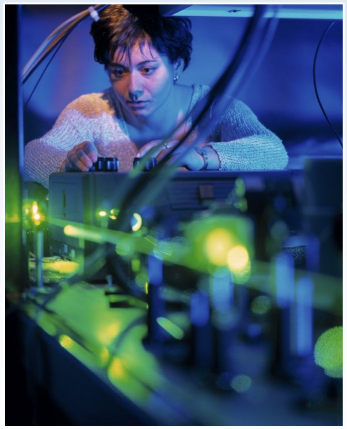
What do Regional Economic Strategies need from Higher Education?

Christina Hartshorn
SEEDA



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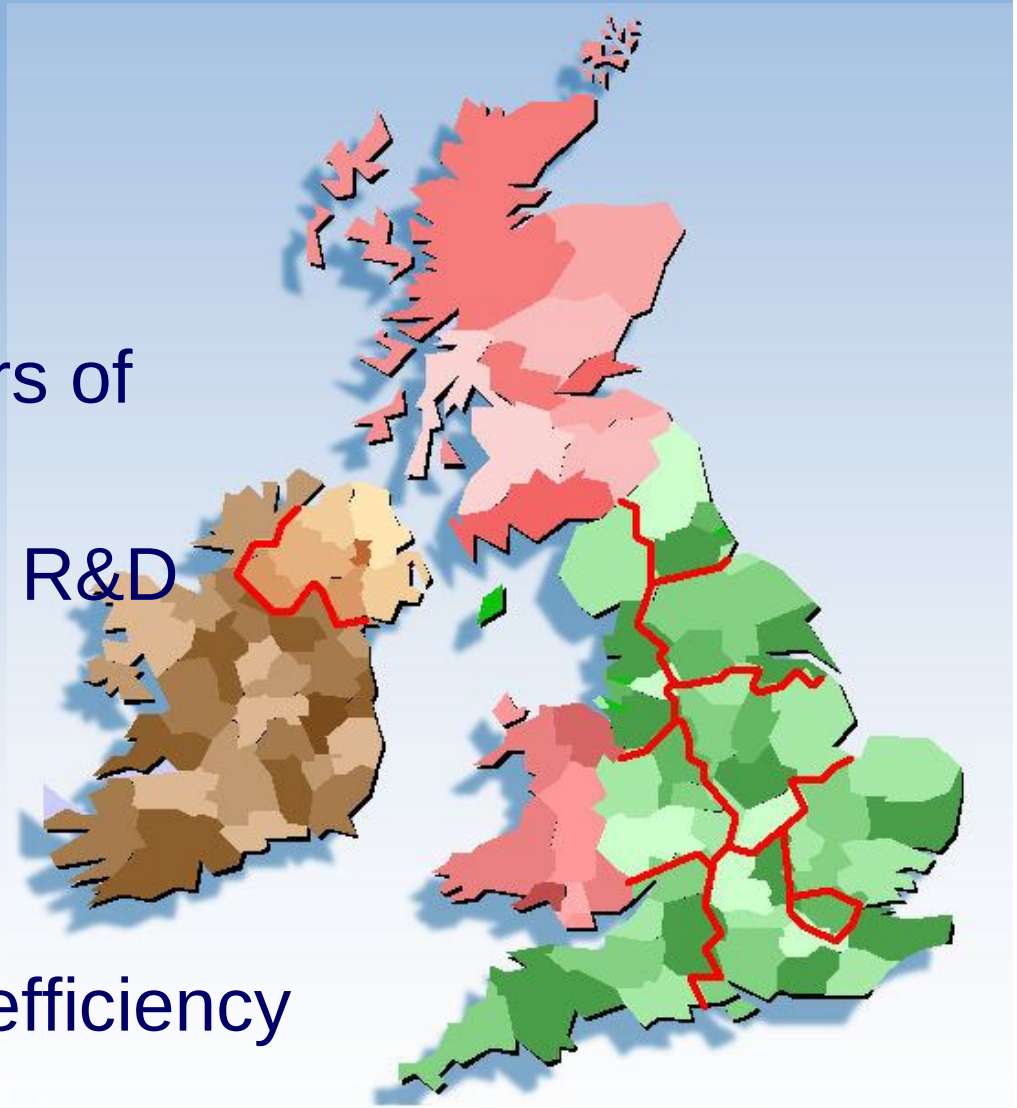
Who are the RDAs?



