

STS CONFERENCE, GRAZ, 11-12 MAY 2015

“CRITICAL ISSUES IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY STUDIES”

FLOW BETWEEN THE PRODUCTION AND TRANSMISSION OF KNOWLEDGE: CHARACTERISTICS OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS

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SESSION 6. Science and economy: sociotechnical networks and the use of knowledge

The changes in how scientific knowledge is produced as well as transformations in labour markets are forces that have led to a renewed debate on the relationship between research and postgraduate education. The graduate level of education is now integrated in the research system with the availability of “critical mass” of students as a condition to sustain research capacity and thus the reputation of universities. It also contributes to strengthen the collaboration with the industry. In Portugal, universities have significantly expanded their post-graduate programs. The International Partnerships Program with three top universities in the USA (MIT, CMU and UTA), implemented in 2006, stimulated this effort of reconfiguration. This communication explores strategies and activities that reinforce the links between graduate education and scientific development within this Program as key components of the interconnection between knowledge and innovation. To this end, we explore data collected in a survey of students in the education programs created (n = 182). We also present some results of interviews conducted with PIs on projects under this Program (n = 48). In the education program, we highlight tasks, skills and networks developed by students in the context of the research agenda. In terms of research, we analyze the role of students in the production and transfer of knowledge. The Program have designed a more prominent role for students in

the research system and opened major scientific and international options for students. The questions are will the Program maintain its impetus and have a structuring effect on the Portuguese higher education system as a whole?

Keywords: postgraduate education, research projects, graduate students