



**UNIVERSITY *of***  
**DEBRECEN**

# **New perspectives in technology transfer at the University of Debrecen**

*Bridging the gap*

Tamás Bene

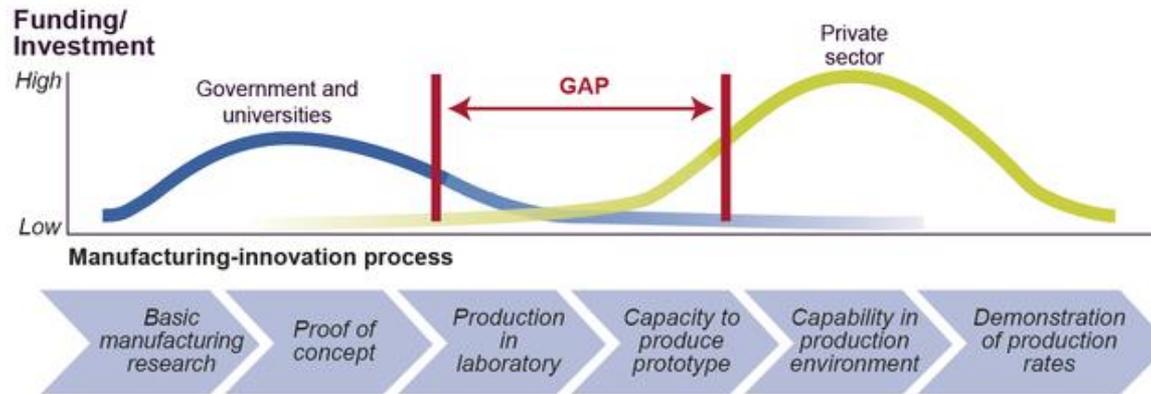
Head of Technology Transfer Center

**HEInnovate Conference, Hungary**

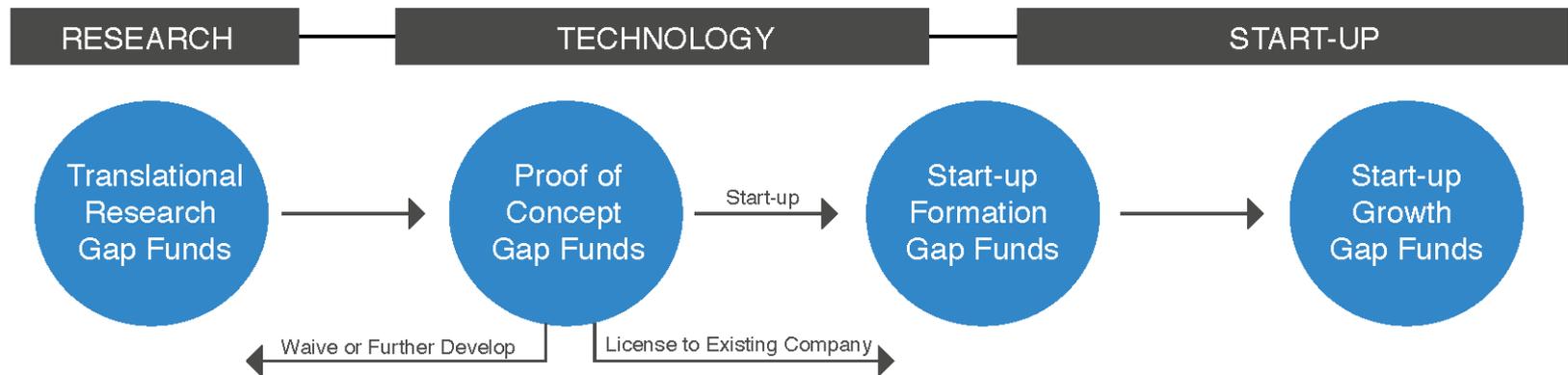
**29<sup>th</sup> November, 2017**

**UD TECH TRANSFER**

# Typical gaps in funding innovation

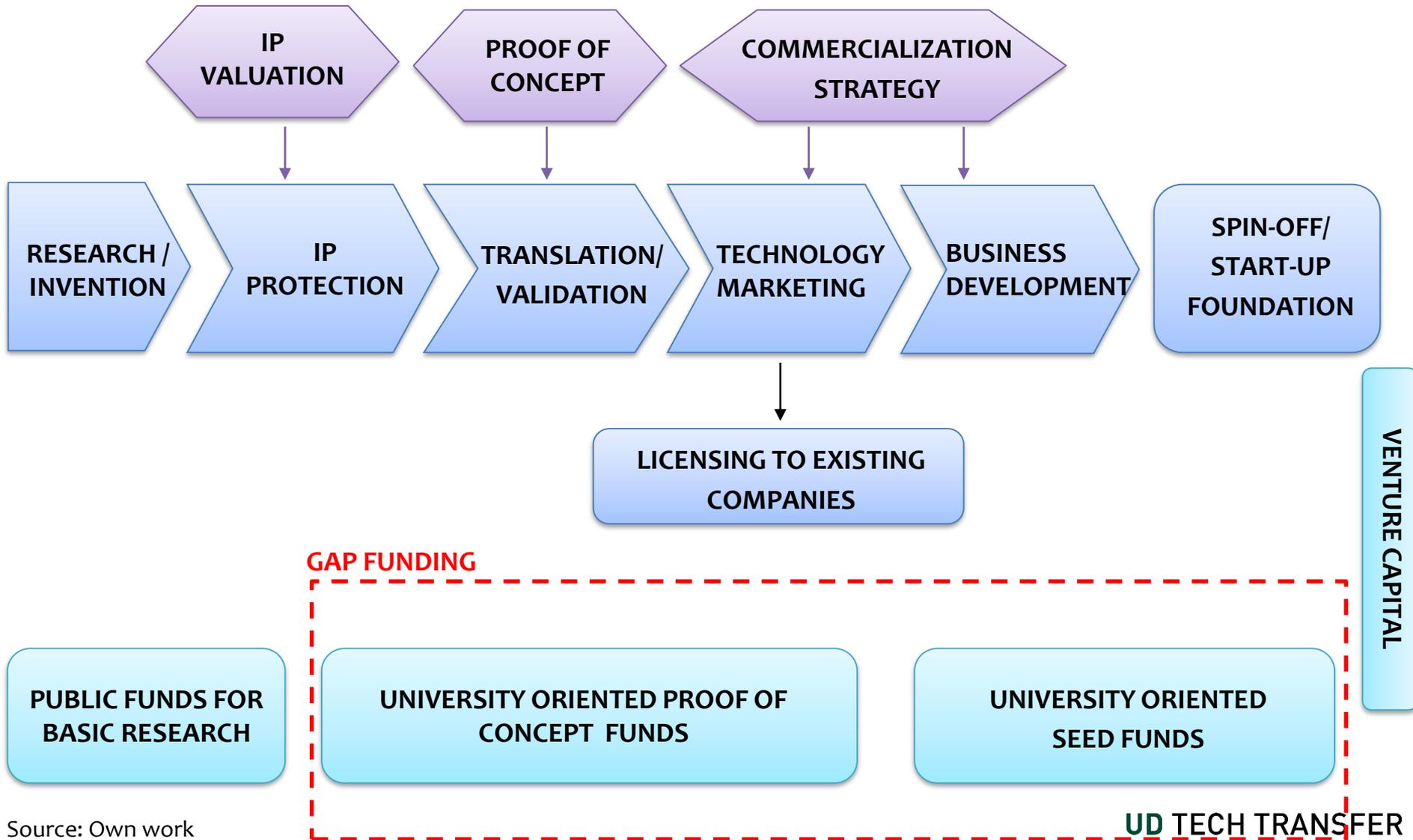


Source: GAO adapted from Executive Office of the President.



Source: <http://www.gapfunding.org>

# The role of PoC in technology commercialization



# Assessing transferability readiness

- Original
- Distinctive
- Targeting an unmet or an active market
- Patented with freedom to operate
- **Supported by solid evidence**



# Definition of Proof of Concept (PoC)

## Activities

- Technical feasibility studies
- Prototyping
- Specialist testing and/or demonstration testing
- Market research, testing and competitor analysis
- IP protection and IP position assessment
- Investigation of production and assembly options

## Stage of development

Technology readiness levels

- TRL 2 - Technology concept formulated
- TRL 3 – Experimental Proof of Concept
- TRL 4 – Technology validated in lab

