

Dialogues:

Science, Technology and Society

Joint Meetings CIES-IUL | IN+/IST

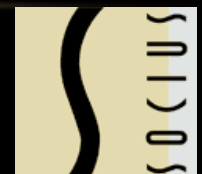
EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS: NETWORKS AND COLLABORATIONS

Ana Delicado

ICS-UL

THE RESEARCH PROJECT

- SOCSCI Scientific Societies in Contemporary Science (www.socsci.ics.ul.pt)
- Funding: FCT (PTDC/CS-ECS/101592/2008)
- Duration: 2 years (2010-2012)
- Team: Raquel Rego (SOCIOUS), Cristina P. Conceição and Inês Pereira (CIES-IUL), Cristiana Bastos, Luis Junqueira and Patrick Figueiredo (ICS-UL)
- Aim: to draw a panorama of scientific societies in Portugal and to study the associative behavior and representations of Portuguese scientists



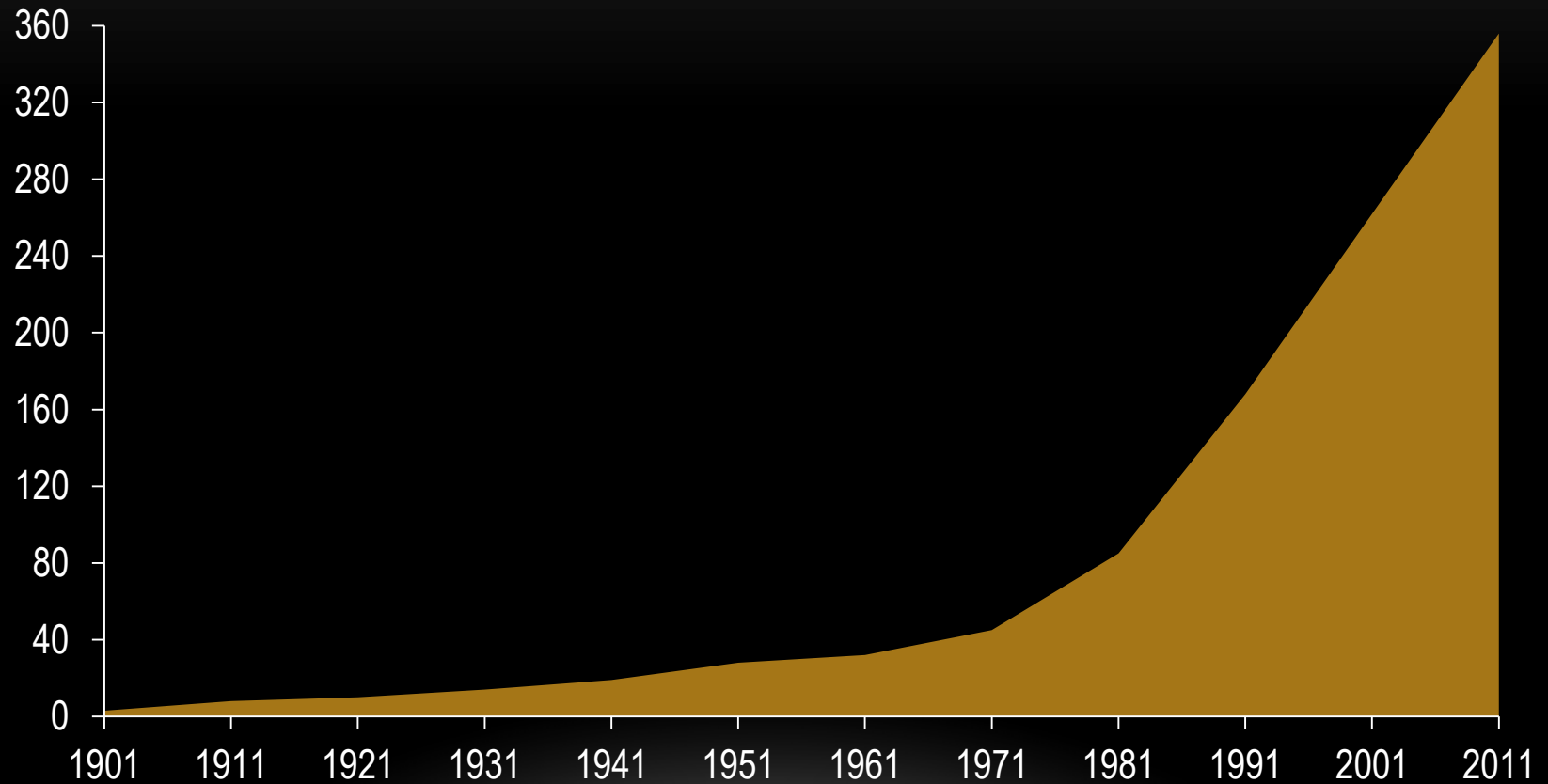
SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS

