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## Book Review

### SUPPORTING INNOVATION THROUGH NATIONAL R&D PROGRAMS

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The increasing interest in the business, political, and academic worlds regarding Innovation in general, its role in economic growth and the challenges in managing it in different arenas, require some clarification on both the research and the practical aspects.

The book "Supporting Innovation Through National R&D Programs" deals with the relevant questions of the practical aspects of innovation, its support tools and the different entities involved. It is important to note that while the topic of book declares relevance to national programs it

acknowledges that in certain countries, institutions have developed that fill the role, which in other countries is performed by the national programs.

Examples and cases are presented throughout the book, to illustrate the points discussed. In most cases these examples as they relate as much as possible to real life events and cases, have some of the identification details obscured. When possible, and relevant for the discussion however, identification details are retained.

The book is divided into seven chapters starting, in a business fashion, with the

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explanation of the need for national support programs, and their nature. This chapter serves as an introduction to the subject and would serve as the opening gate to the topic for practitioners and researchers alike.

The introduction continues in chapter two dealing with knowledge creation and different stages in the development of a new technology, from basic research through translational research, to the move to development.

As translational research is the narrow bridge between basic research, performed in academic organization around the world, and development, performed by industry, chapter three deals with the problems of connecting these two cultures and offers some understanding into the nature of their collaboration difficulties. This is a more social science chapter aimed at understanding the conflicts of the meeting between the two, as well as some characteristics that may either help, or hinder that cooperation.

The next chapter deals with the poignant issue of knowledge protection and its active role regarding collaborative research, the cooperation between industry and academy, and the decisive role it plays in making sure that all the effort (in time and funding) invested from the basic research to the final development, will pay off. It is important to note, that while innovation may have a social impact in various sections of society, and in general impact our daily life, the most active sector in which it is discussed in context, is the economic arena. It is regarded as a main growth factor, and as such is expected to have economic benefit that will justify the private and public investment in fostering it. The packaging and protection of the knowledge are presented as useful tools enabling the process.

After the need, the general tools and problems have been defined, in chapter five the discussion turns to the description of the different programs aimed at assisting the process. A discussion regarding the general operation process of an R&D support program is presented. That section in the chapter deals with the different types of support (e.g. financial, professional guidance) such programs may offer and details different characteristics and operational modes aimed at achieving different ends. Not all the programs aim solely at the development of new knowledge. Some aim also at the development and introduction of innovation personnel into the industry, at fostering better cooperation between academic research organizations and the industry, the development of a financial sector to support innovation, to name a few. This chapter is especially recommended for practitioners, and those dealing with innovation support policy, as it gives the tools for analysis of programs and policies, and their effectiveness in attaining their goals.

Time to move ahead – chapter six deals with the development such programs have been undergoing in the last twenty years. The chapter focuses on the conflict between a complex program dealing with different goals, and a large number of simple programs each addressing a small number of goals, but resulting in a myriad of programs. The discussion gives once again the tools for selecting the strategy.

Chapter seven aims to complete the picture by discussing the role of research policy and the other relevant tools mentioned briefly elsewhere. Accelerators, technology incubators and the like are presented ending with the main complementary entity to the R&D support program, the national research

organization. The pros and cons of this option are discussed only briefly, as this topic merits a book of its own. The discussion regarding research policy is done from the point of view of having to allocate limited funding resources and setting the priorities for doing so.

The book ends with a conclusion and future research topics. The conclusion chapter, a short one, starts with the future research trends and ends with the summary of the entire discussion.

As the book aims to present and briefly discuss the topics mentioned above, each chapter ends with a bibliography, and a list of recommended additional reading. This is the introduction and starting point for the reader, opening the door to further research and better understanding for both researchers and reactionaries (Porath, 2018).

### **References**

Porath, A (2018). Supporting Innovation Through National R&D Programs. IGI Global. Series: Advances in Business Information Systems and Analytics (ABISA).