

## Jo Ritzen

Jo Ritzen is Professor of Maastricht University at the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG), Senior Policy Adviser at the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA, Bonn) and Chair of Empower European Universities.

## Luc Soete

Luc Soete is Director of the United Nations University Research and Training Institute (UNU-MERIT, Maastricht), Professor of Internal Economic Relations and Director-Dean of the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (MGSoG) at Maastricht University.

## Competition, Cooperation, Solidarity

### Research, Higher Education and Innovation: Redesigning European Governance in a Period of Crisis

The negotiations about the EU budget after 2013 cannot ignore austerity concerns. However, due to its limited size, we cannot expect major savings from applying austerity at the EU-level. A more intelligent response to the austerity challenge is to look at ways to make savings by better coordinating EU and national-level spending or by re-organising spending tasks. To explore these potentialities for efficiency gains, *Notre Europe* launched a set of publications under the title “How to spend better together”, which contains both transversal and sector-focused analysis.

In this context, and at a moment when many EU countries are faced with serious budget constraints as a result of the crisis, this Policy Paper by Jo Ritzen and Luc Soete discusses ways to improve the EU action on research, innovation and higher education (“knowledge investments”). It also underlines that it is essential to re-think the division of labour between the EU, the national governments and the regions in these sectors but also to re-define EU and national support to knowledge investments in order to better respond to the challenges of globalisation and the spatial agglomeration of research, which have been exacerbated by the financial and economic crisis. The authors conclude by putting forward some proposals to advance towards the development of an efficient “layered” European innovation system through new regulations and finances.

[www.notre-europe.eu](http://www.notre-europe.eu)  
e-mail: [info@notre-europe.eu](mailto:info@notre-europe.eu)