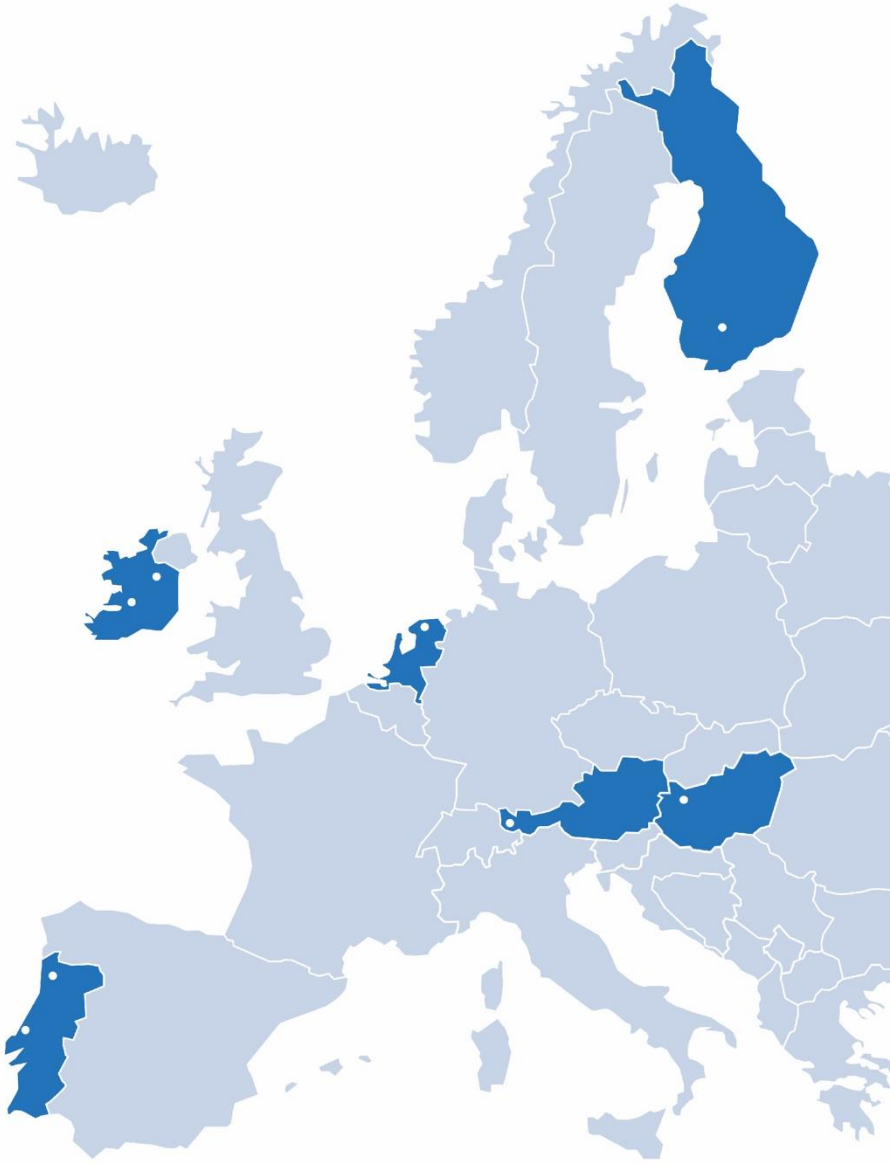
REGIONAL UNIVERSITY NETWORK PLUS

EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY



D6.2 INNOVATION CAPACITY REPORT

Type of Deliverable: Report, Public

30 September 2023

Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS), Ireland
Széchenyi István University (SZE), Hungary

Horizon 2020
European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation

Grant Agreement Number: 101035816.

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Abbreviations

D	Deliverable
EIH	European Innovation Hub
FHV	Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences, Austria
HAMK	Häme University of Applied Sciences, Finland
IP	Intellectual Property
IPCA	Polytechnic of Cávado and Ave, Portugal
IPL	Polytechnic of Leiria, Portugal
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KT	Knowledge Transfer
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS Forms	Microsoft Forms
MS Teams	Microsoft Teams
NDA	Non-disclosure Agreement
NHL Stenden	NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences, The Netherlands
PI	Principal Investigator
R&I	Research and Innovation
RUN-EU	Regional University Network – European University
RUN-EU PLUS	Regional University Network – European University: Professional Research Programmes for Business and Society
SZE	University of Györ – Széchenyi István University, Hungary
T	Task
TRL	Technology Readiness Level
TT	Technology Transfer
TTO	Technology Transfer Office
TUS	Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest, Ireland
WP	Work Package

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A key impact of the RUN-EU PLUS project is the development of inter-regional Research & Innovation (R&I) models designed to deliver on societal transformation requirements, within the framework of the relevant Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) and the UN goals for Sustainable Development, and through increased integration of the university activities in the field of R&I within and beyond Europe. The RUN-EU Innovation Ecosystem will enhance industry-academia engagement through research partners and Professional Practice-based Research Degree Programmes developed by the RUN-EU PLUS project. Innovations developed through these partnerships will be spun-out to our RUN-EU regions for optimum regional impact.

This report outlines the development and implementation of an Innovation Detection System for the RUN European University designed to support innovators and the identification of innovations of exploitable potential among local or alliance-wide partnerships. Once detected, local partner interface services including technology transfer services, innovation support staff and start-up incubators will be applied to maximise knowledge transfer for societal impact. A RUN-EU Commercialisation Committee, previously presented in RUN-EU PLUS **D6.1 Innovation Ecosystem**, will support knowledge transfer to regional partners of the RUN European University via the European Innovation Hubs (EIHs). Three RUN-EU EIHs have been established in the areas of Future Sustainable Indutstries, Bioeconomy and Social Innovation, and these hubs function as cutting-edge knowledge networks which integrate education, research and innovation allowing regional stakeholders access to new or existing pan-European research or industrial infrastructuree, associated databases as well as new approaches to the establishment of co-operation arrangements.

The development and implementation of the RUN-EU PLUS Innovation Detection System has been led by the RUN-EU PLUS R&I Ambassadors network who lead research and innovation development locally in their own institution and across RUN-EU with the other actors/stakeholders of the RUN-EU innovation ecosystem.

1. Introduction

The RUN European University Innovation Ecosystem is designed to nurture the development of a European University-wide knowledge sharing approach and knowledge transfer capacity, valorising the entrepreneurial mind-set amongst our researchers and innovators. Building on innovative partnerships between RUN-EU researchers and industry partners and other stakeholders, the aim is to remove existing obstacles to innovation and revolutionize the way the public and private sector work together to bring research developments and advancements to the marketplace for societal benefit. Since its launch in 2020, the RUN-EU Erasmus+ project (grant agreement no. 101004068) has already developed key pillars of this innovation ecosystem which include the introduction of 3 European Innovation Hubs (EIHs) and 8 themed research clusters.

As identified in the Horizon 2020 RUN-EU PLUS Grant Agreement (101035816), RUN-EU PLUS is analysing industry/business needs for specialist knowledge, skills, and talent in specific domain areas. The project undertakes activities which engage stakeholders to strengthen academia/business co-operation, engage with regional innovation networks/associations and national and European initiatives to promote innovation. Focus by the RUN-EU PLUS project is also placed on activities which promote entrepreneurial mindset among its research community.

