Summary

The article shows the need for a role revision that institutions of higher education should undergo. Among some of the reasons for such a revision are: globalisation, dynamic social and economic changes and the progress of the knowledge based economy. These factors induce new forms of co-operation between science and education, economy and the local government, which creates a situation, where an institution of higher learning will fulfill its role only if it evolves towards a socially responsible organisation which serves its environment. The model of a higher education institution hitherto prevailing and based on education and scientific research should be extended to the knowledge transfer from the university to business and the local government.

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