



TOUR DES CAPITALES

BEST PRACTICES FROM ABROAD ON
KNOWLEDGE VALORISATION

National Innovation Agency

- The National Innovation Agency of Portugal, often referred to as "ANI" (Agência Nacional de Inovação), is a government organization dedicated to promoting innovation and driving the country's competitiveness in various sectors. ANI plays a pivotal role in advancing Portugal's innovation ecosystem by fostering collaboration between businesses, research institutions, and other stakeholders.
- ANI is responsible for implementing national policies and strategies related to innovation. It collaborates with various stakeholders, including businesses, research institutions, universities, and government bodies, to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, the development of innovative projects, and the transfer of technology from academia to industry.
- ANI provides a range of programs to support innovation initiatives, such as funding opportunities, innovation management training, and assistance in the development of research and innovation projects. By doing so, it contributes to the growth of Portugal's innovation ecosystem and helps the country remain at the forefront of technological advancements, economic development, and global competitiveness.

TTO Network

Technology Transfer Offices (TTO), as structures responsible for technological transfer and valorization activities, play a central role in valuing the knowledge produced in the different research centers and laboratories of national Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

The TTO Network, established by ANI, aims to identify, map and interconnect national academic TTO, existing in public and private HEIs. Adopting a holistic approach to the technology transfer process, the Network offers expertise across three interconnected domains, thus capturing a complex value chain. These are:

- **Specialized Training**
- **Ecosystem Ignition**
- **Knowledge Transfer Monitoring**



Specialized Trainning

Technological Scouting Program

Technological Scouting Program, aims to carry out a meticulous scouting of promising technologies and innovations being developed in HEIs. It also encompasses the implementation of a technological portfolio and instills skills for its effective management, as well as for making informed decisions around the identified technologies.

- **Specialized Training Sessions:** The program offers specialized training sessions aimed at equipping individuals and teams within TTOs with the skills and knowledge required for effective technology scouting, IP management, and decision-making.
- **Mentorship Program with International IP Experts:** To enhance the effectiveness of the program, it includes a mentorship program. Collaborating with international IP experts provides valuable guidance and insights into IP strategy, technology commercialization, and global best practices.



Technological Scouting Program



- **Identification of Promising Technologies:** The core objective is to identify promising technologies and innovations within HEIs. This involves actively scouting for research projects, inventions, and innovations that have the potential for commercialization or significant societal impact.
- **Effective Management of the Technological Portfolio:** In addition to creating the IP portfolio, the program emphasizes the need for effective management of the portfolio. This includes ongoing monitoring of IP assets, evaluating their commercial potential, and making strategic decisions regarding licensing, partnerships, or further development.
- **Development of IP Portfolio:** One of the primary goals is to create and maintain a comprehensive intellectual property (IP) portfolio. This involves identifying, assessing, and securing intellectual property rights for promising technologies and innovations developed within HEIs. The portfolio may include patents, trademarks, copyrights, and other forms of IP protection.



Patent Registration Promotion Program

Patent Registration Promotion Program, provides support to academic TTOs in the process of safeguarding intellectual property. Provides advice and resources for the preparation and submission of patent applications, ensuring that scientific innovations and discoveries are properly protected and suitable for transfer and commercialization.

- **Mentorship Program with International IP Experts:** As mentioned, the program includes a mentorship component involving international IP experts. Specific actions under this component may include:
 - Conducting regular meetings or workshops with mentors to discuss IP strategy, patent filing strategies, and best practices.
 - Reviewing patent applications and providing feedback to ensure they meet international standards and requirements.
 - Providing templates, guidelines, and checklists for drafting high-quality patent applications.
 - Facilitating access to patent databases and search tools to help TTOs conduct prior art searches and assess the patentability of inventions.





