

Connecting to the Innovation Ecosystem: RTOs – Research And Technology Organizations (Excerpted From The Spark Innovation Model)

Historically universities and research organisations have accumulated vast quantities of data and expertise but were poor at disseminating this or converting this knowledge into practical applications.


This is now changing with researchers realizing they need to justify their place in society and also through the push from government.

Areas that may be of particular importance to social entrepreneurs are societal, environmental, health issues.

Increasingly technology provides potential solutions and universities can again assist with this area particularly through the data mining that is part of the big data movement Universities and research organisations are increasingly marketing their research and knowledge sharing abilities and there are governmental initiatives to promote this too.

In the UK the Knowledge Transfer Network, www.ktn-uk.co.uk is sponsored by Innovate UK a government agency to promote these connections.

A resource intensive activity




Be Aware

A word of warning, universities and research organisations, are used to dealing with larger entities and the process of making connections and agreeing to work together or support initiatives can be convoluted and resource intensive.

The relations work best when the social entrepreneur is able to demonstrate that the relationship will benefit both parties.

Remember too that partnering entities that are further away physically or where there are language issues will add to the issue of complexity, resource requirement and understanding.



Dig Deeper

- Knowledge Transfer Network, www.ktn-uk.co.uk
- The Centre for Research in Innovation Management (CENTRIM), University of Brighton