

Engineering and Architecture. It has about 29,000 students as of 2012, and about 850 professors.

CNR, National Research Council of Italy, a public body, is the widest Italian research organization. It is organized in institutes, and some of them are located in the Province of Torino. Three institutes have their main seat in the Province as of end 2014: CERIS, Institute for Economic Research on Firms and Growth; IPSP, Institute for Sustainable Productions of Vegetables; IEIIT, Electronics and Telecommunications and Information Engineering Institute. Also other institutes have secondary seats in the Province.

All the three research institutions did take part into the studied project.

4. THE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER PROJECT

The knowledge transfer project studied in the present work is called “PRO.TE.INN.”, PROVincia TEcnologia INNovazione (Technology Innovation in the Province). It took place in the Province of Torino in 2006. Its main promoter has been the Council of the Province of Torino². As said above it has been an initiative based on the transfer of “embodied knowledge”. That is, it involved

² PRO.TE.INN. has been promoted by the Province di Torino (main actor and main financing body), the Regione Piemonte, the Town of Turin and the Camera di Commercio, Industria, Artigianato e Agricoltura di Torino, with the organizing and coordination support of COREP. It was supported by several institutions: the Unione Industriale di Torino (Industrial League), API, association of SMEs of Torino, the three leagues of artisans Confartigianato, CASArtigiani and CNA, as well as by the University of Torino and the Politecnico di Torino. Compagnia di San Paolo also participated in the project giving financial support, financing five added grants for five added students.

persons as media of technology transfer between a research institution and a innovating firm. Its aim was to ensure an active and efficient link between the two entities, acting as a connection in order to realize the transfer of knowledge. Moreover in this case the link was supposed to be an active link, able not only to transfer but also to generate knowledge in the transfer.

The target of the project was to contribute to innovation in SMEs through qualified human resources. In this way it enriched the competencies of young people, improving their skills and knowledge. Moreover it strategically met the needs of SMEs, the most relevant fraction of the industrial framework of the Province, helping to create channels with research labs.

One of the points of strength of PRO.TE.INN. has been a reduced management. The project was targeted only at SMEs having at least one seat (main or operational) in the Province of Torino. Firms did respond to a competition announcement, presenting a project for an innovative activity. This had to be compulsively performed with the collaboration of a young person (maximum 35 years old) holding at least a second-level (5-years) University degree. A steering committee, composed by representatives of all the promoters, selected a commission of experts and decided evaluation criteria for the projects. The commission in turn selected the projects according to the evaluation criteria. In every project the Department (either from University or Politecnico) or CNR the Institute that the firm was planning to involve in the project was named. Once selected the projects, every involved Department/Institute set out a call for the grant(s).