

Creating the future



PORTC IVERSIDADE

U.Porto Innovation mission is the translation of knowledge developed at the University of Porto into innovative products and services that may benefit society. This brochure sums up U.Porto Innovation past year, describing our main achievements and our involvement in the development of programmes for U.Porto community. As highlights, we implemented "The Circle", an association of companies that have emerged from the entrepreneurial and innovative ecosystem of the University of Porto. It's a unique initiative that creates a space for the free exchange of ideas between the key people involved, helping them assess and tackle challenges and opportunities together. Many of those companies proudly bear the "U.Porto Spinoff" brand - that we have carefully developed over years marking these entrepreneurs as carriers of the University's DNA into the wider market and business environment. The Innovation Gala returned and, once again, we saw our compromise to play an active role in this event rewarded, as the University celebrated innovation and creativity. This year, the Gala paid tribute to three alumni whose work brought considerable innovation in the Artistic, Social and Technological fields. It was a pleasure and an honour to have played a role in the organisation of such an event and we aim to actively contribute to keep innovation as one of the core pillars of the University of Porto.

> Maria Oliveira, Head of Office U.Porto Innovation

"With a highly qualified and motivated team, U.Porto Innovation is a cornerstone within our innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem." (Pro-rector Carlos Brito)

The University of Porto is responsible for more than 20% of the Portuguese scientific production. In this context, we do consider the valorisation of knowledge not only an opportunity but also an obligation.

In order to respond to this challenge, the university is strongly committed to the co-creation of value along with the industry. In doing so, we aim at fostering the competitiveness of Portuguese companies, increasing tech-based exports and, last but not least, contributing to the creation of high qualified jobs.

U.Porto Innovation assumes a central role in this strategy since it promotes the commercialisation of intellectual property, the emergence of knowledge-based spin-offs and the provision of added value services to the most important companies both in Portugal and abroad. With a highly qualified and motivated team, U.Porto Innovation is a cornerstone within our innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem.

> **Carlos Brito,** Pro-rector of the University of Porto for innovation and entrepreneurship

U.PORTO SPIN-OFF CIRCLE



U.Porto Spin-Off Circle is a club formed by companies that have emerged from the entrepreneurial and innovative ecosystem of the University of Porto. Many participating companies bear the "U.Porto Spin-Off" brand, which recognises them as having emerged from U.Porto's Research & Development and Innovation environment. In other words, "The Circle" is a unique initiative that brings start-ups together in forums to debate the main challenges facing companies within some of the most dynamic value chains in the world. U.Porto develops its innovation ecosystem in conjunction with these companies, streamlining the exchange of experiences and the improvement of their processes and business. By the end of 2016, "The Circle" already had 16 member companies.

[Spotlight]



INNOVATION AWARDS



Diogo Cruz: Social innovation

He is the CEO and founder of U.DREAM, the first U.Porto non-profit junior company, which promotes solidarity actions. U.DREAM helps children with health problems to fulfil their dreams by mobilising different supporters, such as institutions, young graduates, families and companies.



João Barros: Technological innovation

His professional career is recognised worldwide. He is the CEO and founder of Veniam, one of the 50 most innovative companies in the world, whose technology turns vehicles into wi-fi hotspots.



Manuel Lopes: Artistic innovation

He is the CEO and founder of Casas em Movimento (Moving Houses), a solution that uses combined movements of rotation to harness solar energy. This technology, patented in more than 70 countries, provides energy solutions for physical spaces.



From left to right: Fátima Ramalho, Carlos Brito, André Fernandes, Mónica Rodrigues, Maria Oliveira, Aude Gabrielsen, Sara Fidalqo, Filipe Castro, Joana Carrilho

What can I get from U.Porto Innovation?

U.Porto Innovation was created in 2004 with the objective of supporting the University's innovation value chain by fostering the transfer of knowledge and reinforcing the bond between the University and businesses.

> With over 10 years of experience, U.Porto Innovation focuses its activities on research at the University, entrepreneurship within the academic community and U.Porto's growing connections with industry.









[Researchers and company employees]



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