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- **Specialized Training Sessions:** To equip academic TTOs with the necessary skills and knowledge for effective patent registration and IP management, the program offers specialized training sessions. Specific actions may include:
 - Organizing workshops, seminars, or webinars on topics related to patent law, patent search and analysis, patent drafting, and IP strategy development.
 - Providing training materials, resources, and tools to assist TTO staff in understanding and navigating the patent registration process.
 - Offering certification programs or courses to enhance the expertise of TTO personnel in IP management and patent-related activities





Open Innovation Challenges

Open Innovation Challenges serve as a powerful mechanism for establishing a direct correspondence between technologies identified through scouting and market needs. These challenges are designed to create collaborative ecosystems that bring together companies, academic institutions, and other stakeholders to co-create innovative solutions. The main goals of Open Innovation Challenges include:

- **Identification of Market Needs and Challenge Definition:** The process begins with the identification of pressing market needs, challenges, or opportunities that require innovative solutions. These can be identified through market research, industry trends, or input from various stakeholders.
- **TTO Engagement and Ecosystem Building:** The TTO assesses which technologies from its portfolio are potentially relevant to the challenge's problem statement, scope, and objectives.
- **Call for Participation and Outreach:** A call for participation is issued to invite innovators, researchers, startups, and other potential participants to join the challenge. Outreach efforts may include marketing, social media campaigns, and partnerships with relevant organizations.
- **Expert Evaluation and Selection:** A panel of experts or judges evaluates the submitted solutions against the predefined criteria. Solutions that demonstrate the greatest potential to address the challenge effectively are selected as finalists or winners.

Why we Design these Programs?

Research/Incentive System for Research and Technological Development

2012 - 2015
QREN
IDT Individual 07

Research
Actions

Development
Actions



2016 - 2020
COMPETE
IP - Individual Project & Phd Fellowship

2016 – Communication of Invention and Provisional Patent Application

2017 – PCT

2018 – National and regional acceleration programmes

2019 – Active patent application in Europe; Patent granted in the USA



2020 - 2023
FEDER

Invention
Exploitation
Contract



Intervention of TTO

Why we Design these Programs?

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QREN
IDT Individual 07

Research
Actions

Development
Actions

- TTO, when undertaking the implementation of the Technological Scouting Program, is faced with the Project, which has already benefited from competitive funding through funds and demonstrates remarkable potential.
- Thus, TTO chooses to use the Technological Scouting Program in order to carry out a very effective management strategy of this asset and to study the potential of the asset together with the expectations of the researcher.

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- Subsequent to the conclusion of the Technological Scouting Program, TTO realizes that the Project has considerable commercialization potential.
- Consequently, it is imperative to begin safeguarding the associated Intellectual Property.
- In this context, TTO takes the decision to resort to the Patent Registration Promotion Program, aiming at adequate and strategic protection of the innovative elements inherent to the project.