Deliverable 6.1 of the RUN-EU PLUS project presented the key elements of the RUN-EU Innovation Ecosystem. Along with key elements already established by the RUN-EU Erasmus+ project, a review of the current innovation capacity of the RUN-EU partner institutions was undertaken by the RUN-EU PLUS project. **D6.1** proposed an Innovation Capacity Programme and a governance structure which will build the RUN-EU Innovation Ecosystem as a pan-European ecosystem of innovation embedded in all RUN-EU partner regions and allows pan-European collaboration in business, research, and education as a vehicle of regional development.

The RUN-EU Innovation Ecosystem will be managed by its Research & Innovation Committee (**Section 4.4**), a central oversight committee which will strategically lead both knowledge creation and future skills training across the RUN-EU alliance in accordance with the needs of RUN-EU regional business and societal partners. The committee will oversee the

implementation of the RUN-EU PLUS Innovation Capacity Programme, offer a centralised RUN-EU technology transfer function, and create a portfolio of innovation/technology offerings which it will promote to RUN-EU regional stakeholders. The committe will also create a pan-European ecosystem for new business/academia collaborations, facilitate regional stakeholder skills needs analysis, provide pan-European Business incubation services and leverage funding opportunities for innovation development.

2. Overview of RUN-EU Innovation Ecosystem

2.1 RUN-EU European Innovation Hubs (EIH)

WP2 (European Innovation Hubs) of the Erasmus+ RUN-EU project has developed 3 cutting-edge knowledge networks to drive innovation and collaboration in targeted areas which will support the regional development of the alliance partners. These European Innovation Hubs (EIH) are in the thematic areas of Future Sustainable Industries, Bioeconomy and Social Innovation. A detailed account of the EIHs is provided in **Section 2.2** of **D6.1 Innovation Ecosystem**.

These 3 advanced, pan-European Innovation Hubs are thematically aligned and have shared teams and infrastructures. The Innovation Hubs constitute one of the central pillars of sustainable regional development underpinning the collaborative activities to be developed within the framework of this European University, driving collaborative, regionally oriented and novel mobility led education, research, and innovation.

EIHs are unique educational platforms where joint interregional research, innovation and regional stakeholder engagement activities are created and nurtured. EIHs collaborate with associated partners in government, business, society and uniquely with the OECD Secretariat of Higher Education and its labour market relevance and outcomes. It is envisaged that the outcomes of this collaborative approach will not only feed back into education, research, and innovation development opportunities within the regions of the alliance but could also inform innovative solutions for labour market relevance and outcomes which would be adaptable to different regions of Europe. The EIHs play a key role in the societal impact of the new knowledge

created by the Innovation Ecosystem of the RUN European University as they will be the vehicle which supports industry-academic collaboration.

Integral to the success of these hubs are the RUN-EU Research Cluster areas which are summarised in **Section 2.2** of this document. **Figure 1** below presents the alignment of the Research Clusters with the EIHs.

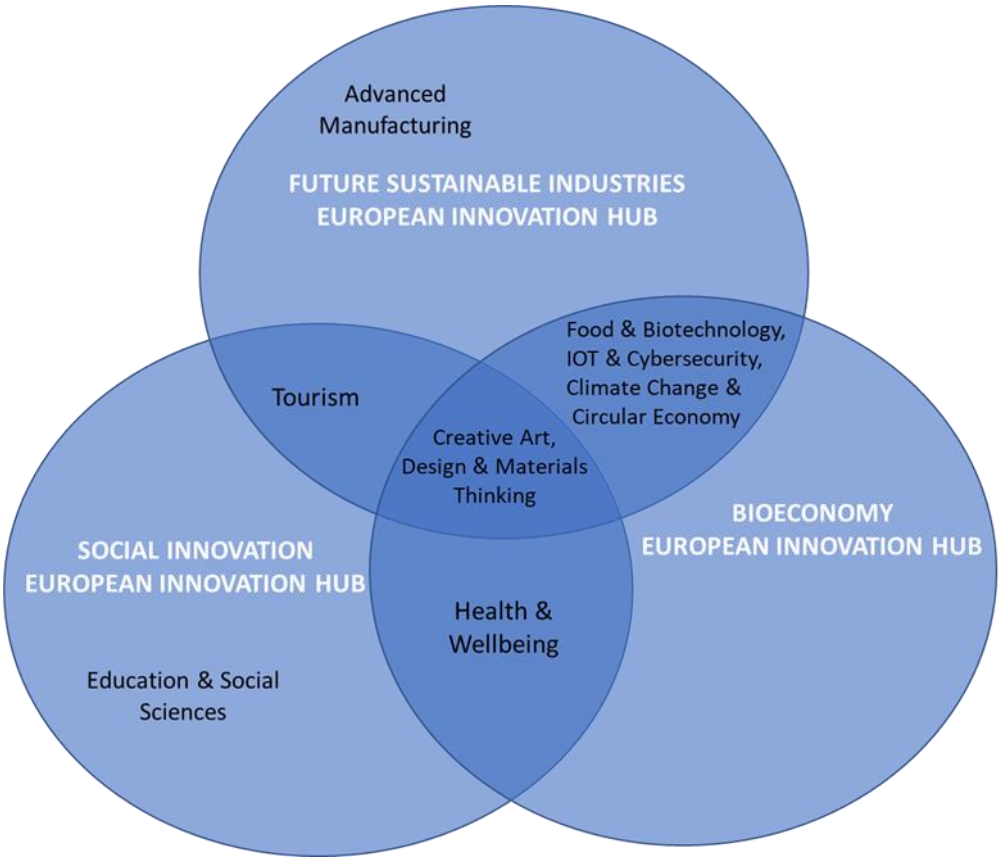


Figure 1 - RUN-EU Research Area Clusters and Integration in European Innovation Hubs

2.2 RUN-EU Research Cluster Areas

RUN European University has developed Research Cluster Areas which are aligned to the Horizon Europe Vision research cluster areas. The RUN-EU Discovery Programme (Work package 5 of RUN-EU) has built European future-looking Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) teams of researchers, research students, academic staff, and regional partners (businesses and

social) to address societal challenges in a multi-disciplinary approach thus delivering innovative solutions adaptable to different regions in Europe.

Following an audit and characterisation of RUN-EU alliance Research, Development, and Innovation, **eight** RUN-EU Research Cluster Areas have been identified. The areas are (**Figure 2**):

Research Area 1: Creative Art, Design and Materials Thinking (Cluster lead: IPCA)

Research Area 2: Food & Biotechnology (Cluster lead: HAMK)

Research Area 3: Tourism (Cluster lead: TUS)

Research Area 4: IOT & Cybersecurity (Cluster lead: NHL Stenden)

Research Area 5: Smart, Sustainable and Advanced Manufacturing (Cluster lead: TUS)

Research Area 6: Climate Change – Circular Economy & Decarbonisation (Cluster lead: SZE/IPL)

Research Area 7: Education & Social Sciences (Cluster lead: NHL Stenden)

Research Area 8: Health & Wellbeing (Cluster lead: IPCA)

Figure 2 - RUN-EU 8 future-looking joint RUN-EU RDI teams indicative research areas

These clusters have each carried out a characterisation of each member's existing regional innovation cluster activities and capacity with a view to identifying areas for cooperation and collaboration particularly aligned with the Horizon Europe, Erasmus, Creative Europe etc. research and innovation actions and programmes. To date R&I projects including jointly supervised researcher programs have been developed and successfully funded both nationally and within the EC Commission funding mechanisms across the consortium clusters.

