FCT Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO E CIÊNCIA

US – Portugal Partnerships

Future Perspectives

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Recommendations of the Government following the Academy of Finland Report

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1. PhD degrees should be dual-degrees.

2. The direct contribution (Strategic Funding) of the FCT should be markedly reduced and focused in actions devoted to innovation and entrepreneurship.

3. Programs should compete for funding beyond the Strategic Funding.

4. All partners should contribute financially to the overall Program.

5. UTEN should be strengthened and enlarged to the national level, potentially becoming the FCT instrument for facilitating entrepreneurship and innovation in research institutions and Universities.

6. The new proposal should include the participation of Fraunhofer-Portugal in its initiatives

7. The collaboration should be opened to other universities (US, Europe, Brazil, others)

8. Programs have entire freedom to design its proposal but are encouraged to work together to develop complementary roadmaps

Shift partnership focus towards **entrepreneurship** and **innovation**

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- In phase I, the partnerships had a strong focus on education
- Despite efforts to foster entrepreneurship and innovation, these areas did not meet stakeholder expectations (Academy of Finland Report)

- In phase II, partnerships will shift their focus towards entrepreneurship and innovation
- Existing and novel activities in these areas will be promoted
- Strategic financing will be directed towards these types of activities

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Phase II will be **project-based**

- There will be a shift from education-based partnerships to project-based programs

- Emphasis on large-scale “test-bed” (or entrepreneurial research iniatiative) research projects involving industry and universities that tackle real-world needs

- Education (PhD Programs) will be integrated into these large test-beds, providing resources for research and training of graduates for easier integration into the workforce

Partnerships should apply for **competitive funding** outside the partnership's budgets

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- Established initiatives from phase I, such as PhD programs, are encouraged to apply for competitive funding, assuring that no excellent initiatives need be interrupted
- Financial burden on partnership budgets can be alleviated by sourcing financing from project calls (national and international)
- External competitive calls can further increase visibility and reputation of partnership's research projects
- We are currently working with US funding agencies (NSF and NIH) to find ways to finance the US component in collaborative research projects

Alternative sources of **financing**

- During phase II of partnerships, a strong emphasis on sustainability

- Increase the financing from industry (collaborative projects, matching funds)
  - Portuguese industry
  - US industry (under-represented in phase I)

- Increase the financing from international partners
  - Universities
  - Funding agencies (NSF, NIH)
  - Other partners to join existing partnership

National organization for **innovation acceleration**

- Using UTEN as a starting point, the Portuguese Government will create a novel national organization for innovation acceleration and technology transfer
- This organization will be built in close collaboration with the US-PT partnerships
- It will have several roles, namely:
    - Technology Transfer observatory
    - Capacity-building center
    - National Industry Liaison Office
    - Hub for international incubators and accelerators for Portuguese tech-based companies

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Immediate future plans

- Estimated new amounts for 2013-17 (annually): MIT: 3 – 4 M €
  CMU: 3 – 4 M €
  UTA: 1,5 – 2 M €
- One pot of strategic funding per partnership to cover all activities
- Deadline for negotiations: end of July
- Underwriting of existing PhD programs for 2012/2013 that will not continue to be funded by strategic funds with expectation they will apply for competitive funding later this year