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UNIVERSITY PATENTING, LICENSING AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: HOW ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES DETERMINE PERFORMANCE

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Cities and Innovation

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ABSTRACT: The paper assesses the performance of the technology licensing offices (TLO) and technology transfer offices (TTO) which have been active in Portuguese higher education institutions. Data stemming from a survey of these entities was analyzed in successive steps through factor analysis, cluster analysis and estimation of a model using the Partial-Least Squares methodology. It is shown that the institutional nature of each of the surveyed organizations implies different behaviours and outcomes. Further it has also become clear that the type of resources and activities in the surveyed organizations determine both their “primary outcome” (patent applications and technology transfer processes) and their “final outcome” (technology licensing contracts and technology-based spin-offs). The results of this paper might be particularly relevant for other similar economies as Portugal where high-tech and knowledge-intensive industries have not been dominant.

JEL Codes: O32, O34, I23

Keywords: technology transfer; university-industry relationships; university patenting; university spin-offs

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