2.3 RUN-EU PLUS Professional Practice-based Research Degree Programmes

A key function of the RUN-EU PLUS project is to work at the interface between our RUN-EU academic partners and regional stakeholders and to build an R&I agenda, collaborative action plan and inform the design of collaborative accredited professional practice-based research degree programmes at both masters and doctoral level in association with RUN-EU regional industry, business, and societal stakeholders.

RUN-EU PLUS **D3.1 Strategic Research Priorities Report** presents an analysis of RUN-EU regional priority domains for research and innovation (R&I) with business and society, including an overview of the regional research interests and regional priorities that are leveraged in the creation of RUN-EU Professional Practice-based Research Degree programmes that will attract the support of business and society.

Sustainability, **Digitalisation** and **Social Innovation** were selected as the priority research domains by the RUN-EU PLUS project management committee. These broad themes support the development of research masters and doctoral programmes within the specific specialisation areas of the RUN-EU European Innovation Hubs (Future and Sustainable Industries, Bio-economy and Social Innovation) as well as enabling cross-fertilisation of research discipline areas through interdisciplinary RUN-EU research projects and masters and doctoral supervision teams. They are aligned to the Horizon Europe Vision research cluster areas and the broader EU initiatives and directives encompassed with the Sustainable Development, Digital compass, Green Deal, Erasmus+ and other research, innovation, and educational programmes.

3. Development of Innovation Detection System

RUN-EU PLUS sets out to design and implement an Innovation Capacity Programme which forms the cornerstone of the RUN-EU PLUS Innovation Eco-system being developed across the partner organisations of RUN-EU. Designed to enhance the regional R&I eco-system within the RUN university alliance, the Innovation Capacity Programme will strengthen the collaborative research capacity between business and academia, support innovation development and develop & mainstream entrepreneurship and transversal skills.

The Innovation Detection Scheme presented in this document will support the identification of new innovations and innovators and is pivotal to the innovation capacity of the RUN European University. The scheme will help to lead research and innovation (R&I) development across the consortium and will integrate technology transfer functions across RUN-EU, including innovation support staff and business incubators.

Supporting the development of innovation and identifying innovation with commercial potential is a key offering of the RUN-EU Innovation Ecosystem. Foreground IP can be spun out to create a new start-up company or the technology offering can be transferred through licensing to develop a new product or process in a company. Prior to RUN-EU, many partners would have limited technology offerings available to their regional partners, however, with appropriate management structures in place, new innovations arising out of RUN-EU research clusters will be made available to all RUN-EU associated partners thereby maximising impact on both business and society.

An effective innovation detection scheme must focus on scouting, scanning, and screening actions. *Scouting* includes review of current projects and results to identify relevant inventive concepts and insights, assessing commercialisation readiness-level or technology-readiness-level, and verifying available resources and valuable partnerships to support development of a meaningful project development roadmap.

Scanning implies retaining the most promising concepts with foreseen market and scientific potential, ensuring that invention-disclosure or technology-disclosure forms are filled in.

Screening refers to the analysis of the portfolio of inventions and technologies to make decisions regarding the protection of intellectual property rights and defining a valorization strategy.

The RUN-EU PLUS Research & Innovation ambassadors will play a key role in innovation detection in their organisations.

3.1 Review of Innovation Detection Practices of RUN-EU members

The RUN-EU PLUS project has previously undertaken a review of the Innovation Capacity of RUN-EU alliance members and presented the findings in the following sections RUN-EU PLUS **D6.1 Innovation Ecosystem**:

Section 3.3.1: Innovation Management

Section 3.3.2: Intellectual Property (IP) Management

Section 3.3.3: Business Incubation

Section 3.3.4: Training

Section 3.3.5: Funding support for Innovation

In designing the RUN-EU Innovation Ecosystem, an Innovation Capacity Programme was developed which is presented in **Section 3.4** of **D6.1 Innovation Ecosystem**. This programme is designed to promote the effective creation and protection of new knowledge, the identification of skills needs and the valorisation of an entrepreneurial mindset within the RUN-EU research community and its partner institutions. It will help lead research and innovation (R&I) development across the consortium, supported by an innovation detection scheme to identify new innovations and innovators. The programme will share best practices and integrate technology transfer functions across RUN-EU, including innovation support staff and business incubators. It will develop common RUN-EU processes for design, development, identification, capture, protection, licensing, and promotion of technology offerings to external stakeholders.

This will enhance the regional R&I eco-system within the RUN-EU alliance, which will be applied to strengthen the collaborative research capacity between business and academia, to support innovation development and to develop & mainstream entrepreneurship and transversal skills.

The programme will be implemented across the RUN-EU alliance with specific objectives to:

- Enhance the R&I eco-system within the RUN-EU alliance.
- Strengthen the research capacity in business-academia.
- Support innovation development.
- Develop & mainstream entrepreneurship and transversal skills.

A key element of this Innovation Capacity Programme is to strengthen the commercialisation culture embedded across the RUN European University. Ongoing internal marketing to continually raise awareness and understanding of research commercialisation is essential.
The pillars of the Programme are described in the following sections of **D6.1 Innovation Ecosystem**:

Section 3.4.1: Technology Transfer (TT) Support
Section 3.4.2: Innovation Detection Scheme
Section 3.4.3: Commercialisation & Promotion of Innovation & Technology Offerings
Section 3.4.4: Entrepreneurship training
Section 3.4.5: Financial support services for R&I collaborations
Section 3.4.6: EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities

This section builds on the above partner reviews and presents a more in-dept analysis of how innovation is detected by partner organisations across the RUN-EU alliance as a means of identifying best practice in addition to alternative methods which may maximise the capture of potential commercialisation opportunities.

3.1.1 Innovation Detection Practices

R&I ambassadors provided information on current procedures applied to the detection of innovations at their institutions. Ambassadors from each RUN-EU partner completed the survey shown in **Appendix 1**.
IPL works with the OTIC (Transfer Knowledge & Technology Transfer Centre) as a radar to find academic solutions which are transferred to external organizations. In a 2-way effort, the OTIC identifies some solutions required by industry which it presents to academia as an innovation challenge.
IPL also co-operates with the CCDR (Commission for Coordination and Regional Development) in the project Regional Catalysator which is focused on innovation. This concept is focused on the cooperation between the academia and the industry to develop real solutions to real challenges in the organizations.

The innovation detection system currently applied by **TUS** involves the inventors, the research office, the technology transfer office and the intellectual property committee as the ultimate decision making body.

HAMK has a directive regarding how its researchers work with innovations. At the moment named invention officer (leading project expert) is handling invention announcements with a small group of experts and negotiating with the inventor about the rights, patenting, costs, ownership etc. At the moment directive is being updated and face-lifted. The institution is hoping to increase the level of innovations in the near future.

HAMK's detection system is instructed as follows: The Act on the Right in Inventions Made at Higher Education Institutions (369/2006) defines the rights and obligations of an employee and a higher education institution when a person employed by the higher education institution has made an invention that is eligible for patent protection in Finland.

According to the Act, the inventor must notify the higher education institution of their invention immediately upon making an invention covered by the Act. The guideline for inventions, the invention disclosure notification template as well as other attachments to the guideline are available on this site (available only in Finnish).

After an innovation is detected by **IPCA**, typically a review is required by an external service from a specialized company (such as Patentree) to evaluate the patentability of the innovation.

NHL Stenden has no detection system in place, and none planned for the foreseeable future. The organisation is a member of a national platform for knowledge transfer offices of the University of Applied Sciences where good practices are shared.