# PoC landscape in European public funding

- ERC - Proof of Concept Grant
- EIF - Technology transfer investments
- H2020 – InnovFin Technology Transfer  
(managed by EIF)
  - H2020 - ProgressTT - Capacity Building for Technology Transfer

**InnovFin**  
Technology Transfer

# PoC review documents

## **Mind the Gap Report**

University Proof of Concept and Startup Gap Funds (by innovosource)

## **Financing Technology Transfer**

Working paper by the European Investment Fund, 2009/002

## **Bridging the University Funding Gap: Determinants and Consequences of University Seed Funds and Proof-of-Concept Programs in Europe**

Working paper by the European Investment Fund, 2015/27

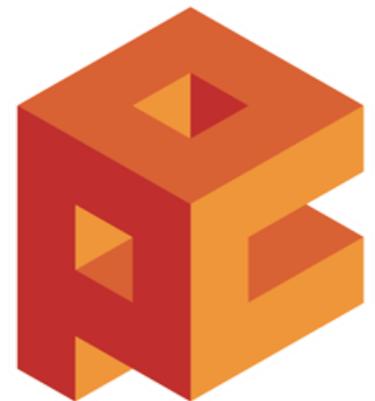
## **Review of UK Proof of Concept Support**

Review by Innovate UK, the UK's innovation agency, 2015

- 25 national funds
- 14 regional funds
- 23 internal organization specific funds

# Characteristics of typical university proof of concept financing

- Precedes company formation
- Government money (or the university's strategic fund)
- No equity or ROI is expected
- ~ 10k – 100k EUR per project with milestones
- Application process is short
- Not another research grant!

