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 [摘要] 15122006. Witness by Sylvia Richter, the preliminary findings of this new ERIA study were presented at the recent conference "European Universities as Catalysts in Promoting Regional Innovation" held 19-21 October 2006, Bonn, Czech Republic.
 [关键词] Regional Innovation; Knowledge Regions

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 The study describes the emerging phenomenon of the proactive knowledge region by looking more closely at the processes of its development, at the key actors and their interactions, as well as at the role of the university in this development. The observation was based on a close look at four European city-regions (Bristol/Gloucestershire, Bonn, Manchester and the trans-national region of Osnabrück), with the help of site visits to each city-region comprising a wide range of interviews with different actors from governmental agencies, knowledge-based enterprises and universities as well as intermediary organisations established to help the development of the knowledge region or of individual knowledge clusters. As a transatlantic benchmark, the policy actions of other city-regions in particular Montreal in Canada were also examined.
 It maps the issues and key steps in the development of knowledge regions and describes the ways in which different types of institutions interact, combine efforts and define common agendas. For university and regional policy leaders, the study draws attention to the new form of competition of confidence spanning regions and the methods they develop in order to strengthen their positions. Finally, it describes the