While an established process for invention development and patenting is practiced at **FHV,** it is believed that a culture of entrepreneurship must be developed due to the lack of interest by researchers to pursue the commercialisation of their inventions.

SZE has been operating a Business Development Board. This Board makes a proposal for the Governing Board (President and Rector) of the university that makes decisions on the acceptance / utilisation of IP disclosures. The Board is chaired by the Head of the Management Campus Competence Centre and member are:

- Head of the Centre for Higher Education and Industrial Co-operation
- Chief Operating Officer of the Centre for Higher Education and Industrial Co-operation
- Professor delegated by the Rector of the University
- Director of the Directorate of Legal and Portfolio Management

- Business Development Manager designated by the Head of the Centre for Higher Education and Industrial Cooperation
- Incubation Manager appointed by the Head of the Centre for Higher Education and Industrial Cooperation
- Managing Director of Universitas-Győr Nonprofit Ltd
- Managing Director of UNI-INNO Ltd.
- CFO of the University

There are two main channels for invention and innovation detection at SZE:

- the inventor approaches the SZE technology transfer office (i.e., Centre for Higher Education and Industrial Cooperation) and prepares the disclosure form with the support of a designated Business Development Manager
- designated Business Development Managers and incubation managers go to the labs and departments and talk to the colleagues about their research results and discuss the possibility of an IP disclosure. If something seems patentable, the disclosure process begins, and the Business Development Board discuss each IP disclosure before they go for decision of the Governing Body of the university.

In summary, not all of the RUN-EU alliance members currently are actively involved in innovation development. Of those that are, some have internal technology transfer supports functions in place and have set up review committees for this purpose. Those that do not have internal support functions rely on external organisations to provide this support to their researchers.

3.2 Proposed RUN-EU PLUS Innovation Detection Scheme

Figure 3 presents the 3 steps of the Innovation Detection Scheme adopted by the RUN-EU PLUS project. In RUN-EU partner institutions Innovation development may arise from industry-collaborative research projects (innovation pull) or alternatively by researchers themselves through their own inventive ideas (innovation push). In Step 1 of the RUN-EU PLUS Innovation Detection Scheme, innovation detection will occur through innovation audits of institutional research undertaken by the RUN-EU PLUS R&I Ambassadors who will scout for IP which they identify as having commercial potential and is patentable, or otherwise protectable. The R&I

ambassador will support the researcher, along with their research manager/supervisor, with the commercialisation process.

Step 2 of the scheme involves the Technology Transfer Officer (TTO) of the institution proving assistance and guidance to the researcher/research team in identifying the market potential of the innovation and if appropriate, an Invention Disclosure Form (IDF) (**Appendix 2**) is completed. Once the IP is protected, the R&I Ambassador brings it to the RUN-EU Research & Innovation Committee who will review it along with other inventions of the RUN European University. The committee will include the invention in the RUN-EU portfolio of Innovation & Technology Offerings and assist in developing a valorisation strategy for the innovation offering along with its promotion to RUN-EU regional partners. This is Step 3 of the Innovation Detection Scheme.

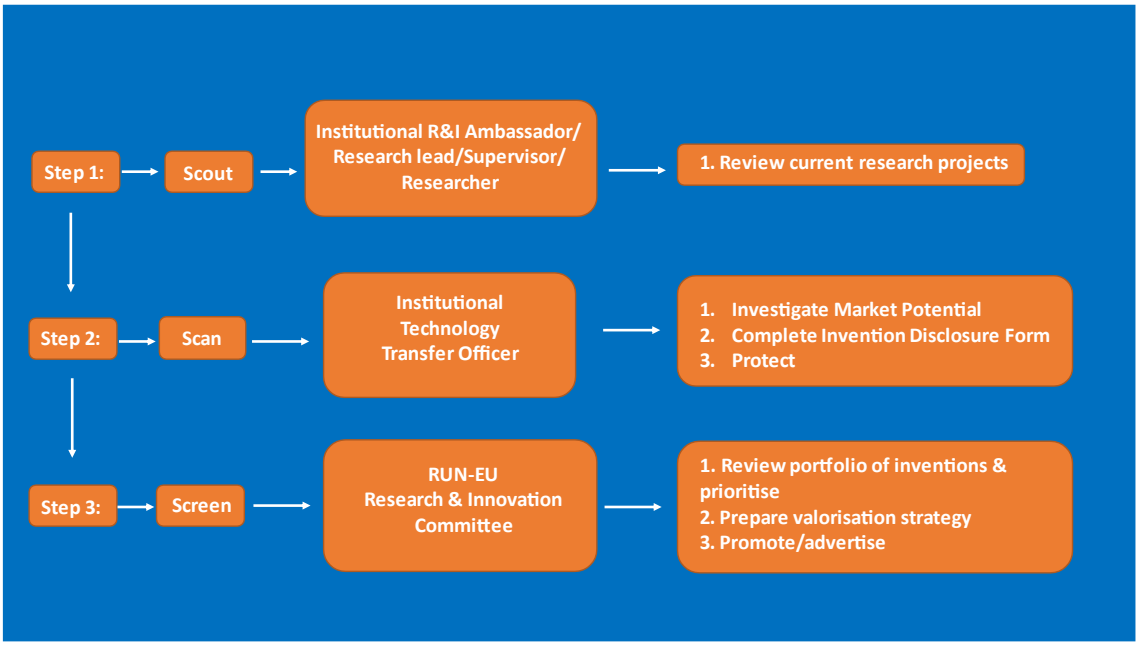


Figure 3 – Schematic of Innovation Detection Scheme adopted by RUN-EU PLUS

The completion and submission of the IDF is a key step in the Innovation Detection Scheme and the RUN-EU research community are advised the following:

- The proper and prompt completion of an Invention Disclosure Form is essential to the functioning of the RUN-EU Research & Innovation Committee.

- This form should be promptly submitted (and in any event no later than within 30 days of the discovery or invention or other IP in question) by the inventor to their institutional Technology Transfer Officer/ RUN-EU R&I ambassador (as appropriate).
- Any IP reported in an IDF shall be assessed by the RUN-EU Research & Innovation Committee regarding the patentability and/or potential Commercialisation.
- The RUN-EU Research & Innovation Committee may recommend that other suitably qualified advisors or external consultants be engaged to advise on the assessment of the IP.
- As far as practicable, the relevant inventors or researchers should be involved in the evaluation (and where relevant protection) process by the Committee.
- The criteria to assess and decide on the commercial value of the IP should include (without limitation):
    - Consultation with the TTO of the inventing institutions.
    - Assessment that the IP does not cater for a once-off need and that it has a potential long-term benefit.
    - Technical and commercial feasibility.
    - Proof of concept (business plan, access to finance etc.).
    - Potential for sale or licensing of technology or consultancy.
    - Demonstrates a competitive advantage based on differentiated or innovative product or service.
    - Development stage of the subject matter.
    - Commercial focus and profit motive.
    - Study of comparable existing subject matter, licences, and commercialisation practices.
    - Proximity to market.
    - Market valuations.
    - Barriers to entry into markets.
    - Estimated projected sales based on market research.
    - Third party assistance including for example input from industry and state agencies.
    - Estimated cost of patent process.

The RUN European University supports research collaborations across the RUN-EU alliance, and it is envisaged that many of the inventions featured in the RUN-EU portfolio of Innovation & Technology Offerings will have been developed collaboratively by alliance partners.

