Lisbon's engines of growth

Between 1980 and 2001, Lisbon lost a third of its residents, suffered ruptures of social and territorial cohesion and experienced severe economic and urban transformations. The situation was critical. Yet, thanks to the proactivity and pioneer work of the city leaders, Lisbon did not turn into a sleeping city as one could expect. On the contrary, with the development and implementation of an ambitious strategy aimed at positioning the city as one of the most competitive, innovative and creative cities in Europe, Lisbon is today an energetic city where new business ideas and ventures are blossoming every hour.

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In the years 2000s, Lisbon's economy switched from being based essentially on services to become more digital, open and diversified. Lisbon's turning point in its digitalisation process occurred in 2011, with the Creation of a Directorate General for Economy and Innovation at Lisbon City Council. The Lisbon digital strategy was created, which encompasses four main "Engines for Growth":

• Lisbon Start-up city: Lisbon has already created a friendly and a dynamic ecosystem (e.g. Start-up Lisboa; Fablab; Lisbon incubators);

• Atlantic Business Hub: strategic initiatives to attract investments;
• Integrated Knowledge and innovation environment:;
• Lisbon strategic Clusters: identification of the mail clusters at the global level (e.g. financial institutions, tourisms, commerce).

Key initiatives

Open up city database

The Municipality of Lisbon is taking into consideration the possibilities deriving from the use of public database to realise a series of Open data initiatives. The main one is **Open data Lx** - in partnership with the Agency for Administrative Modernisation (AMA). The aim of the project is to open the closed databases collections of the city of Lisbon to all citizens.
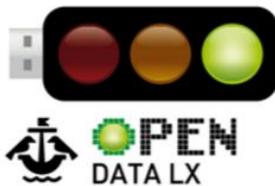
The structural objectives of the project "Open Data" include increased transparency, increased citizens' participation and promotion of innovation and creative economies. For instance, by enabling the use and re-use of open data, it was possible for local entrepreneurs to create products and services with high potential. One of the initiatives deriving from the use of open data is **Lisboa Horizontal**, an application to guide citizens through the city bike paths, with tourist information, cultural, public space and events that won the Big smart cities 2015 price.

Universities as the main providers of digital talents

Lisbon's technical universities are at the origin of several initiatives and projects supporting the digital transformation of local businesses and act as forerunners in the pursuit of the digital transformation of local businesses. Examples include **UNIDEMI**, a research centre hosted by the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, which focuses on embedding Leading-edge Scientific Knowledge into Business Fabric, while **UNINOVA** has its own Office of Entrepreneurship (NOVA entrepreneurship Office) aimed at the creation and development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem within the University.

Events and fundraising

Pursuing the goal of making Lisbon more attractive to national and international investors and entrepreneurs, as well as making the city open to the exploitation of new motivation experiences, concepts and innovation, Lisbon municipality has been supporting different types of events and fundraising initiatives in the field of entrepreneurship and innovation.

The organization of events is the perfect context to boost and prompt the development of the start-up culture, and promote the internationalization and competitiveness of the economy of the city of Lisbon, both at the regional and global scale.

Events mentored by start-up incubators and accelerators (e.g. Beta-I and Start-up Lisboa loan, LINNK-Lisbon innovation Kluster etc.) allow a process of strategic conversation and planning between multinational companies and the city of Lisbon and provide remarkable network and fundraising events tailored to specific guests needs. In this regard, **Beta-I** is considered one of the largest start-ups gatherings in Portugal together with **Lisbon Investment summit**, a main seed and early stage event in Portugal.

Other important initiatives taking place in Lisbon are **Lisbon Business Connections** (part of the strategic and systematic programme of Lisboa Municipal Council), **InvestLisboa** (Lisbon's Investment Promotion Agency) and the **Web Summit**. With regard to the former, there have been seven Lisbon Business Connections sessions held so far, involving more than 100 multinational companies while InvestLisboa, by constituting a link between public policy stakeholders, investors and citizenship, has been very effective in supporting over 1,300 investors and companies in Lisbon.

Lisbon hackatons

The municipality of Lisbon envisages to organize a series of hackathons, defined as events in which interested people gather to improve or build new digital solutions. Hackathons are great opportunities for citizens to participate in the development and management of new ideas. Two hackathon initiatives have already taken place in the city of Lisbon: IT Hackathon 2015 (an open event for the general public with high visibility and great coverage from the press in Lisbon Congress Centre) and Lisbon Challenge hackathons.