

## **The mutually supportive role of local governments and Universities: The example of Crete**

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The interaction of universities and local governments can have multiple benefits for both partners. Except the obvious that university community purchase local goods and services and employ people who spend money locally they educate and train students that can benefit the local workforce. Furthermore, part of the research and innovation that occur on campuses can boost the local economy in various ways depending on the nature of science. Another important issue is that Universities provide direct support to local governments in the form of training, technical assistance, student internships, business incubation and investment in neighborhoods directly adjacent to the university. The latter have succeeded in revitalizing some local college towns.

Crete is an island of Greece with a permanent population of approximately 650,000 inhabitants and is home to three powerful Greek Universities and excellent research centers. The development model of Crete has been based mainly on three main axes: tourism, primary sector, and education. In my speech I will present the possibilities of further cooperation between the Universities of Crete and local authorities with the aim of improving the lives of permanent residents and visitors and boosting the economy in various sectors.