

Scientific leader

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SPECIFIC TARGETED RESEARCH PROJECT
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ABSTRACT

This project focuses on Research-Based Spin-Offs (RBSOs), that is to say firms that are created around scientific knowledge generated in public research organizations (PROs). RBSOs play a key role in transforming scientific knowledge into new knowledge that is embodied in new technologies, products, services and processes. Hence, they play an important role as an engine of innovation and growth for Europe. In this project the consortium seek to understand the conditions under which RBSOs effectively contribute to the generation of new knowledge and its dissemination in the environment in which they are embedded.

The project has three objectives :

- ▶ **1.** It will analyze the determinants of the knowledge creation and transformation function of RBSOs as it is mirrored in their innovative activity. These determinants include: the structure and resources of RBSOs, the institutional characteristics of the PROs and the local/national environment, and the nature of knowledge in different domains.
- ▶ **2.** It will examine the impact of the innovative activity of RBSOs on their competitiveness and growth, and the factors that moderate this relationship.
- ▶ **3.** It will study the impact of RBSOs on the innovation and growth of their customers and partners which possibly are the main beneficiaries of the knowledge creation and transformation activity of RBSOs.

The results of the analyses will allow the PICO team to reassess the rationale for public support to the creation and development of RBSOs.

To achieve these objectives the team will develop appropriate theories in management research, such as the resource-based view of the firm and will then validate it using empirical data. Their analysis will combine quantitative data analysis with case studies of firms in different European countries. The project benefits from the competencies developed by the Consortium members in economics, sociology, management, science policy. It also builds on and substantially extends the results of previous EU projects in related fields in which the members were involved.

PICO

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European projects are crucial for the renewal of the research topics of laboratories. Thus, the project PICO has allowed the development of a new research orientation in our 40-year-old laboratory. It brought us new partners and allowed us to recruit new PhDs students on an innovative set of themes that the national authorities would not have financed.

Philippe Mustar, coordinator of the project

My doctoral dissertation is part of the PICO project in the coordination of which I actively participate. The project involves ambitious field work. Indeed, in order to achieve the objectives of the project by providing empirical evidence on the drivers of academic spin-offs' innovation and growth, as well as on their impact on their customers and partners, we realize a large number of interviews. The five teams carry out 80 face-to-face interviews with academic spin-offs, around 200 interviews with their customers and partners (of which 80 face-to-face interviews) and 15 case studies of mergers and acquisitions involving academic spin-offs. Coordinating such huge empirical work in order to meet the deadlines is one of the main challenges of the PICO projects. Participating to the PICO project has thus provided me not only with the opportunity to work together with ones of the best teams in this field, and with financing for my thesis, but also with a unique experience in project management.

Liliana Doganova, scientific manager of the project, Ph D