4. Implementation of Innovation Detection System

4.1 RUN-EU Research & Innovation Committee

The RUN-EU Research & Innovation Committee was previously introduced in **Section 3.5** of RUN-EU PLUS **D6.1 Innovation Ecosystem** and this committee will effectively act as the RUN-EU Technology Transfer Office, integrating the technology transfer support functions (and therefore expertise) which exists across the alliance, by providing services for technical and market assessment and supporting the identification of R&D investment programmes for further developments. The committee will promote intellectual property and entrepreneurial culture among RUN-EU researchers and pull investment and push R&D and technology towards industry. **Figure 4** shows the flow of intellectual property between its research teams to regional partners (and vice versa) supported by RUN-EU personnel experienced in all aspects of Technology Transfer.

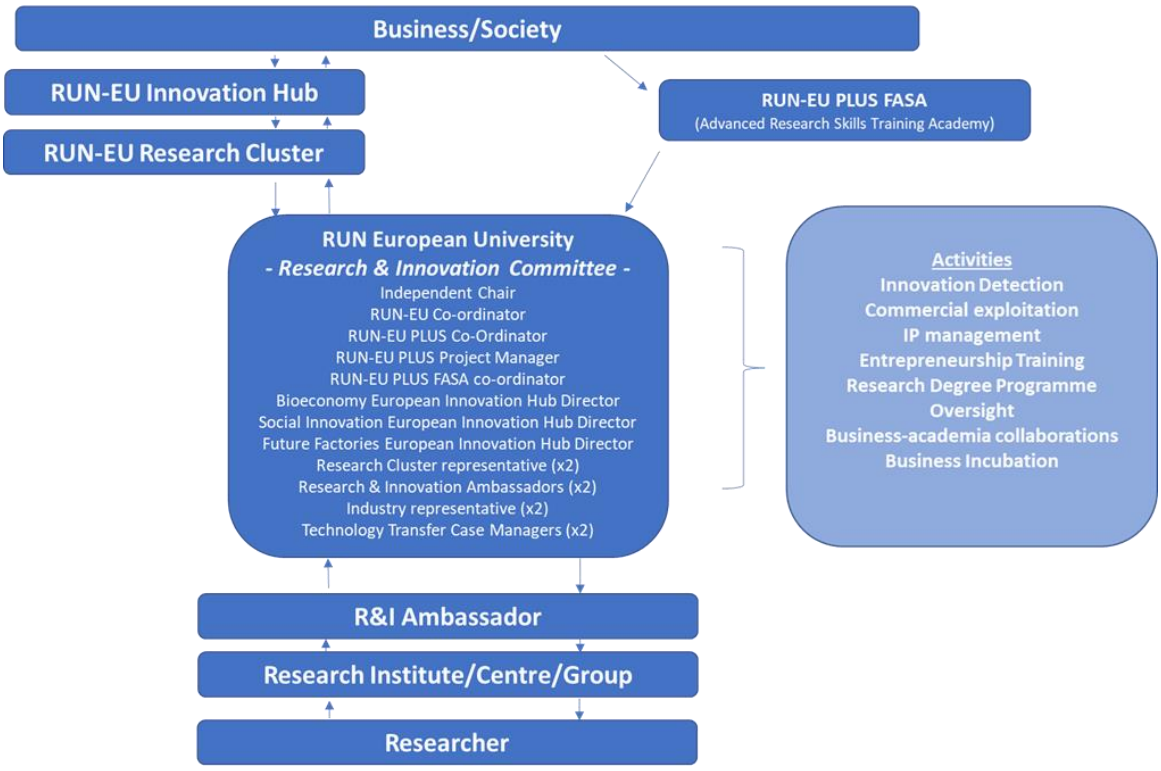


Figure 4 – Knowledge Transfer Model of RUN-EU PLUS

The committee, guided by an independent chair, will bring together key players in knowledge transfer, Senior research managers, industry representatives and RUN-EU co-ordinators. Membership shall include:

- RUN-EU R&I Ambassador representatives (2)
- Technology Transfer Case Managers (2)
- Industry representatives (2)
- Research Cluster representatives (2)
- Bioeconomy European Innovation Hub Director
- Future Factories European Innovation Hub Director
- Social Innovation European Innovation Hub Director
- Future and Advanced Skills Academy (FASA) Director
- RUN-EU and RUN-EU PLUS co-ordinators.

4.2 R&I Committee Activities

The committee will not replace institutional Technology Transfer support, rather RUN-EU alliance partners will benefit from the extensive expertise of the committee in all areas of innovation management including invention disclosures and strategic protection of intellectual property rights, marketing of technology-value proposals, negotiations with organizations to either license, sell, establish a joint venture, create a spin-off company, or to establish research and cooperation agreements. It will allow a pooling of resources and provide mentoring to alliance institutions thereby embedding a culture of innovation development across the alliance. Best practice will be identified, and effective procedures implemented.

The committee will assist in the establishment of industrial and strategic partnerships to leverage resources and seek technology adoption, and to develop tailor-made projects, or projects to create a new product or a new integration of a product into a system, or to update, replace or diversify a product or product range and specifications, or to solve a particular problem or to pursue a desired knowledge or technological advancement.

Specific activities of the committee are shown in **Figure 4** and the support which it will provide to RUN-EU researchers and their collaborators include:

- Innovation development and detection
- IP management
- Commercial exploitation
- Entrepreneurship & Business Incubation
- Business-academia collaborations

4.3 Expertise Development

Case managers and other specialists in Intellectual Property management will be integrated into the Research & Innovation Committee. Support, mentoring and training will be provided for researchers in:

- Innovation development - researchers will be supported in building the commercialisation imperative into their research and in developing their technology to a TRL (Technology Readiness Levels) where it can be protected and demonstrated.

- IP management and commercialisation
- RUN-EU Knowledge Transfer forms
- Commercialisation
- Entrepreneurship
- Funding applications

4.4 Showcasing Innovation Offerings

Innovations and Technology Offerings created through collaborative research in the RUN-EU alliance will be contained in the RUN-EU portfolio will be promoted to key commercialisation players and associated partners of RUN-EU as well as the wider external community by means of the following:

- Annual RUN-EU Research & Innovation Showcase: a virtual event hosted by RUN-EU with RUN-EU offerings presented by the European Innovation Hub and Research Cluster Directors.
- Local regional in-person events (innovation pitch days/ industry open days) hosted by the R&I Ambassadors who promote the RUN-EU innovation portfolio to regional organisations.
- RUN-EU website (RUN-EU) and other promotional material.
- Spin-out formation
- Incentivisation schemes: incentivised licensing agreements and regional networking hybrid (analogue and digital) platform to bring innovations (and innovators) together with investors. Innovation matching events to take place 3-4 times a year, where innovations can be presented in pitches and feedback provided. For companies, the economy and other employers, this event can also be a way to find and promote talent. An innovation voucher scheme will incentivise regional partners to collaborate with the RUN European University partners on small research projects which will be nurtured to become strategic and longterm.
- RUN-EU PLUS Cloud of Knowledge Portal (Cloud Of Knowledge (ipca.pt)): innovation offerings will be disseminated on a dedicated section of the platform which also makes RUN-EU template agreements available to RUN-EU researchers. **Figure 5**, **Figure 6** and **Figure 7** display the sections of the Cloud of Knowledge Portal dedicated to Technology Transfer activities of the RUN European University.