Business led with 5 drivers of productivity:

- Investment, including R&D
- Innovation
- Enterprise
- Skills
- Competition, driving efficiency

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Regional Variations

	Range
Population (2006) million	2.6 (north east) – 8.2 (south east)
Economy (GVA for 2006) £billion	39(north east) – 197 (London)
Business Enterprise R&D (2006) £million	293 (north east) – 3,279 (south east)
Number of Higher Education Institutions (2007)	5 (north east) – 41 (London)

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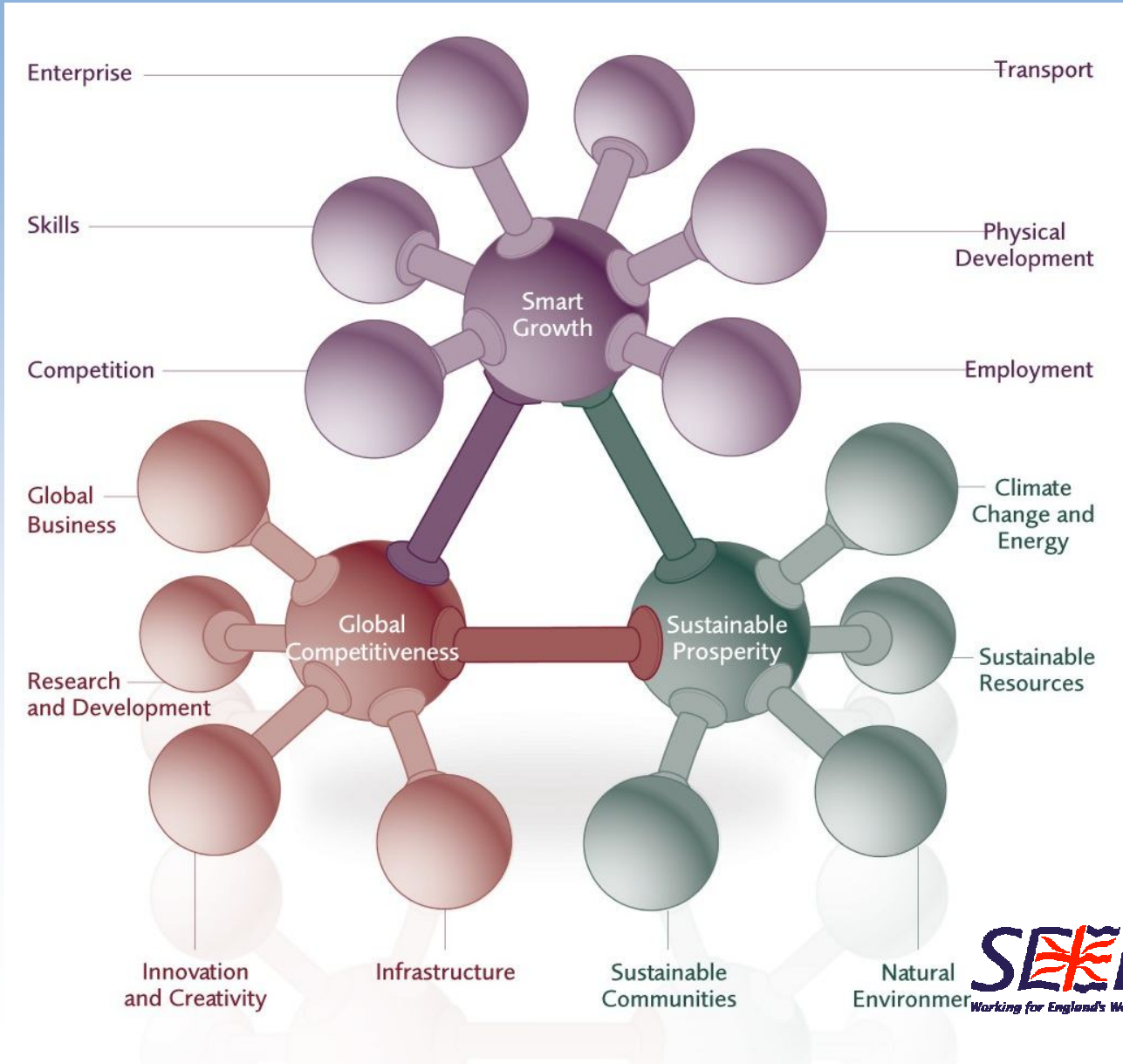
Regional Economic Strategy



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World Class Region

What big industry wants from universities

- Skilled and talented workforce (e.g. Pfizer skills audit)
- Consortia
- Relationships

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What industry (SMEs) wants from universities

- Unique skills, capabilities, credibility, track record (Where are they?)
- Access to equipment/facilities (what have you got?)
- SME-experienced university BDMs
- Realistic Licence/contract deals (FEC?)
- Minimum administration
- Rapid decisions
- Security/confidentiality

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South East Regional Investment

- Innovation: Science and Innovation Campuses, Collaborative R&D, Innovation Platforms, KTPs and Knowledge Networks
- Skills: STEM UEN, Careers Roadshows, Leadership and Management
- Environment: Low Carbon Challenge, Thames Gateway Institute for Sustainability

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New Industry, New Jobs

(April 2009)

- A continued focus on ensuring that our economy is driven by **high levels of skills and creativity**
- Pay particular attention to **technological change** where this is reshaping industries and demanding high levels of innovation, skills and investment from those businesses who will ultimately lead in these markets.
- These include the shift to digital communications, low carbon technologies and new processes in the chemical, automotive, aerospace and other industries.
- There are four immediate priority areas for action and reform in Britain: **innovation, skills, finance** and **infrastructure**. We must also continue to ensure that British businesses are able to **access growing global markets**.

