification: <https://univ-cotedazur.fr/ucajedi-lidex-duniversite-cote-dazur/cellule-europe-mutualisee/appels-a-projets>

- Specific calls to support ERC application :

<https://univ-cotedazur.eu/individual-coaching-addressed-to-erc-candidates>

- Creation of a visibility office (translation, rankings) : <https://univ-cotedazur.eu/services-for-research-scientists/translation-and-scientific-visibility>



Good practices



- **Calls for co-funding for projects:**
 - R&D Partnerships with companies
 - Pré-maturation (increase TRL)

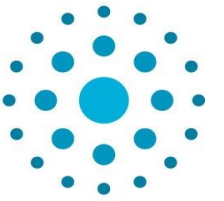
- **Coordination of UCA member's technological transfer policy**

→ Creation of a unique Office that brings together all the local actors of the innovation ecosystem (UCA members, Tech Transfer Offices, incubators..)

<https://univ-cotedazur.eu/ucajedi-idex-of-universite-cote-dazur/innovation-and-partnerships#CUIV>



Good
practice



Strategy assessment

Evidence-based policy decisions:

- periodic reassessments to evaluate the policy impact and review choices and progresses
- annual indicators
- local and international experts to study a broad range of issues relevant to research and innovation and to get external vision and recommendations



Good
practices