- One of the types of organisations involved in the Mode 2 of production of science, but the least studied
 - Most of the existing studies only cover the historical role of academies in early modern science, the part played by international associations in the internationalisation of science, or case studies of single associations
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METHODOLOGY

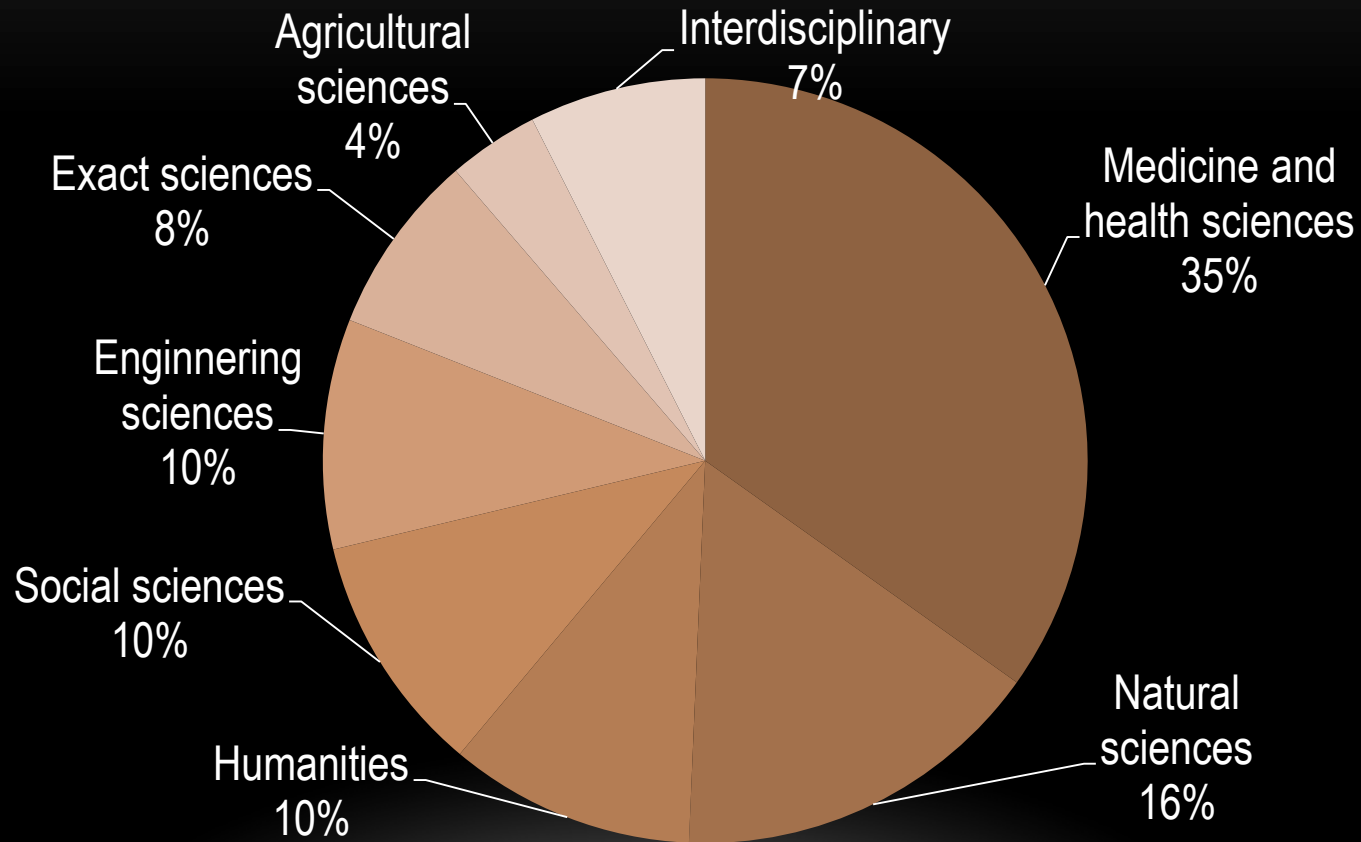
- Census of Portuguese scientific societies (N=443)
 - Survey of scientific societies (N=107)
 - Cases studies (N=24)
 - Document analysis
 - Interviews with presidents
 - Survey of members
 - Ethnographic observation at events
 - Survey of scientists on associative behaviour (N=862)
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GROWTH OF SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS