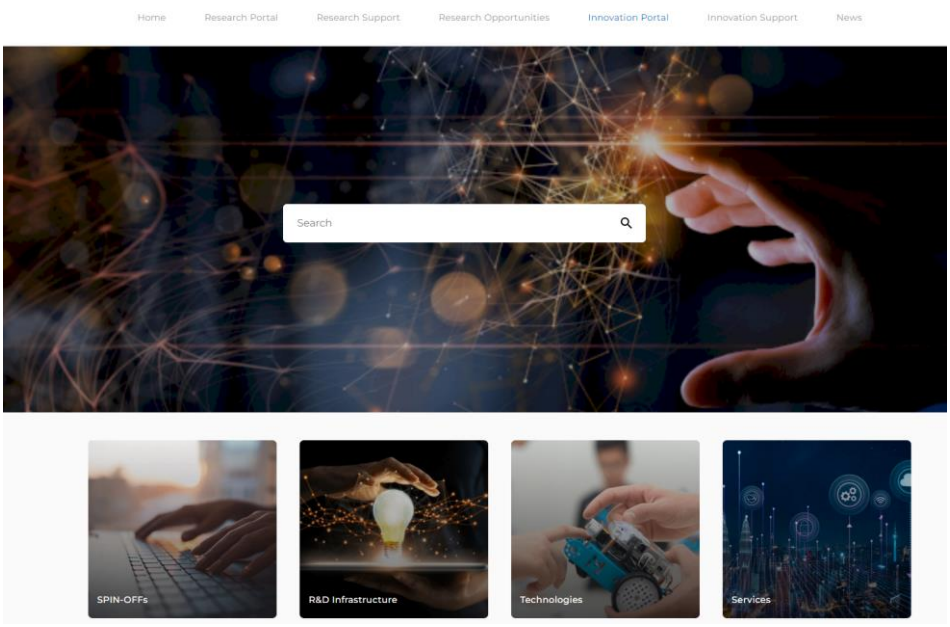


Figure 5 – Innovation Portal of the RUN-EU PLUS Cloud of Knowledge Portal

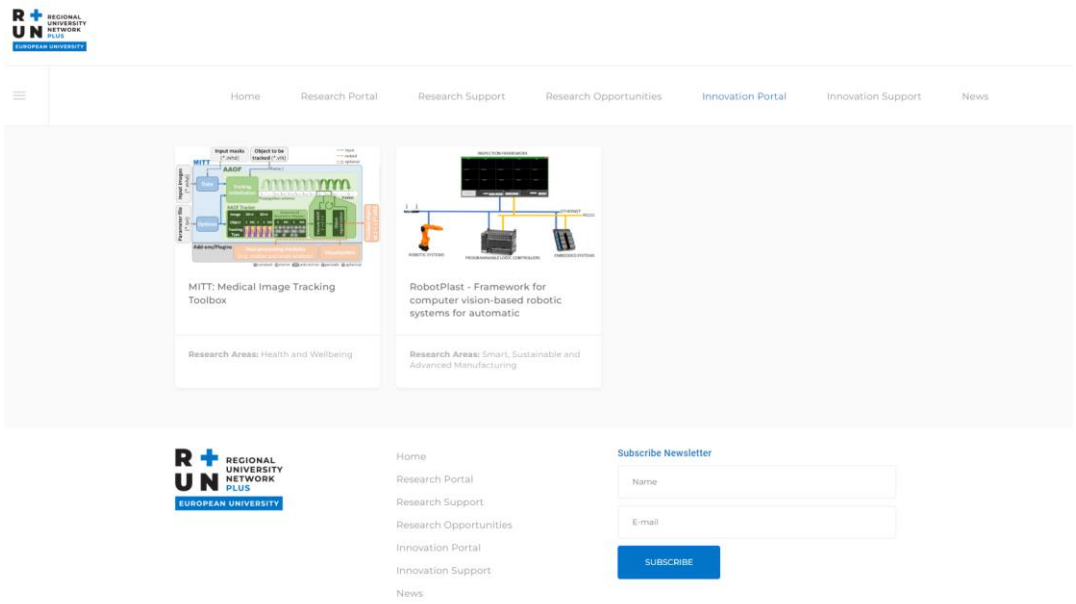


Figure 6 - Technology Offerings promoted on the RUN-EU PLUS Cloud of Knowledge Portal

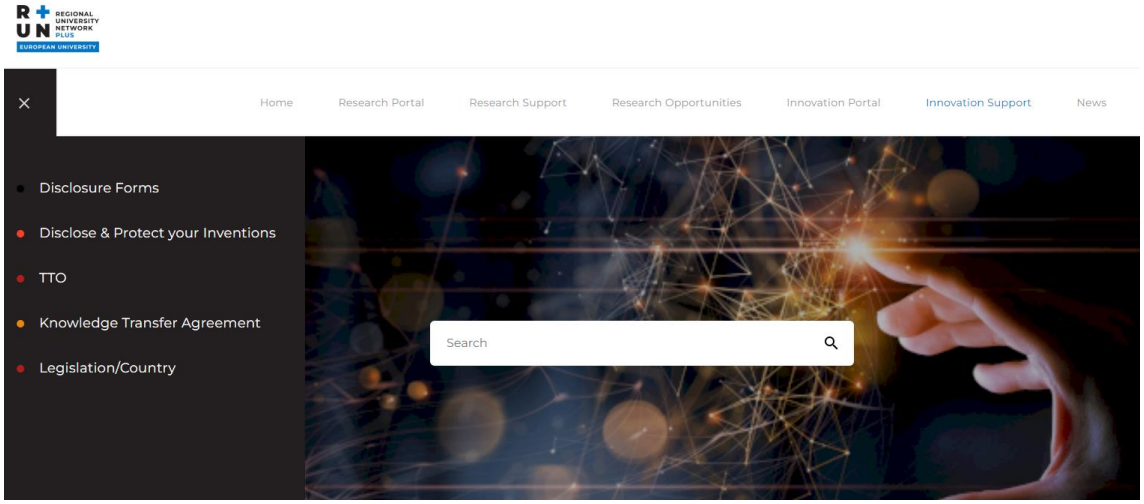


Figure 7 – Template Agreements available to RUN-EU researchers on RUN-EU PLUS Cloud of Knowledge Portal

