

Role of Technology Transfer and Innovation in Scientific Research

Sergio Baragetti*

Department DIGIP, Università degli Studi di Bergamo, Italy

*Corresponding author: Dr. Sergio Baragetti, Department DIGIP, Università degli Studi di Bergamo, Italy, Email: sergio.baragetti@unibg.it

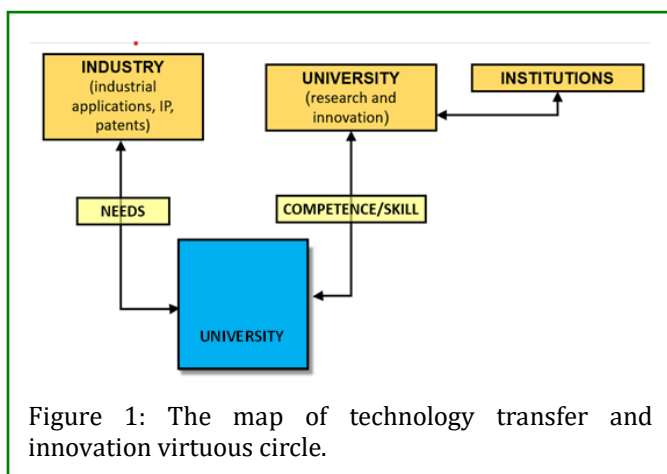
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Editorial

Which is the role of technology transfer (TT) offices in universities and in which way institutions help technology transfer and innovation? The main objective is to support, thanks to university research, SMEs in projects with high innovative and technological content. There are three levels of actions: local, national and international. Successful projects need the active collaboration of institutions with the fundamental role of technology transfer offices. The main actors are:

- University
- Enterprises
- Public institutions
- Financial institutions.

Figure 1 shows the map of technology transfer and innovation virtuous circle.



The main actions that are taken towards these categories to achieve the aforementioned objectives are:

- a. Become reference for institution and enterprises for R&D activities
- b. Promote collaboration between enterprises, research centers, existing technology parks, local public and financial institutions
- c. Support enterprises in the identification and preparation of projects financed by the Institutions and by the European Community
- d. Working in a local view, but maintaining a strong attraction toward national and international development
- e. Support dedicated structures for research to enhance the results of their work
- f. Enhance the multi-disciplinarity and cultural heterogeneity that characterize the available expertises in University.

The following instruments should be used:

- a. Definition of new contractual instruments in accordance with the University Departments
- b. Identification of organizational instruments in alignment with the University
- c. Searching for instruments more effective for innovation management
- d. Creation of a direct and bidirectional communication channel between enterprises and University

- e. Support for patenting and intellectual property protection and its enhancement
- f. Creation of exchange moments and coordination systems between enterprises
- g. Encouragement of entrepreneurship and support to technology transfer

Fundamental is also to be able to get funding to better support the development of research projects, supporting and encouraging businesses to innovate in difficult times, when financial resources are scarce [1-3].

Other tools and methods:

- Analysis of processes and technologies is fundamental.
- Testing of high-innovation products in multidisciplinary areas that promote interaction with civil society and the production sector, along the principles and lines of research laid out within the Europe of knowledge framework.
- Identifying and analyzing critical issues, surveying best practices and taking action on working methods.
- Support for entrepreneurship, for the transfer of technology, the organization of events and activities including 'third party' projects, the setup of channels to and from institutions or companies.
- Promotion and follow-up of funded and co-funded multidisciplinary projects related to conventions, partnerships and networks with institutions, corporate bodies, associations, and research centres at various scales.

Support for patenting and for the protection and valorization of intellectual property. Creation of opportunities for exchange and coordination implemented via participatory processes [4].

Conclusion

Here are the key points to have a successful procedure of technology transfer (TT) and innovation

- Local, national and international perspective.
- TT from University to industry and from industry to University.
- Support projects in which many skills are involved (engineering, human sciences, economics and business administration, educational studies, law and legal studies, foreign languages and literatures).
- Support industries in the IP processes (patens and development of new ideas).
- Involve students in TT and innovation processes [5].

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