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An Innovation Lab Experience in a Federal

Agency (https://sucupira.capes.gov.br/)

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Keywords: Innovation Labs, Graduate Program Evaluation, Federal Agency, Network.

TL;DR: Innovation Labs for Science Data in a Federal Agency bridging knowledge management in support of Graduate Program Evaluation.

Abstract: Since 1976, the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES) has been strengthening the national evaluation process of graduate programs embracing transparency and efficiency with the adoption of IT systems. In 2013, the Agency launched the Sucupira that was designed to be a digital platform unifying different legacy systems and currently is responsible for collecting and maintaining the National data from graduate programs from various fields of study.

New innovation goals were set up to target data quality procedures, gathering, and enabling the use of scientific data sources, and administering lean practices to address operational flaws. This was needed to introduce innovation practices within the Agency and accomplish the necessary interventions to improve various activities, processes, and practices. To address these needs for developing cycles for innovation, and to build roadmaps for their adoption, CAPES opted a strategy of extramural research Labs in partnership with the National Network For Higher Education, Research and Innovation (RNP) that provided oversight and management for the development, and coordination of these Labs. These projects in collaboration with universities, startups, and researchers are also considered a multidisciplinary approach for building on the agency's staff diverse experience, providing public services through co-creation with end-users. Currently, 13 projects address various issues regarding the adoption of web semantics, ontologies, data visualization, repositories, interoperability tools, and application architecture. The most recent is pursuing the goal of building a Network for Standardization and Semantic Interoperability within HEI to share their graduate programs' data with members of the graduate education ecosystem, being the VIVO a reference for this. In this case, the alliance establishes a sustainable environment to mediate and integrate information flow through the provision of infrastructure, maintenance, and community involvement.

In summary, to accomplish that it is necessary to search for innovative solutions and to implement network governance providing public services co-created with stakeholders, to improve the evaluation process, and to obtain more reliable data with less operational work.

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Using VIVO and semantic technologies to strengthen the evaluation of graduate programs across Brazil is certainly an ambitious project. A talk on this effort with its 13 sub-projects should be very interesting. There quite a few questions that could be asked -- why semantics? What elements of the programs will be captured by the system? Who is participating in the governance?

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