Collaborative Laboratories in Portugal as sites of Co-Creation

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Introduction

• Portuguese Research and Innovation System has had difficulties in institutionalising strong involvement of the private sector in research
  – Low share of BERD (currently at 50%)
  – Low employment of doctorate holders

• Although technologically entrepreneurship has been rising, together with university-industry partnerships, indicators still present low levels of collaboration

• Research systems had a significant change with the institutionalisation of Associate Laboratories – partnerships between R&D units, to gain scale and with objective of supporting public policies
Sectoral distribution of Doctorate holders in Portugal

Empresas
Estado
Ensino Superior
IPSFL
Sectoral distribution of Doctorate holders by year of PhD

- Empresas
- Estado
- Ensino Superior
- IPSFL
CoLabs model

• Collaborative Laboratories (CoLABs) a new form of partnership with industry and society for market-driven innovation and skilled jobs creation
• CoLABs’ main goal was to create qualified and scientific employment in Portugal through the implementation of R&I agendas oriented towards the creation of economic and social value
• Eliminate the gap between research and innovation activities
• Reinforce the collaboration between different institutions
• Interinstitutional co-responsibility of knowledge based strategies
• Densifying the territory in activities based on knowledge
CoLAB’s positioning in Innovation System (1)
(Example: Germany as an orientation for the potential positioning of the CoLABs)

Encarnação (2017)
CoLAB’s positioning in Innovation System (2)

- 100% applied research / product
- 100% basic research
- 100% public funding
- 100% private funding

- CoLABs
- State Laboratories
- Universities and Politechnical Schools
- Associated Laboratories
- Economy

Encarnação (2017)
CoLABs in a Nutshell (2)

- knowledge in basic research
- transferred to applied research
- to gain sustainable added value through innovation

University, Public Labs

- cooperation with academia
  - demand and market driven research combined with scientific excellence
  - professional R&D services for industry

autonomy of institutes + simple corporate rules and strong branding

Encarnação (2017)
CoLabs process

• Applications open continuously
• Proposals require the participation of at least one business firm and one university-based R&D unit
  – Independent entity with associates
• Proposals if approved correspond to a certification label
• Vision / Strategy / Governance / S&T Merit / Business model / Qualified employment / Impact / Sustainability
  – Essential evaluation dimensions
• Expected funding model
  – 1/3 public base funding + 1/3 competitive funding + 1/3 private funding
26 CoLabs under Implementation

• 3 Stages of implementation
• On average 11 partners per CoLab
  – 4 Academic
  – 2 Interface
  – 5 Business firms
  – 1 Government
  – 1 Non-profit
• Digitalisation central topic to 8 Colabs
  – Industrial / societal / agriculture / cities / ocean / energy
• New projects have been developing during the last year
• Significant recruitment