

COMMERCIALISING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY EMANATING FROM UNIVERSITIES IN THE WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE OF SA

Jacques Stofberg
18 June 2018

Contents

- The overall aim and specific research objectives of the study
- Discussion of the Research design and methodology followed
- Summary of findings

The overall aim and specific research objectives of your study

- The overall objective of this study is to consider the role of universities in commercialising IP. The research objectives are to:
 - define IP within the context of universities globally;
 - define the terms technological innovation and technology transfer (TT) used in describing efforts to commercialise university IP;
 - develop a conceptual framework consisting of key dimensions that represents the enabling environment for TT at universities; and
 - use the key dimensions from the conceptual framework in case studies to evaluate TT practices at four universities located in the Western Cape.

Research design

- The research paradigm of this study is descriptive and explanatory. The phenomenon is being studied within the context of historical, social, political, and economic conditions.
- A research design is described by Mouton (2001:55) as a “plan” or “blueprint” of how the intended study will be conducted. Similarly, Yin (2009:24) asserts that a research design is *“the logic that links the data to be collected to the initial questions of the study”*.
- Yin (2014:28) later added: “Colloquially, a research design is a logical plan for getting from here to there, where here may be defined as the initial set of questions to be answered, and there is some set of conclusions (answers) about these questions.”

Methodology

- In this study, textual and numeric primary and secondary data were used as part of an empirical ethnographic research inquiry strategy.
- The resultant overall research design is descriptive and evaluative in nature, using inductive reasoning.
- The inquiry strategy used multiple, embedded case studies and a mix of qualitative and quantitative research approaches for describing and analysing existing data. Mouton (2001:149) describes case studies as part of an ethnographic research approach as those studies that “... aim to provide an in-depth description of a small number (less than 50) of cases”.

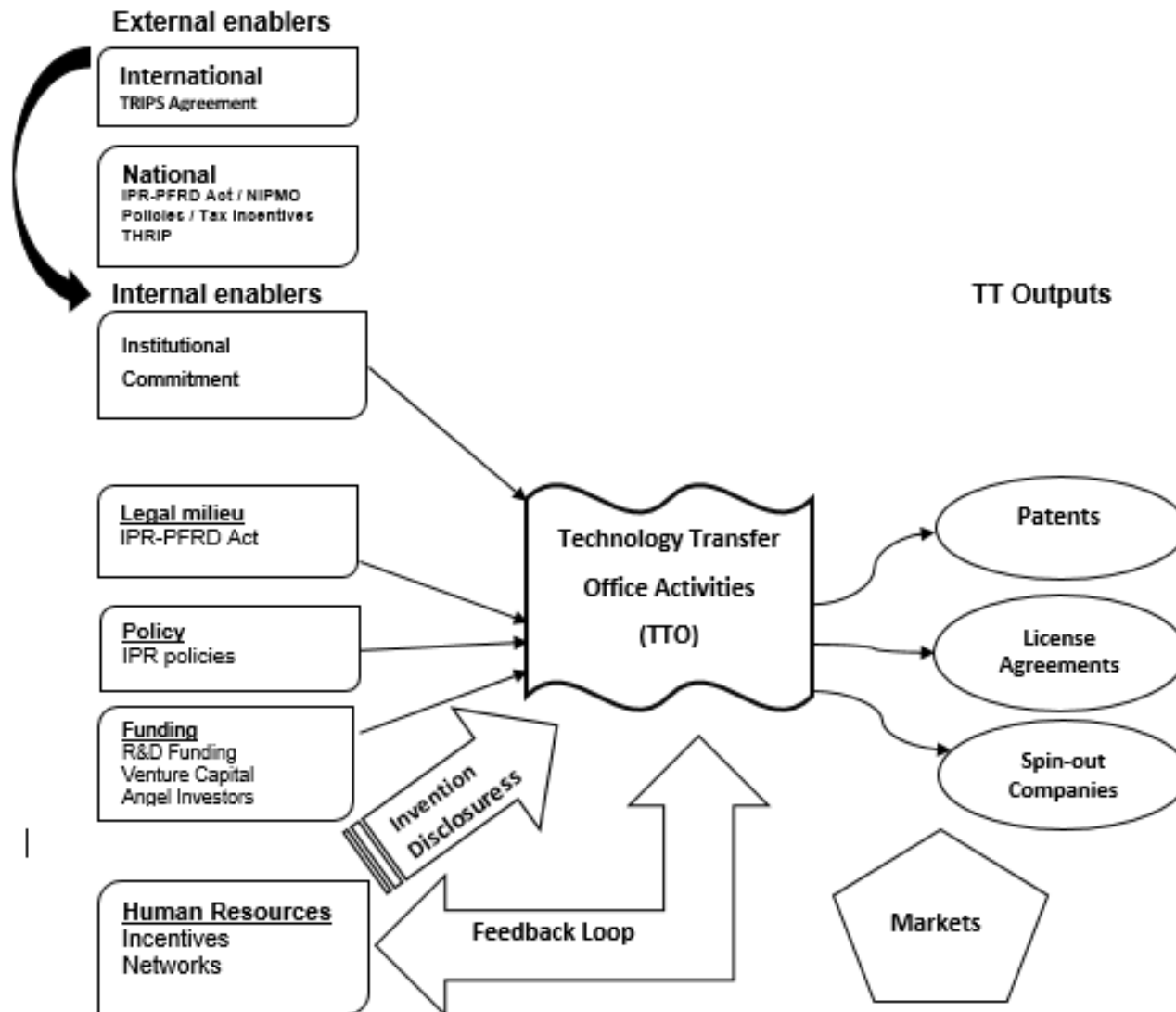
Methodology (Continued)

- The results of the TT activities from 2008 to 2015 for the four universities were obtained as secondary quantitative data and then used in a descriptive analysis of each university.
- Primary data was collected from the universities by developing a qualitative survey questionnaire.
- The unit of analysis is the TTO at each of the four SA universities in the Western Cape.

Research Instruments

- The quantitative data obtained informed the interview schedule questions and both sets were used as the main research instruments of this study. Quantitative data, covering the seven years from 2008 to 2014, were obtained from CeSTII with the permission of the four participating universities, while data from the year 2015 were obtained from the four universities directly. All the data were compared to HEMIS reports and HSRC reports.
- A number of open-ended qualitative questions were posed to top management and researchers at each of the four universities. The interview schedules were compiled after the quantitative data were obtained and analysed.

Conceptual Analysis



Findings

- Research Intensive Universities
- National policy documents
- Age of the TTO – longer pipeline of inventions
- Institutional commitment towards TT activities
- New IPR-PFRD Act
- IPR policies standardised
- NIPMO funding / TIA / LaunchLab VC exposure
- Network of TT professionals – SARIMA, etc.
- Social dynamics and ability to connect with all stakeholders is crucial element of successful TT efforts

Thank you