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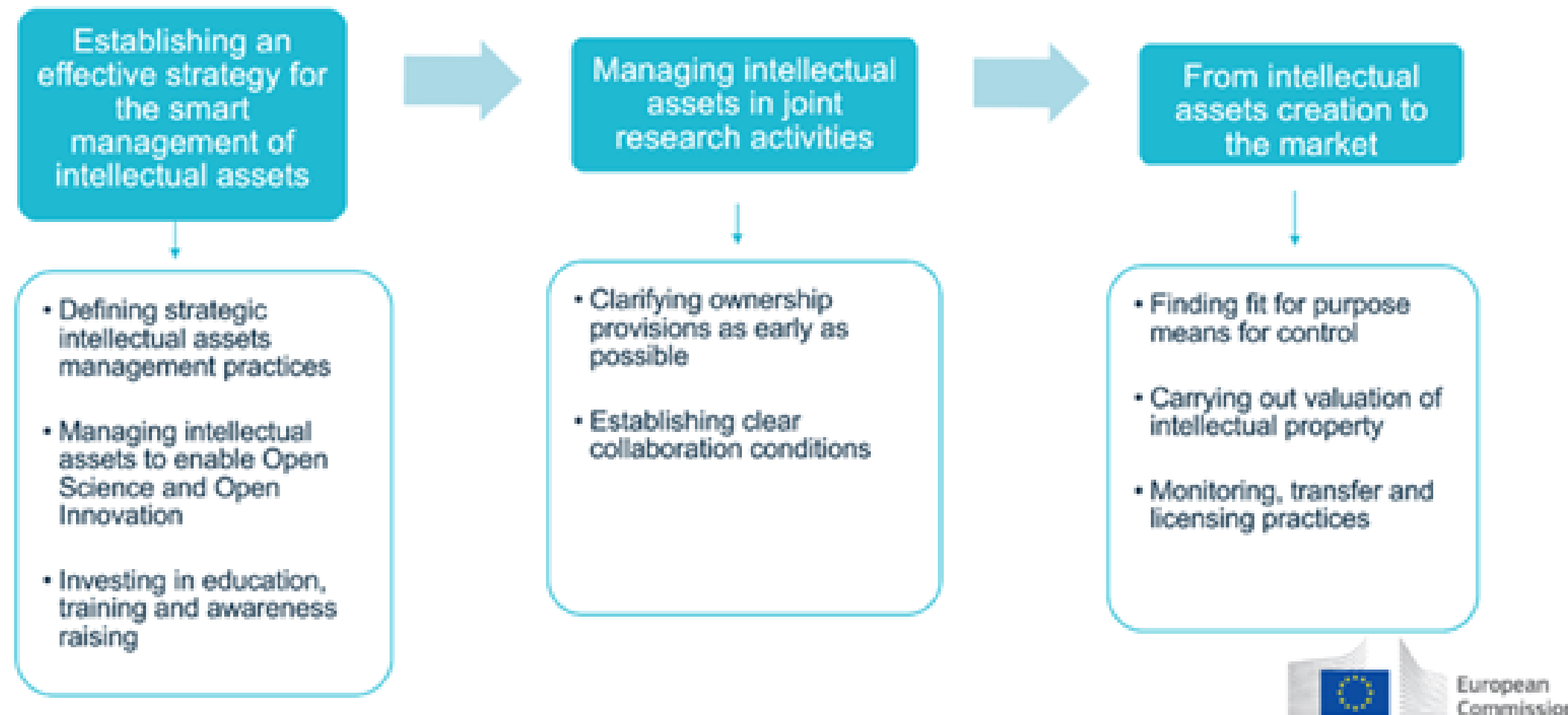
2020 - 2023
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Invention
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- After the developing a successful strategy, the TTO is responsible alongside the Research Team to capture highly competitive sources of financing such as international (EIC, Horizon, FEDER, etc), or national (INNOV.ID, PT2030, etc) according to their strategy.



Why we Design these Programs?



