



THE OPEN LABS IN THE STRATEGIC EVOLUTION OF FRENCH UNIVERSITIES

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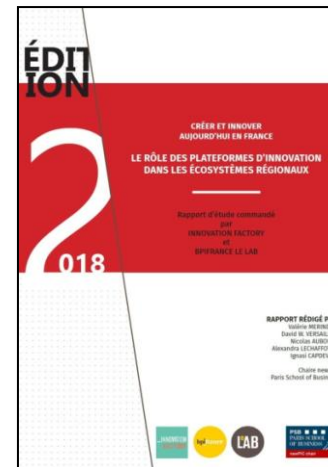
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- <http://www.newPIC.fr>



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A definition of open labs

Open labs are platforms introduced to

- **Contribute to open innovation and generate more agility**
- **Host interactions between end-users and all stakeholders to the innovation process, incl. Startups, industry, universities, etc.**

Open labs characterize with:

- **A physical space,**
- **A community,**
- **Various services (incl. Fast prototyping, incubation, acceleration, coworking, etc)**

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The Triple Helix model

- The TH requires interactions between universities, industries and governments
- Universities = basic research
- Industry = transformation of knowledge into products
- Governments = Fundings, infrastructures, regulations
- **The principle of the Triple Helix is that each contributor partly “takes the mission of the others”**

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The originality of France innovation system

- The French academic system introduces transformations to push the universities to contribute to the Triple Helix
 - Universities play a minor role in the development of open labs
 - The open lab movement has a much greater momentum in France than in other Western European countries
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TTOs in the French academic system

- **The French government has installed 14 Technology transfer offices (TTO, SATT in French), for the valorization of (academic) basic research**
 - **TTOs do not deal with the earliest stages of startup incubation; they only focus on technology transfer and endorse the associated risk (incl. financially)**
 - **TTOs contract with the industry for technology transfer, and for related intellectual property rights (contracts, licensing, royalties, patents, etc.)**
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Several roles for universities in the open labs movement

3 major roles:

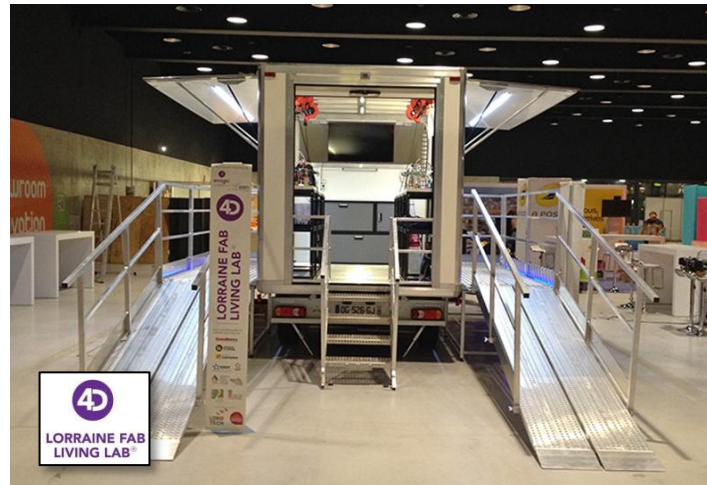
- **Universities create the open lab**
 - Improvement of R&D capabilities
 - Evolution of pedagogic methods
 - Open up to the “civil society” and support actual people in their projects
- **Universities are strategic partners** for the open lab
- **Universities are clients** of the open lab, and contract for its services

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Case study: *Improve R&D capabilities*

Lorraine Fab Living Lab (Nancy Univ.)

- Initially installed by faculties needing interactions with actual users in their research; then inserted into the univ's strategy to collaborate with all stakeholders present in the ecosystem
- Focus on adoption of innovation and on understanding actual users
- Topics covered: energy transition, mobility, smart cities, urbanism...
- Actual experiments "on the field" (with students sometimes)

