

INOVC+ – Central region's smart innovation ecosystem

Summary

INOVC+ is a special strategic program for the enhancement of scientific and technological knowledge that consists of the implementation of a regional pilot project, which, in a networking context involving non-business entities of the regional R&I system (such as Higher Education Institutions (Universities and Polytechnics), Centres of Technology Enhancement and Transfer, Technological Centres, Science and Technology Parks, among others) and companies, enhance the transfer of knowledge and the results of R&TD activities to the regional economy.

The origin of this program stems from the idea of creating an articulated system between Science, Technology and the Companies of the Central Region that contributes to making the industry more innovative and Higher Education Institutions, where the greatest technological and research potential is found, more business-like.

In this context, the mission of the INOVC+ Program was the following: Consolidate an Ecosystem of Intelligent Innovation, open and inclusive, incorporating a complete offer of resources, infrastructures and dynamics, with transversal and sectorally oriented, thus contributing to the sustainability and competitiveness of the Central Region.

Its main goal was to raise awareness among students, researchers and entrepreneurs for the development of seed projects and spinoffs, in strategic areas for the Central Region and duly aligned with the Smart Specialization Strategy advocated for it (RIS 3 Centro), with a view to transforming innovative ideas into business initiatives, and should therefore include activities of a diverse spectrum.

With this operation, the co-promoters aimed to affirm the Center Region as a national reference with international projection in the creation of new products and services resulting from R&D+I activities, through a program to enhance scientific and technological knowledge that consists of implementing a strategic planning framework through a Regional Ecosystem of Intelligent Innovation, with the ultimate aim of generating and creating an important number of business initiatives based on R&D+I activities.

Strategic objectives

- Accelerate the change of attitudes, values and more entrepreneurial and open behaviours, in collaboration in innovation projects, use of new ideas and technologies, taking risks and combating the stigma of failure;

- Empower academic communities to create innovative projects which aim to transfer knowledge to the companies of the Region;
- Support the creation of technology-based companies based on advanced knowledge;
- Promoting an increase in the technological intensity of the region's industry, reinforcing its connection to the national technological and scientific system;
- Attract foreign direct investment aimed at creating or strengthening high-tech business units in the region;
- Make companies aware of the innovation ecosystem that will allow them to expand their capabilities;
- Establish networking between the consortium and the participants, in order to consolidate the assimilated knowledge;
- Expand and disseminate the knowledge generated.

Activities

1. Awareness and Networking
2. Identification of R&D+I technologies and needs
3. Valuation and Marketing
4. Promotion and dissemination of results
5. Structuring and management of the Innovation Ecosystem.



Project Reference

CENTRO-01-0246-FEDER-000044

Leading Institution

UC – Universidade de Coimbra (Portugal)

Partners

UA – Universidade de Aveiro (Portugal), UBI – Universidade da Beira Interior (Portugal), Instituto Politécnico de Leiria (Portugal), Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra (Portugal), Instituto Politécnico de Tomar (Portugal), Instituto Politécnico de Castelo Branco (Portugal), Instituto Politécnico da Guarda (Portugal), Instituto Politécnico de Viseu (Portugal), Instituto Pedro Nunes (Portugal), OBITEC – Associação Óbidos Ciência e Tecnologia (Portugal), ITecons – Instituto de Investigação e Desenvolvimento Tecnológico para a Construção, Energia, Ambiente e Sustentabilidade (Portugal), SerQ – Centro de Inovação e Competências da Floresta (Portugal), TagusValley – Associação para a Promoção e Desenvolvimento do Tecnopólo do Vale do Tejo (Portugal); AEMITEQ – Associação para a Inovação Tecnológica e Qualidade (Portugal), AIBILI – Associação para Investigação Biomédica e Inovação em Luz e Imagem (Portugal), Associação BLC3 – Campus de Tecnologia e Inovação (Portugal), Raíz – Instituto de Investigação da Floresta e Papel (Portugal), Biocant – BIOCANT - Associação de Transferência de Tecnologia (Portugal)

CERIS Principal Investigator

Inês Simões
(mvsimoes@itecons.uc.pt)

CERIS Research Team

Catarina Serra, Márcio Gonçalves

Figure 1. 1st Forum "Did you know...".

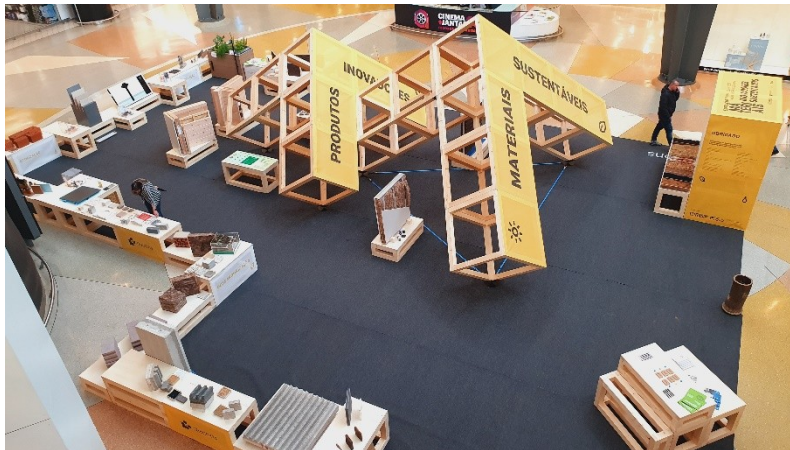


Figure 2. Exhibition "Innovative and Sustainable Materials".

Funding

Portugal 2020

Period

2021-2023

Total

3 393 755.86€

CERIS

138 270.70€

Project Website

<https://ucpages.uc.pt/inovc/>