Source: European Commission



Ecosystem Ignition

Ecosystem Ignition

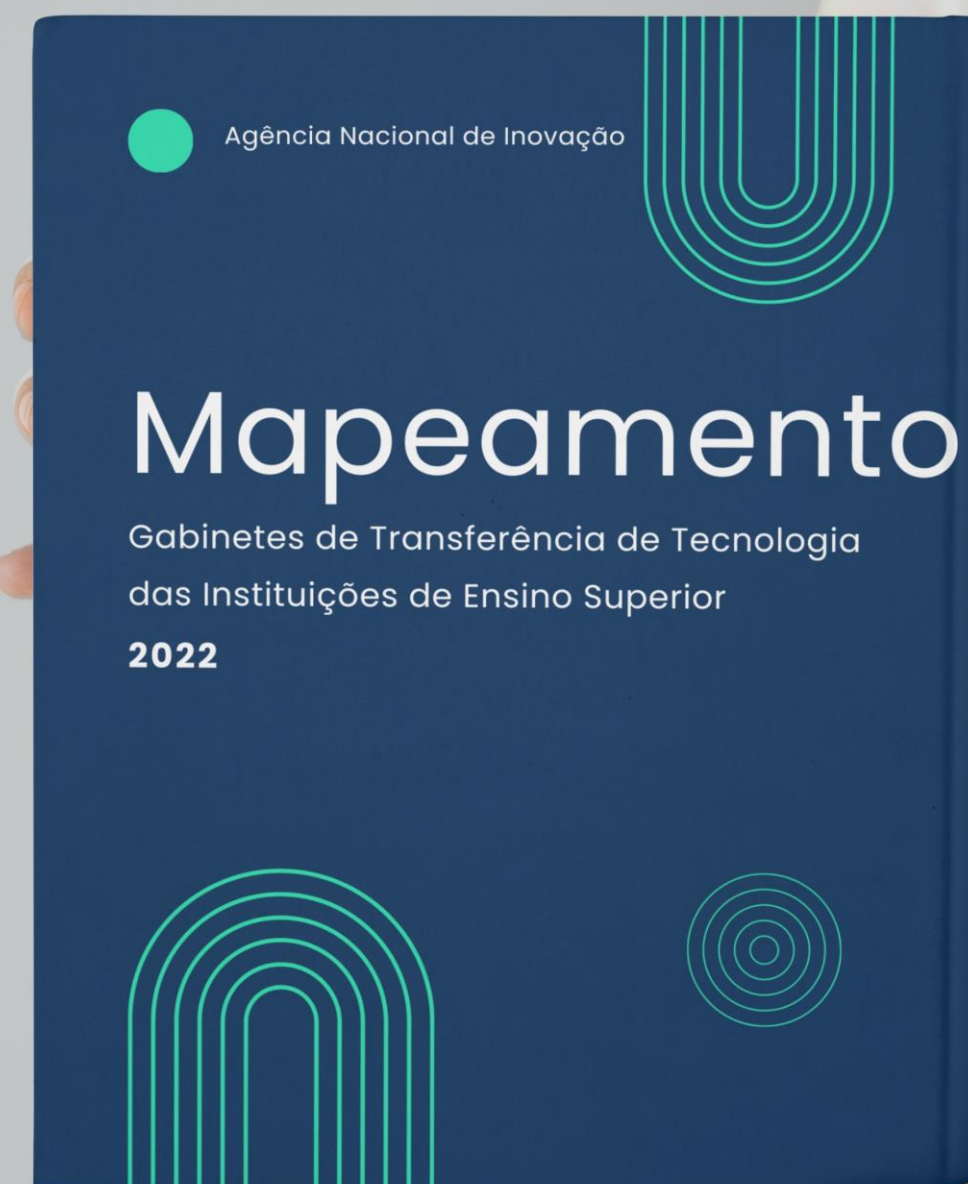
- **National TTO Conference:** An annual event that brings together TTO professionals and experts to share knowledge, best practices and discuss emerging trends, promoting the strengthening of the national TTO network.
- **Technological Scouting Program Demo Day:** An occasion where technologies and innovations identified through scouting are presented to the public, allowing researchers to demonstrate the potential of their innovations and attract interest from partners and investors.
- **Open Innovation Bootcamps (Matchmaking Events):** Matchmaking events and intensive training sessions that aim to directly connect identified technologies with market needs. They facilitate collaboration between researchers and companies, and accelerate the development of innovative solutions through open innovation challenges.



Knowledge Valorisation Monitoring

Knowledge Valorisation Monitoring

- This aspect consists of preparing case studies and policy briefs, aiming to disseminate knowledge and highlight success stories developed by national TTOs, thus helping to inform political decision-makers.
- It encompasses the acquisition and analysis of data inherent to the academic TTO ecosystem. Through monitoring and carrying out mapping studies, the aim is to achieve a more accurate understanding of sectoral dynamics, assess trends and identify opportunities to optimize technological transfer.





Thank you!

Helena Rosário Da Costa, helena.costa@ani.pt
National Innovation Agency

www.ani.pt T. +351 214 232 100 M. +351 963 548 922