



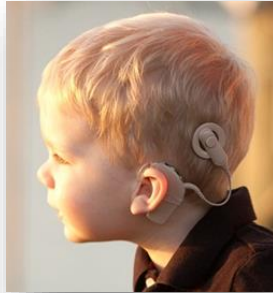
**KU LEUVEN**  
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

# Tech transfer: experiences from Leuven

Paul Van Dun  
Cluster, April 12th, 2024



# Some examples

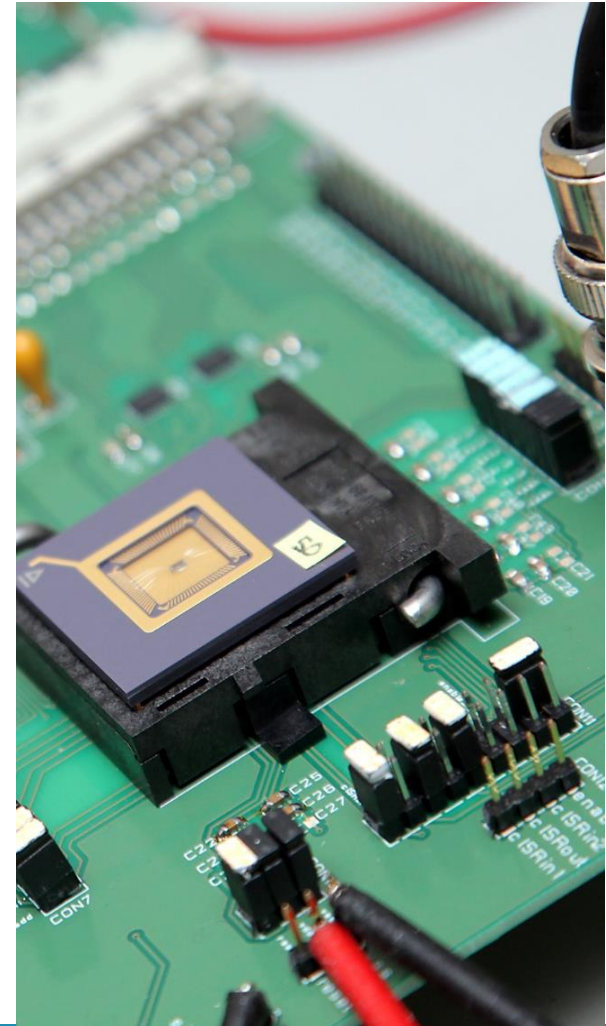


# Some data (2023)

- 4.345 new contracts
- 163 patents granted
- 389 mio euro turnover
- Approx. 1 out of 3 researchers at KU Leuven paid via LRD
- > 150 spinoffs so far (of which 7 IPO);  
in 2023 KU Leuven spinoffs attracted > 350 mio euro commercial capital

# What has helped us?

- Quality of research
- Real support of the university management
- Structure of our activities
- Significant decentralized autonomy in combination with strong centralized support (one stop shop)
- Tools to bridge the valley of death
- Stimulating entrepreneurship