4.5 Reward system

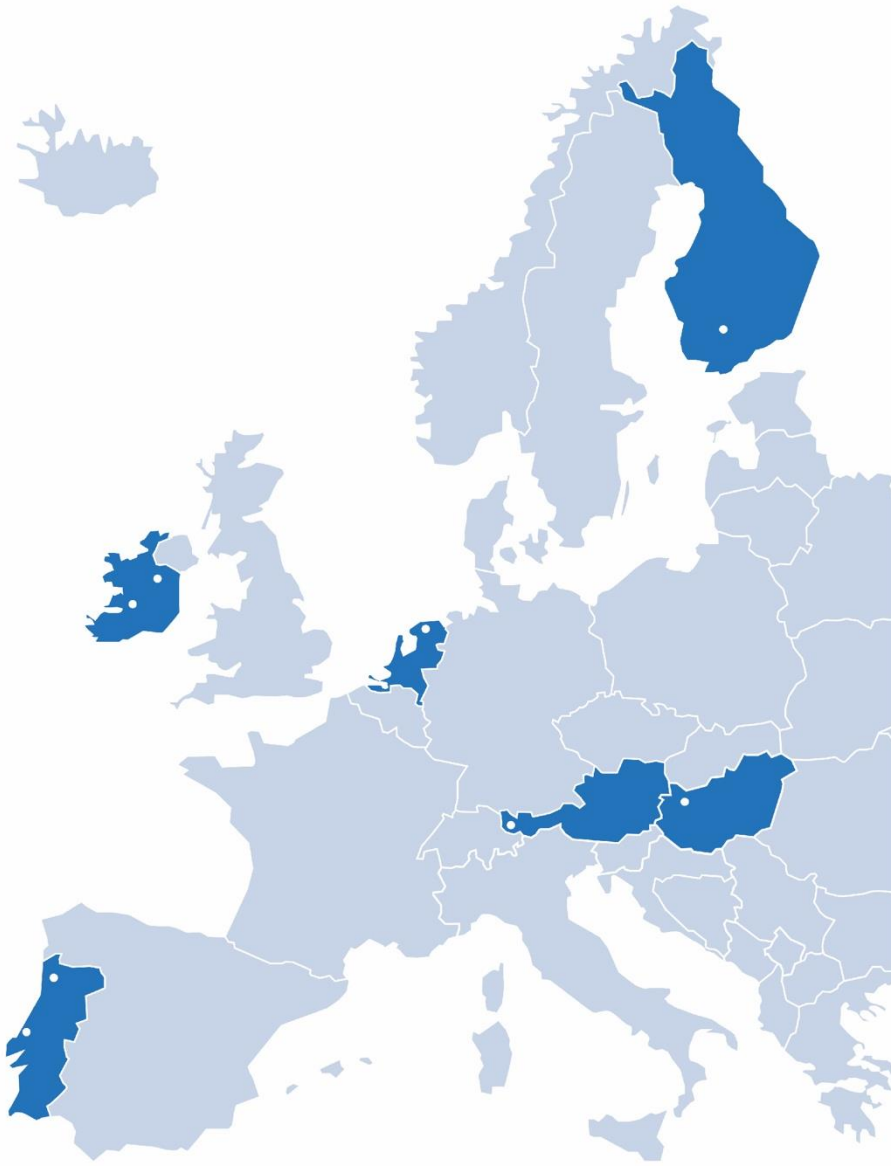
Innovation development will be incentivised through attractive royalty rates for inventors and support services for spin-out formations.

5. Summary

This deliverable describes an Innovation Detection System for the RUN European University which will support innovators in the development of innovations of exploitable potential among local or alliance-wide partnerships.

Once detected, local partner interface services including technology transfer services, innovation support staff and start-up incubators will be applied to maximise knowledge transfer for societal impact. A RUN-EU Commercialisation Committee will support knowledge transfer to regional partners of the RUN European University via the European Innovation Hubs (EIHs). The system will enhance industry-academia engagement through research partners and Professional Practice-based Research Degree Programmes developed by the RUN-EU PLUS project.

Appendix 1



D6.2 INNOVATION CAPACITY REPORT

PARTNER SURVEY: PARTNER NAME

September 2023

Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS), Ireland ***and*** *Polytechnic of Leiria (IPL), Portugal*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A key impact of the RUN-EU PLUS project is the development of inter-regional R&I models designed to deliver on societal transformation requirements, within the framework of the relevant Smart Specialisation Strategies (RIS3) and the UN goals for Sustainable Development, and through increased integration of the university activities in the field of R&I within and beyond Europe. RUN-EU PLUS will develop an innovation detection scheme for potential innovations or innovators among local or alliance-wide partners, exploitation of associated interface services such as technology transfer services, innovation support staff and start-up incubators, the establishment of a mechanism to access new or existing research or industrial infrastructures and associated databases and new appraoches to the establishment of co-operation arrangements. The development of the innovation detection system will be carried out in conjunction with the R&I Ambassadors network who will lead the research and innovation development with the other actors/stakeholders of the eco-system.

D6.1 (completed by 30th September 2022) presented the RUN-EU PLUS Innovation Ecosytem with the following considerations:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Introduction

1.1 European Innovation Ecosystems

1.2 RUN-EU Innovation Ecosystem

2. Current RUN-EU Innovation Ecosystem

2.1 RUN-EU Research Cluster Areas

2.2 RUN-EU European Innovation Hubs (EIH)

2.3 RUN-EU Future and Advanced Skills Academies (FASAs)

2.4 RUN-EU Knowledge Transfer Template Agreements

3. RUN-EU PLUS Support Actions for RUN-EU Innovation Ecosystem

3.1 Identification of Regional Strategic Priority Areas

3.2 Research and Innovation (R&I) Ambassadors

3.3 Review of Innovation Capacity of RUN-EU Alliance Members

D6.1 described the RUN-EU PLUS Innovation Detection Scheme in **Section 3.4.2** as:

3.4.2 Innovation Detection Scheme

An effective innovation detection scheme must focus on scouting, scanning, and screening actions. *Scouting* includes review of current projects and results to identify relevant inventive concepts and insights, assessing commercialisation readiness-level or technology-readiness-level, and verifying available resources and valuable partnerships to support development of a meaningful project development roadmap.

Scanning implies retaining the most promising concepts with foreseen market and scientific potential, ensuring that invention-disclosure or technology-disclosure forms are filled in.

Screening refers to the analysis of the portfolio of inventions and technologies to make decisions regarding the protection of intellectual property rights and defining a valorization strategy.

The RUN-EU PLUS Research & Innovation ambassadors will play a key role in innovation detection in their organisations.

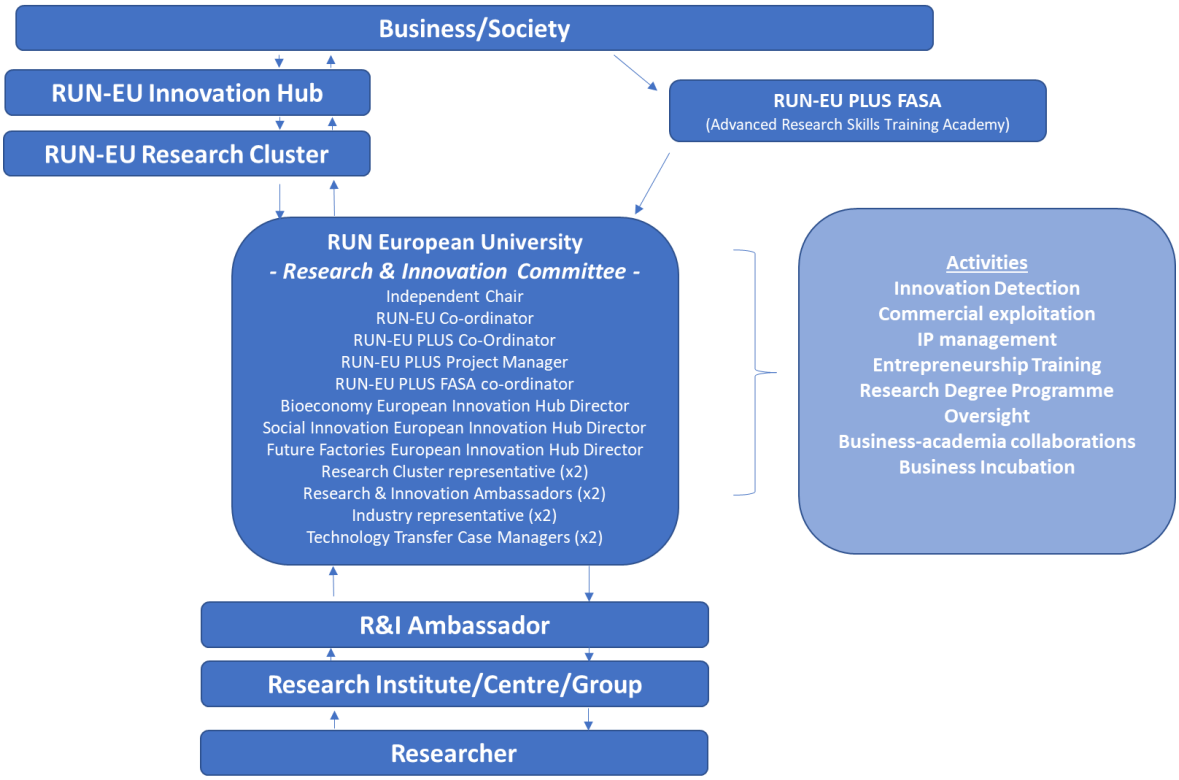
A researcher who identifies a discovery or invention with commercial potential and is patentable, or otherwise protectable, will complete an Invention Disclosure Form and submit it to their Technology Transfer Officer or RUN-EU R&I ambassador as appropriate. This form will be presented to the RUN-EU Research & Innovation Committee (**Section 4**) for inclusion in the RUN-EU portfolio of Innovation & Technology Offerings.

