

The participation of IST for setting up the National Platform for Knowledge Triangle in Serbia (KNOWTS) and improving the organizational structure at Serbian Universities to sustain its practical implementation, within the scope of the KNOWTS project, was quite enriching and fruitful. The contact with the Serbian Universities, namely the University of Nis, has evolved to a continuous collaboration, which involves not only senior professors, but also assistant professors (at the beginning of their academic career) and PhD students.

The collaboration of IST in this TEMPUS project has been quite useful and lead to gaining an indispensable experience and practical knowledge in the area of technology transfer (TT). In the first year of the project I have visited the University of Nis (UNI) and met all the partners in the project. I have presented and discussed how the process of knowledge transfer and advanced training is organized at IST in Portugal, by paying a special attention to the impact of the performed high quality research to the society and the industry market. Moreover, the model to interconnect the best Portuguese research centers in a platform called "Laboratórios Associados" was discussed, and its repercussions were especially valuable due to the model's applicability to small and medium developed countries, such as Portugal and Serbia.

In the period between 19th and 22nd of September of 2011, all project partners met in Portugal to deeply observe the organization of research activities with strong TT aspect and advanced training at the two top Portuguese academic institutions, namely: IST and the Faculty of Engineering of University of Oporto (FEUP). In addition, several TT pools and universities were visited in Lisbon and Oporto, namely: FEUP, IST, Tagus Science and Technology Park in Lisbon, and INESC Porto.

In the period between 30th of September and 4th of October 2012, IST participated in meetings at several Serbian Universities, where the activities related to the development of distributed network of TT Centers were discussed. Following the participation at the ICT Forum 2012, the final remarks regarding the future project developments were pointed out during the Project Management and the round table meetings at the UNI.

In June 2013, IST participated at the International Conference of Technology Transfer (ICTT), organized by UNI. IST contributed with three original research papers. They present not only the theoretical model and practical experience of IST in the TT process, but also the efficient ways of establishing the academic engagement trough the IST-organized FUNDEC courses. During the Project Management roundtable, the final version of the National Platform for Knowledge Triangle in Serbia was adopted.

In July 2013, a retraining program was organized in Lisbon for a group of young TT officers from Serbia, which included several presentations, visits and meetings. In the scope of this retraining program, the young TT officers had an opportunity to visit 5 different start-ups and to learn from their direct experience in the TT process. Most importantly, direct meeting with a member of the Executive Board of IST in charge of Corporate Relations, Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer, as well as several visits to the TT-related installations at IST Alameda and Taguspark, were organized, where the young TT officers had an opportunity to hear about the role of the officer in the TT process through the direct conversation.



(Leonel Sousa)