Supporting Investment through Innovative Policies

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Stimulating Investment by designing and deploying Innovative Policies

Goal

Innovative and transformational investment considering the competitive position of Portuguese companies ... as well as their evolution paths

Focus

Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Policies
Far better STI policies: a reachable utopia?

Vision, design and deploy

The scientific approach to STI policy making

- new science/policy is built on old science/policy
- do not presume yourself too much

Build on past experience (over 30 years)

Examine international best practices (Basque Country, Denmark, ...)

Investigate the reality (listen to stakeholders)
Far better STI policies: a reachable utopia?

Vision, design and deploy

Look at the complete value-chain transforming knowledge into economic value through innovation in ... everything ...

Build bridges over the ”death valley” between research and business

To construct a “STI System” offering a much better context
Far better STI policies: a reachable utopia?

Vision, design and deploy

Policy making in STI is a multidisciplinary undertaking
• economics, systems engineering, legal affairs, social and cultural factors, regional development, even small politics, ...

Governance, management ... and empowerment
• simple by design
• unique vision and strategy for country and regions
• aligned goals and contributions both from transversal domains (science&technology, education, economy) and from specific domains (energy, environment, agriculture, industry, commerce, tourism, ...)

Far better STI policies: overnight success?

Vision, design and deploy

Our magic wand is ... one generation of hard work

• educating those responsible for the public policies
• persuading public servants to open their mind to the novelty
• educating the journalists and the media
• learning how to serve interest groups while escaping to single private interests
• giving voice to the right stakeholders on the right issues
• transforming or putting an end to useless bodies and institutions that fight for self perpetuation
Far better STI policies: first, improve what works

Successful STI policies: just improve

... examples in Portugal
• combined instruments for financing R&D&I with structural funds
• tax incentives for investing in R&D&I
• sectoral support to SMEs: shoes, moulds, ... , clusters
• National Innovation Agency: fast, flexible, effective ... in spite of ...

... and in Europe
• FP7/H2020
• PPPs: the voice of the stakeholders (eg:Manufuture and EFFRA)
• SME Instrument: simple, focused, effective
Far better STI policies: second, stop the disasters

Nice ideas with a disastrous implementation: LEARN!

... not understanding the role of structural funds in Portugal
• SIACC and technology transfer: criteria exclude interface institutions
• regional funding of research projects: self-financing low TRLs
• company’s individual research projects: one year later, innovation is gone

... and other problems yet to be fixed
• scientific employment incentives: unions and left parties shoot the foot
• a four year long catastrophe in public VC: absolute beginners at the political and the execution levels
• red tape, ever increasing red tape ...
Far better STI policies: third, a magic number of reforms

If not innovative ... perhaps provocative suggestions

1. **Stop silliness** at all levels: everybody complains but it is not removed
2. **Listen to the actors**, but filter out individual interests
3. **Simplify the governance** and the institutional architecture (a real mess ...) in STI policy management
4. **Bring in new blood** to help changing “the system”
5. **Look at international best practices** (go there and talk to people!), select, adapt and deploy
6. **Improve** each policy instrument (KAIZEN)
7. **Eliminate** contradictions: EIB/Junckers Plan can hardly compete with non-refundable mechanisms co-financing large multinationals and offering them university know-how for free