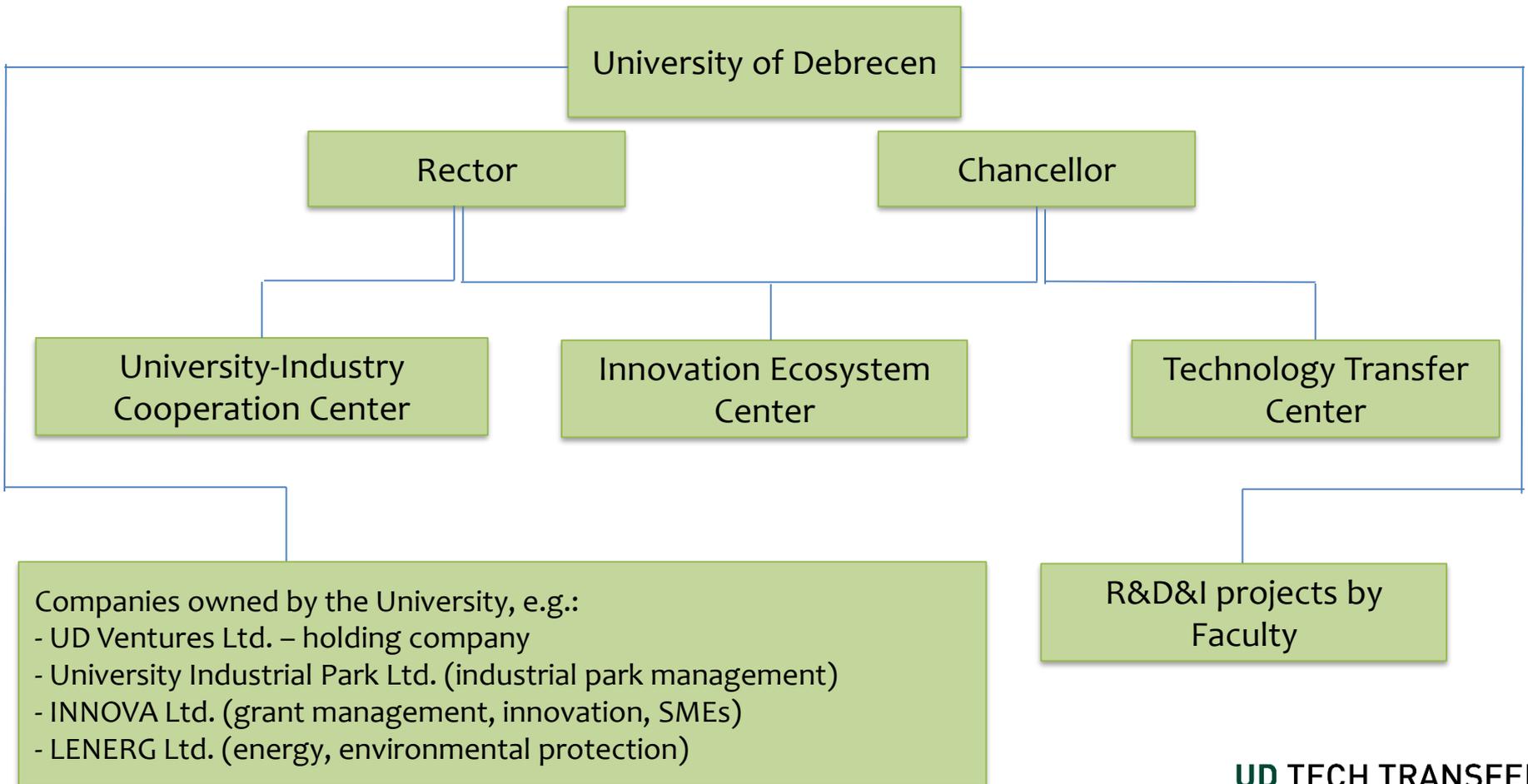


# Hungary

HEInnovate key recommendation:

32. Introduce an “innovation fund” to promote transdisciplinary initiatives in education and research. Such a fund offers seed financing for the start of transdisciplinary initiatives and builds on existing research capacity and knowledge exchange activities, for example on a topic of local/regional relevance.

# Innovation structure at the University of Debrecen



# University of Debrecen – Innovation Fund

## New financial instrument to support innovative research and other third mission activities

### Proof of Concept Fund

- Launch in November, 2017
- Funding up to 30k EUR
- Available for university research groups
- Managed by the TTO and the Innovation Ecosystem Center



University of Debrecen  
Technology Transfer Center

<http://techtransfer.unideb.hu>