Source: Census of scientific societies

SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS BY DISCIPLINE



Source: Census of scientific societies

SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS BY TYPE

Science dissemination associations; 81



Professional associations of scientists; 18



Disciplinary scientific societies; 263

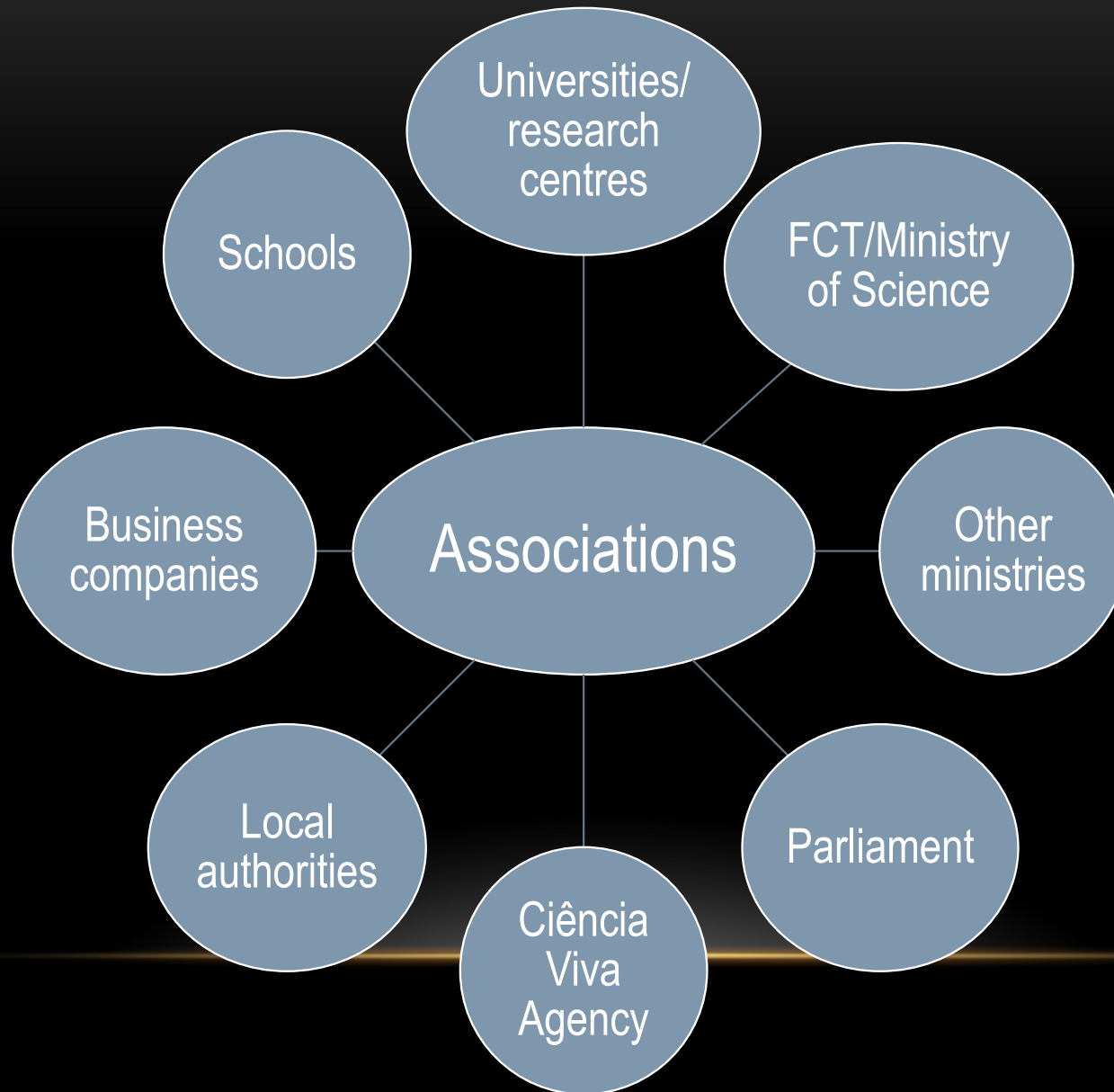


Sociedade de Ciências Agrárias de Portugal

ROLES OF SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATIONS

- Communication among peers
 - Science promotion
 - Professional support and representation
 - Science dissemination
 - Policy advice
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EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF ASSOCIATIONS



UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH CENTRES

- Host institutions: 1/3 of associations have their head office in a university, State laboratory or other research institution; local chapters often also connected with universities
- Employers: majority of members of the governing bodies of the associations are researchers or teachers
- Partners in joint initiatives: conferences, science dissemination
 - *“At the moment I’m being President of the Biochemistry Society, I’m not acting as teacher of the Faculty of Medicine, but the Dean doesn’t care about that, he doesn’t stop my pay check, he doesn’t force me to work overtime. What I’m saying is that universities also incorporate in their spirit the scientific societies”*

[SPB]

FCT/MINISTRY OF SCIENCE

- Funding: Scientific Community Support Program (FACC), support for conferences and journals
- Professional representation: Grant Holders Association (ABIC) and other professional associations have regular meetings, try to influence policies and regulations
- Policy advice: few institutionalised opportunities
 - “[Our debates] issue so called recommendations [...] We sent that paper to the Ministry of Health, to FCT, I presume they didn’t put it in the waste basket [...] it’s in a drawer somewhere [...] It’s true we are not used to a strong intervention by civil society” [SCML]

OTHER MINISTRIES (HEALTH, EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE)

- Professional representation: careers, certification, teaching license
- Policy advice: seat at advisory councils, informal hearings and meetings
 - *“We went to a meeting with the Minister for Health (...) because in health careers there has been some restructuring (...) we wanted to propose a system of specialisation or certification of the professionals in biochemistry, biology and other professions, through an exam, in cooperation with the College of Biologists” [ANBIOQ]*

PARLIAMENT

- Professional representation: hearings and meetings by parliamentary committees and party groups
- Policy advice: sectorial policies (agriculture, health, seismic risk)
- Lobbying for science: project “Science and Parliament”, integrated in Researchers in Europe, Associação Viver a Ciência
 - *“We did an initiative with politicians, we even brought them to research institutions [...] but very few showed up, politicians have no interest in this. But we need to do more and more. In this sense, I think the Association failed a bit”*
[AVAC]

CIÊNCIA VIVA AGENCY

- Science dissemination activities: collaboration in Science in Summer, Science and Technology Week and other programmes (funding, regulating and publicising)
 - *“We were invited by Ciência Viva to run Astronomy in Summer, but with a very specific request, that the events would take place inland, in places with less such initiatives. That’s how we began to create the Astronomers Portal and do science dissemination inland [...] We ended up creating Nuclio, a non-profit association” [Nuclio]*

SCHOOLS

- Science dissemination activities: lectures, vocational guidance, teacher training and support, publications
 - *“We have been organising, since over ten years ago, the Chemistry Olympiad. We have two, one for older students (10th, 11th and 12th grade) and another for younger ones (7th, 8th and 9th). This involves a growing number of students and schools. Each year 250 schools and 3,000 students. Here we have an important support from the Ministry of Education because this, of course, has costs. Then the best go to the international Olympiad” [SPQ]*

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- Science dissemination activities: lectures, exhibitions,
 - Employers: science and engineering professionals that are members of associations
 - Professional training/lifelong learning
 - *“We are investing in technical courses and we have done two editions already of the first course, on ecological dune restoration, which had a lot of demand, especially from technical staff from local councils. No we are thinking of doing another on urban habitat management” [SPEC0]*
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BUSINESS COMPANIES

- Funding: collective members, sponsors (conferences, publications, awards)
- Employers: science and engineering professionals that are members of associations
- Professional training/lifelong learning
- Collaboration in events and initiatives
 - *“We have had some collaborations with companies. For instance, with the multimedia company XXX, from Coimbra, we provided them with scientific advice for a project they were doing about diabetes and in exchange they did a video for the promotion of biochemistry, which is in our YouTube channel“ [SPB]*

FINAL REMARKS

- Scientific associations also have connections with other organisations (e.g. Gulbenkian Foundation, FLAD, environmental NGOs)
 - Scientific associations also have international links, many are affiliated to European or World associations in their areas and are strongly influenced by them
 - **Are scientific associations in a privileged position to build bridges between science and society?**
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