
Editorial

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It is widely known that in a highly competitive and globalised business environment, firms cannot generate sustainable growth without innovating. The shift to a new innovation-based paradigm has been affecting the business world. From this premise, there is an increased interest in (re)understanding some of the most important basics of entrepreneurship and business management, such as economic rationality and transparency. Notwithstanding this increased interest, it is worth noting, however, that the academic study of innovation and learning approaches reveal a number of issues that still need to be addressed.

In this special section of the *International Journal of Innovation and Learning (IJIL)*, a sample of four papers has been selected out of the papers presented at the *XXIII Spanish-Portuguese Conference on Scientific Management*, held in Malaga, Spain, in February 2013.

The first paper is co-authored by Ana Carolina S. Carvalho and António Carrizo Moreira. It is entitled 'Open innovation profile in small and medium-sized firms. The perspective of technology centres and business associations', and aims to characterise the innovative profile of Portuguese short- and medium-enterprises (SMEs), within the context of open innovation. The analysis draws on interviews conducted with the business associations and technological centres in the moulds, footwear and automotive industries in Portugal. Following an exploratory approach, the authors' mainstream argument is that while open innovation is relatively widespread in its adoption of external knowledge, technology transfer outside the business is less commonplace.

The second contribution, entitled 'Facets and outcomes of healthcare service innovation: a study of catholic service providers in Northern Portugal' by Carla Susana Marques, Carlos Peixeira Marques, Fernanda Nogueira, Chris Gerry and Sónia Andrade, aims to promote a better understanding of the facets of innovation in the health services provided by Portuguese mercies in the Northern part of Portugal. The results of a questionnaire survey highlight that the mercies analyzed present an innovative behaviour, contributing positively to team spirit, employee satisfaction and organisational performance.

Based on a measurement analysis, the third study, entitled 'R&D activity of university spin-offs: comparative analysis through the measurement of their economic impact' by Patricia P. Iglesias Sánchez and M. Carmen Jambrino Maldonado, measures and analyzes the economic impact of the universities' research and development (R&D) activity. An indicator system is proposed based on the recommendations of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which has been validated using a factor analysis. The study was performed with a sample of spin-offs from public universities. The results suggest that R&D activities are making university spin-offs a more strategic tool than other types of companies.

Finally, the fourth paper, entitled 'Facilitating organisational learning through teamwork-based knowledge management: evidence from Spain' by Salvador Vivas-López, Marta Peris-Ortiz and Victor Oltra, aims to empirically study whether a number of knowledge management policies related to team design and dynamics facilitate organisational learning processes across the different ontological levels (i.e., individual, group, and organisational-institutional). The authors thus propose a model linking teamwork-design based on knowledge management policies and organisational learning. The model was tested in a sample of large Spanish companies, and the findings suggest that the role of individual-group learning and institutional learning are the two cornerstones of organisational learning.

We would like to thank the Editors of the *IJIL* for the opportunity to disseminate the research presented at the *XXIII Spanish-Portuguese Conference on Scientific Management*, and we hope that you will appreciate the sample of papers presented in this special section of the *IJIL*.