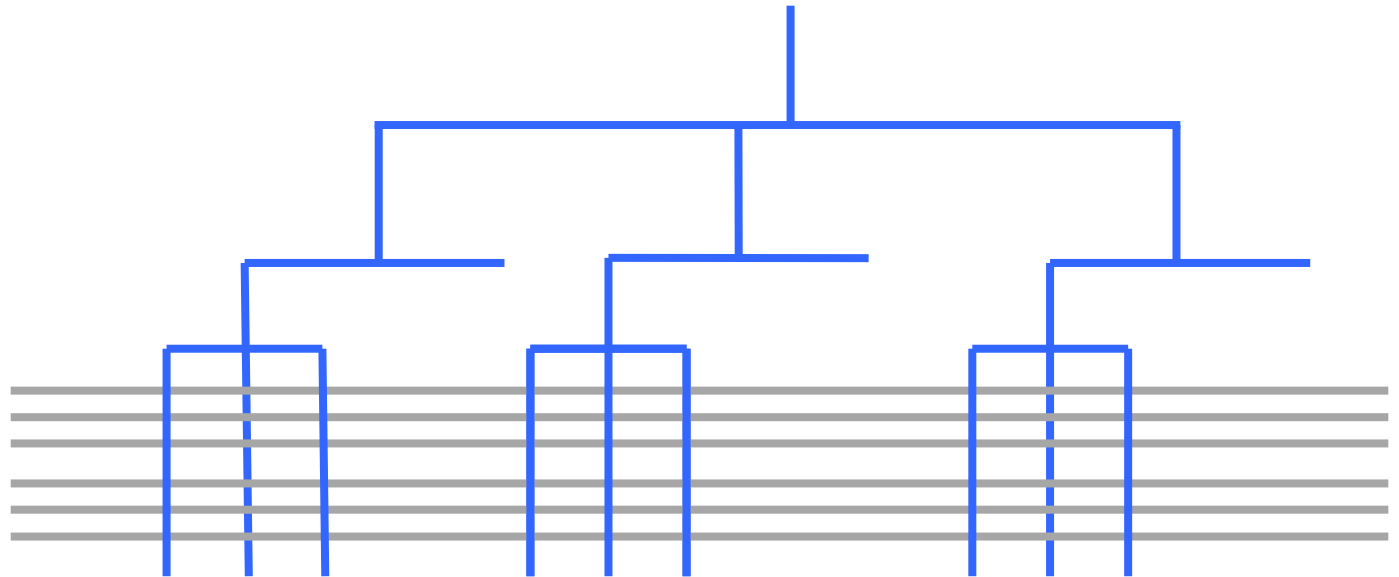


# Structure: LRD divisions (1)

- Pooling of all commercial income
- In a unit under the supervision of the PI who generated the income
- Right of every professor (bottom up)
- Authorised to spend profits for the 3 missions of the university (research/education/service to society)
- Alone or with others

# Structure: LRD divisions (2)

Faculties, departments, research groups:  
quality in research and educational activities



LRD divisions:  
autonomy and flexibility;  
leverage to better research  
and education

# One stop shop

- Consultancy, collaborative research, IP, spin-off, regional development, ...
  - Expertise
  - Referral / introduction
  - Internal tech transfer between university labs
- Sole proxy to sign all docs relating to business, IP, tech transfer, ...
- HR-services
- Financial services

=> As much interaction and support as possible

# Incubation/ PoC/ Seed Finance (1)

- Most important: research divisions
- Industrial Research Fund
  - Funding by Flemish government
  - To “walk the last mile”
  - Distributed to 5 universities according to commercial KPI’s
  - Within every university: panel composed of academics + industry representatives will decide which projects get funded





# Incubation/ PoC/ Seed Finance (2)

- Centre for Drug Design and Discovery
  - Founded in 2006 by LRD and EIF
  - Fund capital of 154 million euro
  - Provides academic research groups and small companies with:
    - Small molecule drug discovery expertise
    - Scientific support
    - Financial support
  - No cure no pay: predefined profit split