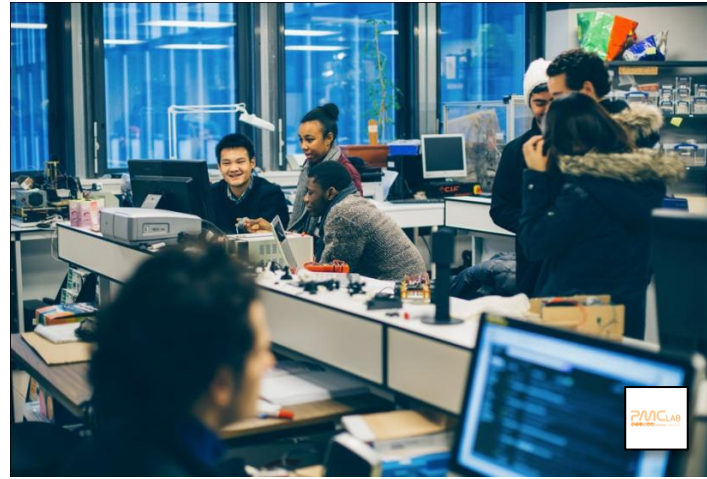


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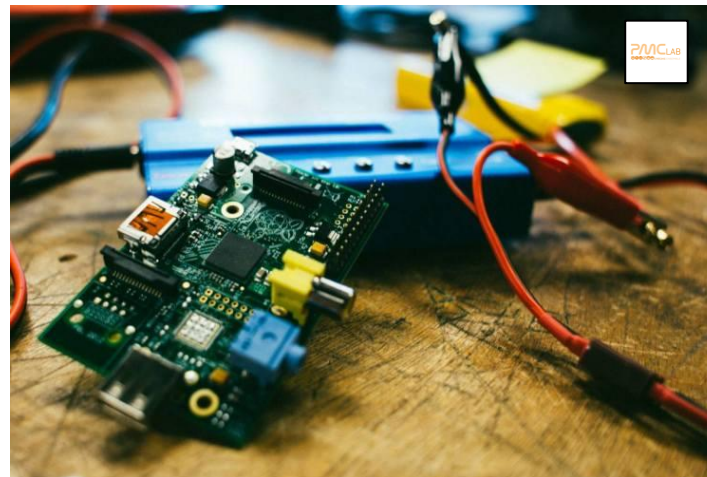
Case study: *Improve tertiary education pedagogy*

PMC Lab at Univ. Paris 5

- Collaborative space emerged from initiatives in pedagogic innovation
- PMC Lab hosts the students' scientific (personal and pedagogic projects); projects make it possible to appropriate methods, theories
- PMC Lab is facilitated by students and faculties together – **explicit issues exist for its strategy, with discrepant perspectives promoted by students versus faculties**
- PMC Lab budgets and facilities are carried by the university



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Case study: *Improve social / societal impact*

FacLab (U. Cergy, Paris suburb)

- Works on digital and handicraft projects
- The lab is open to students and faculties, but it targets “normal” citizens, and professionals
- 15 to 30 daily users (average), and 2,000+ different users in total since the inauguration, with a core group of 200 regular users
- FacLab also hosts initial and executive education programs (incl. actual diplomas [“DU”])
- Its governance and funding are autonomous from the university



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Case study: *The university as “one of the partners”*

La Paillasse (Paris)

- “Bio-Hackerspace” with open residence and incubation
- Center of gravity associated with bio tech research, and interactions with the industry (Roche)
- No reference to acad. discipline, status and academic ranks
- Hosts teams of master students for specific internships paid by the university to develop projects
- Partnership with engineers schools and universities to sensitize PhD students about entrepreneurship

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Case study: *The university as a client of the open lab*

MakeSense (Paris)

- Students occasionally contribute to projects for startups, or for members of the community
- Business schools buy facilitation services from MakeSense to run hackatons

NUMA (Paris)

- Universities and business schools rent NUMA facilities to host some of their inter-disciplinary pedagogic projects (design, engineers, manag)
- Students are sometimes present as “actual users” of digitalization



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The impact of academic open labs on the Triple Helix

- Open labs promote actual projects and the philosophy of the “makers” movement
 - Open labs promote multi- or trans-disciplinary projects and break silos, *but this generates governance issues*
 - **Open labs are new intermediaries with the actual world (industry, startups)**
 - Open labs improve the students’ employability, and allow for the detection of talents by the industry
 - Open labs are a new way to connect the academic world with a territory
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Key success factors for open labs run by universities

- Embrace the main mission (R&D, pedagogic innovation, societal impact)
- **Translate the main mission into openness rules, into the open lab manager's profile, and into governance modes that are not directly consistent with traditional rules of the university**
- Motivate the students to contribute to actual projects (“makers” philosophy)
- Valorize the contributions to the open lab as part of the faculty's carriers

Interactions between Open labs and TTOs

3 options:

- **Open labs and TTOs ignore each other**
- **TTOs support open labs for specific services** (notably to support the development of innovation in the industry, and the growth of startups)
- **Open labs and TTOs deliver joint services,** and coordinate to point out whether the development of R&D projects requires more user-centric or more technology-centric activities (**point specific for CEA TECH that works with Ideas Laboratory**)

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Contact details



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