

IRGC Portugal, 2014: Main achievements

By the end of 2014, three years after launching, IRGC Portugal has established an agenda, <http://www.irgc-portugal.org/>, with competencies in different and complementary areas, including risk governance and policy research, and additional funding for research projects. Main achievements are summarized as follows:

1. Industrial production, geography and policy under increasing uncertainty in Aeronautics: A sectorial research platform, <http://in3.dem.ist.utl.pt/technology-policy-aerospace/>, has been promoted to look at deindustrialization risks and related issues to foster technical change in diverse regional contexts, in which the lack - in some cases - and the reduction - in others - of industrial activity has fostered socio-economic vulnerabilities. It considers the analysis of the impact of new technologies (e.g., additive manufacturing) and the processes of firm creation under uncertainty. A series of **Innovation in Aeronautics Roundtables** was launched.

2. Governing emerging risks and new innovation dynamics in the Atlantic: an international consortium in the form of an *International Observatory of Global Policies for the Sustainable Exploration of Atlantic*, “OIPG” <http://www.oipg.org/>, was promoted to stimulate participatory risk governance activities, to support the design of public policies and the sustainable development of industry, so as to foster the endogenous development of Atlantic regions. It is particularly aimed to help improving our understanding of new innovation dynamics and technology-based services for offshore and oil & gas sustainable industries in South Atlantic, the Caribbean Region, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

3. New regulatory frameworks for harnessing knowledge, technology and innovation for sustainable public health: new forms of regulating medicines, including those for advanced therapies and medical devices, were identified to be promoted and encouraged in Portugal, in such a way as to harness knowledge, technology and innovation. A comparative analysis of emerging regulatory mechanisms (e.g., “intelligent and integrative”), as discussed by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), was concluded in collaboration with the Gulbenkian Foundation and the Gulbenkian Platform on “The Future of Health”.

4. Design for uncertainty in urban contexts: a platform for action research on vulnerable communities in the city of Lisbon was developed and promoted under the title “Street Labs” (“Laboratórios na Rua”, <http://www.narua.pt/>). It focus on risk communication and stakeholder engagement processes. Emphasis has been considered on the design of new engineering-based products and processes to help shape perceptions and peoples' behavior. Two areas of intervention were chosen in terms of risk mitigation, including energy consumption and non-communicable diseases (e.g., diabetes). It includes a series of “**Urban Dialogues on Risk and Resilience**”, http://www.narua.pt/encontros_dialogos.asp.

5. Building global networks and links in Portuguese speaking countries, was developed together with a comprehensive analysis of the evolution of science and technology policies for developing regions worldwide, with emphasis on Latin America. A book (Springer Verlag) has been prepared and a Special Issue (JOTMI, Intl. J. Tech. Mgt. and Innov.) was published about “Technical Change in Latin America”, <http://www.jotmi.org/index.php/GT/issue/view/vol9-issue4a>.