CD3

CENTRE FOR  
DRUG DESIGN  
AND DISCOVERY

# Incubation/ PoC/ Seed Finance (3)

## Gemma Frisius Fund KU Leuven (GFF)

- Seed capital for spin-off companies

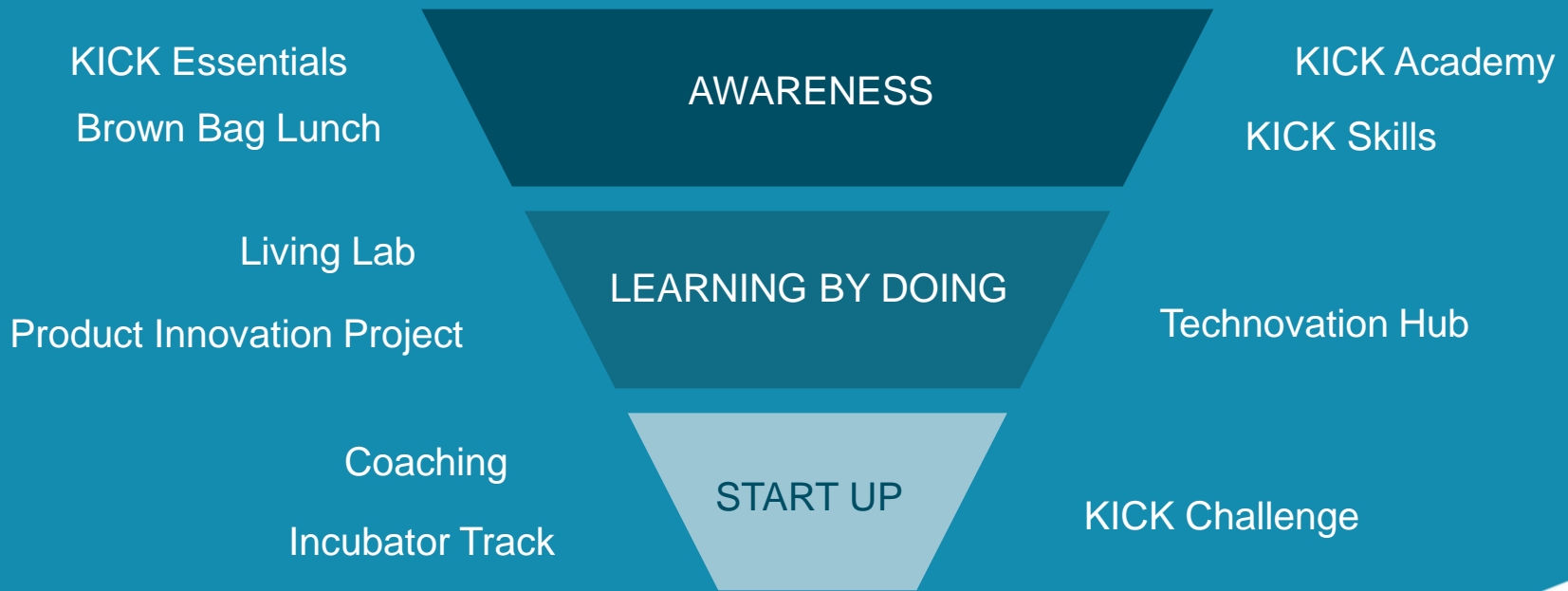


## Ignite partnership with Wellcome Trust

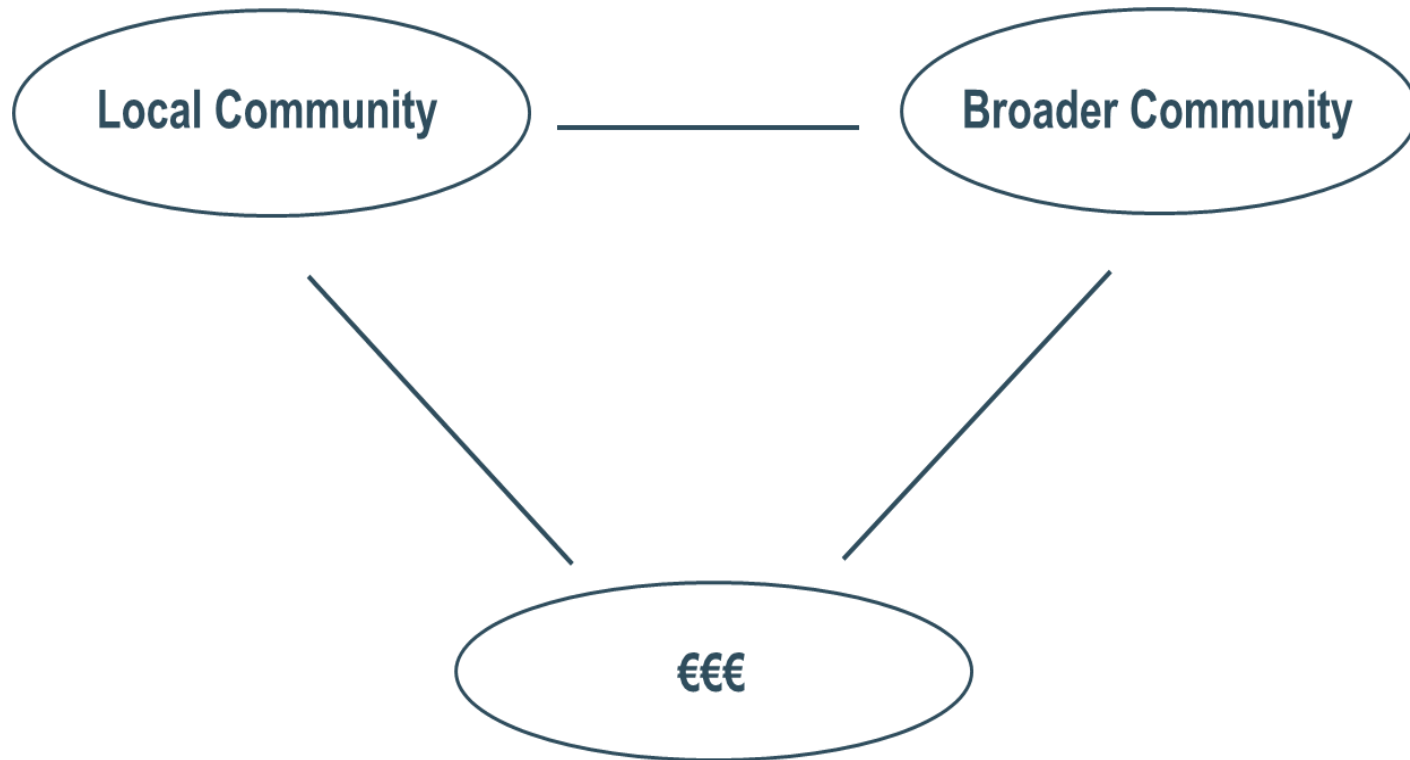
- Support for projects with tech transfer potential



# STUDENT-ENTREPRENEURSHIP



# Choices to be made





Thank you