- The proper and prompt completion of an Invention Disclosure Form is essential to the functioning of the RUN-EU Research & Innovation Committee.
- This form should be promptly submitted (and in any event no later than within 30 days of the discovery or invention or other IP in question) to the Technology Transfer Officer/ RUN-EU R&I ambassador.
- Any IP reported in an Invention Disclosure Form shall be assessed by the RUN-EU Research & Innovation Committee regarding the patentability and/or potential Commercialisation.
- The RUN-EU Research & Innovation Committee may recommend that other suitably qualified advisors or external consultants be engaged to advise on the assessment of the IP.
- As far as practicable, the relevant Originators or researchers should be involved in the evaluation (and where relevant protection) process by the Committee.
- The criteria to assess and decide on the commercial value of the IP should include (without limitation):
    - Assessment that the IP does not cater for a once-off need and that it has a potential long-term benefit.
    - Technical and commercial feasibility.
    - Proof of concept (business plan, access to finance etc.).
    - Potential for sale or licensing of technology or consultancy.
    - Demonstrates a competitive advantage based on differentiated or innovative product or service.
    - Development stage of the subject matter.

- Commercial focus and profit motive.
- Study of comparable existing subject matter, licences, and commercialisation practices.
- Proximity to market.
- Market valuations.
- Barriers to entry into markets.
- Estimated projected sales based on market research.
- Third party assistance including for example input from industry and state agencies.
- Estimated cost of patent process.

- A decision will be made by the Committee within 60 days (or such longer period as may reasonably by required) of receipt of an Invention Disclosure Form and the Originator of the IP will be notified in writing of the decision made.

In summary, a researcher (or their supervisor/manager) recognises commercial potential of research and initiates protection of this foreground intellectual property by completion of the RUN-EU Innovation/IP Disclosure Form (Appendix 1). If submitted to the RUN Research and Innovation Committee for consideration, the commercial potential of the IP is considered and supported as appropriate by the committee according to the diagram below.



Please provide your opinion regarding the following:

- Do you believe that this is the most effective and efficient mechanism for dectecting innovation in our RUN European University?
- Have you a different innovation dectection system in your institution?
- Are you aware of an alternative innovation dectection system currently being implemented elsewhere?
- Have you a novel approach to detecting innovations?
- Have you any additional thoughts such as training, showcases, pitch days to industry that may be effective?

Appendix 2

RUN-EU Model Innovation/IP Disclosure Form

RUN-EU Innovation/IP Disclosure Form

Title of intellectual property:
Project identification number:
Date Received: / /

INNOVATION / IP NAME:

INNOVATION/ IP DETAILS:

(1.1) Explain the concept and how it works.

(1.2) Describe the problem to be solved by the innovation/IP and/or explain the need clearly.

(1.3) Identify other technologies, products or processes (both existing and potential) which are used to solve this problem?

(1.4) What are the problems associated with these technologies, products or processes?

(1.5) Explain how this innovation/IP overcomes these problems (*i.e.,* what are its advantages).

(1.6) What is the current stage of development of the innovation/IP?

(1.7) What do you consider to be the most inventive aspect of the proposed innovation/IP?

(1.8) Are there other possible applications of the innovation/IP?

(1.9) List the names of companies which you think would be interested in using, developing or marketing this innovation/IP

PRIOR ART

(2.1) Please list relevant references from the scientific literature (use separate sheet if necessary)

(2.2) Please list the results of the patent search which you have conducted (use separate sheet if necessary)

(2.3) Has any public disclosure of the innovation occurred already, without the protection of a Non-Disclosure Agreement? *(Disclosure can be oral (meeting, presentations) or written (abstracts, journal articles, etc)*

Yes ☐ No ☐ (please tick as appropriate)

If Yes, please provide details.

Date of Disclosure	**Type** (e.g. journal, conference, meeting)	**Details** (incl. paper title, journal or conference name, location, etc.)

Is any disclosure pending?

Yes ☐ No ☐ (please tick as appropriate)

If Yes, please provide details.

Date of Disclosure	**Type** (e.g. journal, conference, meeting)	**Details** (incl. paper title, journal or conference name, location, etc.)

FUNDING AND CONTRACTS

(3.1) Please list all sources of funding which were used in support of the research which contributed to the generation of the innovation/IP.

Source of Funding	**Title of Project**	**Agency Project Code**

(3.2) Is the innovation/IP linked to any of the following whether past, present or currently under negotiation?:

a. material transfer agreement(s) Yes ☐ No ☐
b. licence agreement(s) Yes ☐ No ☐
c. personal consultancy(s) Yes ☐ No ☐
d. provision of equipment Yes ☐ No ☐
e. open-source software licence Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes to any of the above, please provide details (use separate sheet if necessary)

INVENTOR / CONTRIBUTOR DETAILS

(4.1) Please list all individuals whom you consider to have made a conceptual and inventive contribution to the generation of the innovation/IP and list those who have made a practical (non-inventive contribution)

Name + Home Address	**RUN-EU Institution**	**Position** (e.g. staff or student)	**Nationality**	**Type of Contribution**	**Contribution (%)**

Note: Unlike authorship of a scientific publication, where patents are concerned inventorship is a matter of law and a patent that fails to name the correct inventors either because those listed are not true inventors or true inventors were excluded, may be ruled invalid.
Actual entitlement to inventorship can only be correctly assigned when prosecution of a patent application is fully complete, as it is the content of the final claims that are granted which establishes entitlement and this can be different from the original claims in the initial application. Hence, in certain circumstances, it may be necessary to amend the listing of inventors at a later date at the patent office.
Important Notice
THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS USED TO ASSESS OWNERSHIP OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND OF RIGHTS TO SUBSEQUENT ROYALTIES. FAILURE TO PROVIDE FULL AND ACCURATE INFORMATION MAY JEOPARDISE OR INVALIDATE ANY SUBSEQUENT PATENT APPLICATION (IF SUCH IS APPROPRIATE).

I/we declare that to the best of my/our knowledge that the information provided in this form is correct and complete and I/we assign the intellectual property to [●] (the "RUN-EU RPO(s)") in accordance with [●] (the "RUN-EU RPO(s)**s")** Intellectual Property Policy and Procedures.

Inventor/Contributor Name	**Signature**	**Date**

When completed, the form should be sent by e-mail to [●] (TTO Contact) with a signed original to be sent to the address below:

Name of RUN-EU TTO Contact:
Address of EUN-EU TTO:

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European Union Funding
for Research & Innovation

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