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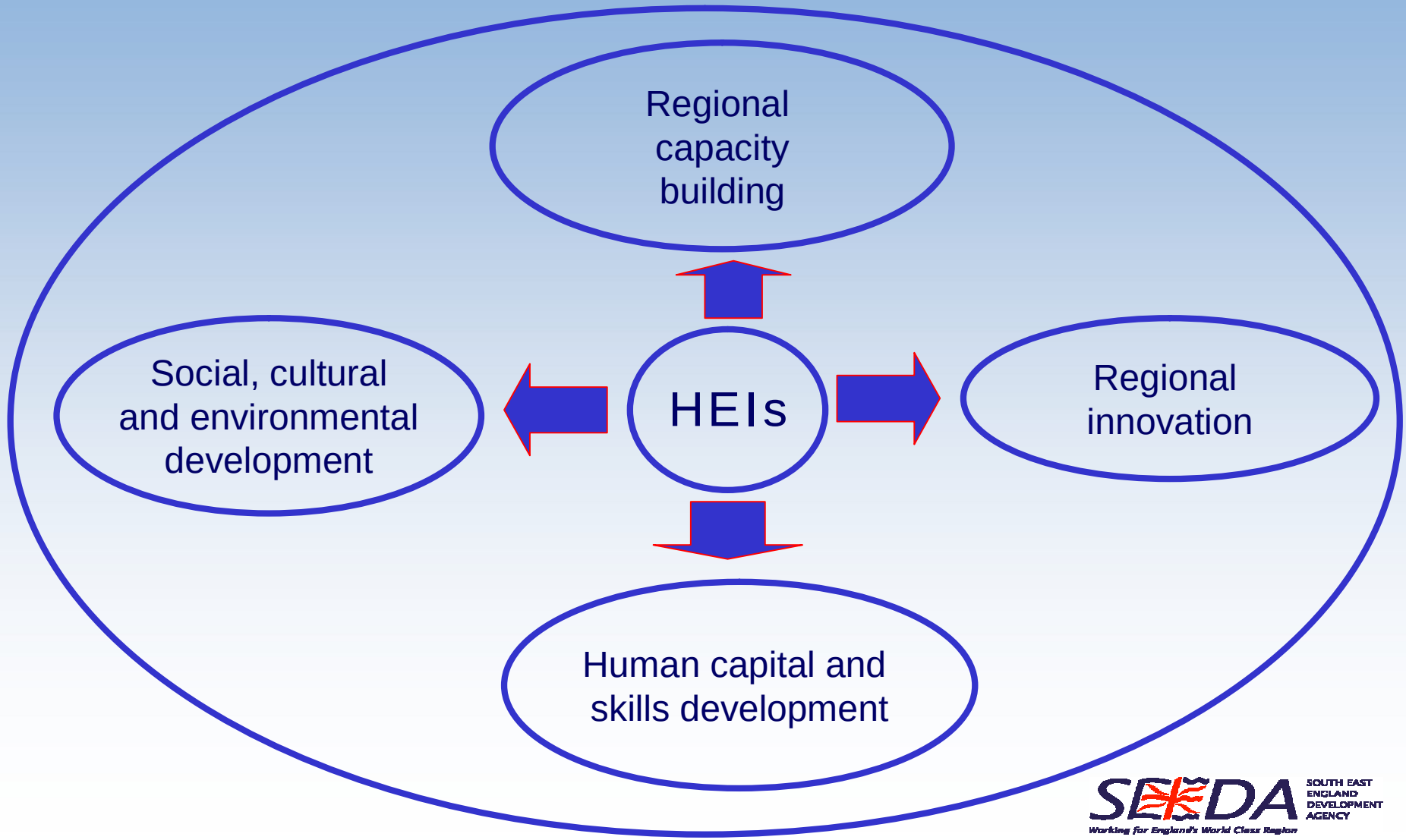
National and Regional contexts



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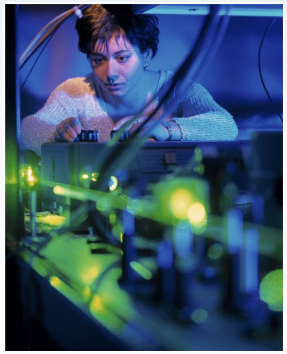
Thank you



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