

Drivers of collaboration capabilities for innovation performance: The case of Spanish technology-based startups

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Research Context

Innovation emerges from a continuous interaction between different actors who are sharing and exchange knowledge (Breschi and Lissoni, 2001). Collaboration Capabilities are an essential condition of knowledge creation in innovation systems (Blomqvist and Levy, 2006). Technology-based startups (TBS) translate technical and scientific knowledge into sophisticated technologies, products, and services. Such developments take place through social interaction with diverse actors with complementary assets (Ceccagnoli and Hicks, 2013).

The problem: The TBS' struggles focus on internal and external factors affecting their innovation processes. Nevertheless, TBS resources strength is rooted in their abilities to build internal capabilities and settle suitable partnerships in the long run.

Research Question

What internal and external relational factors are the drivers of collaborative capabilities for technology-based startups' (TBS) innovation performance?

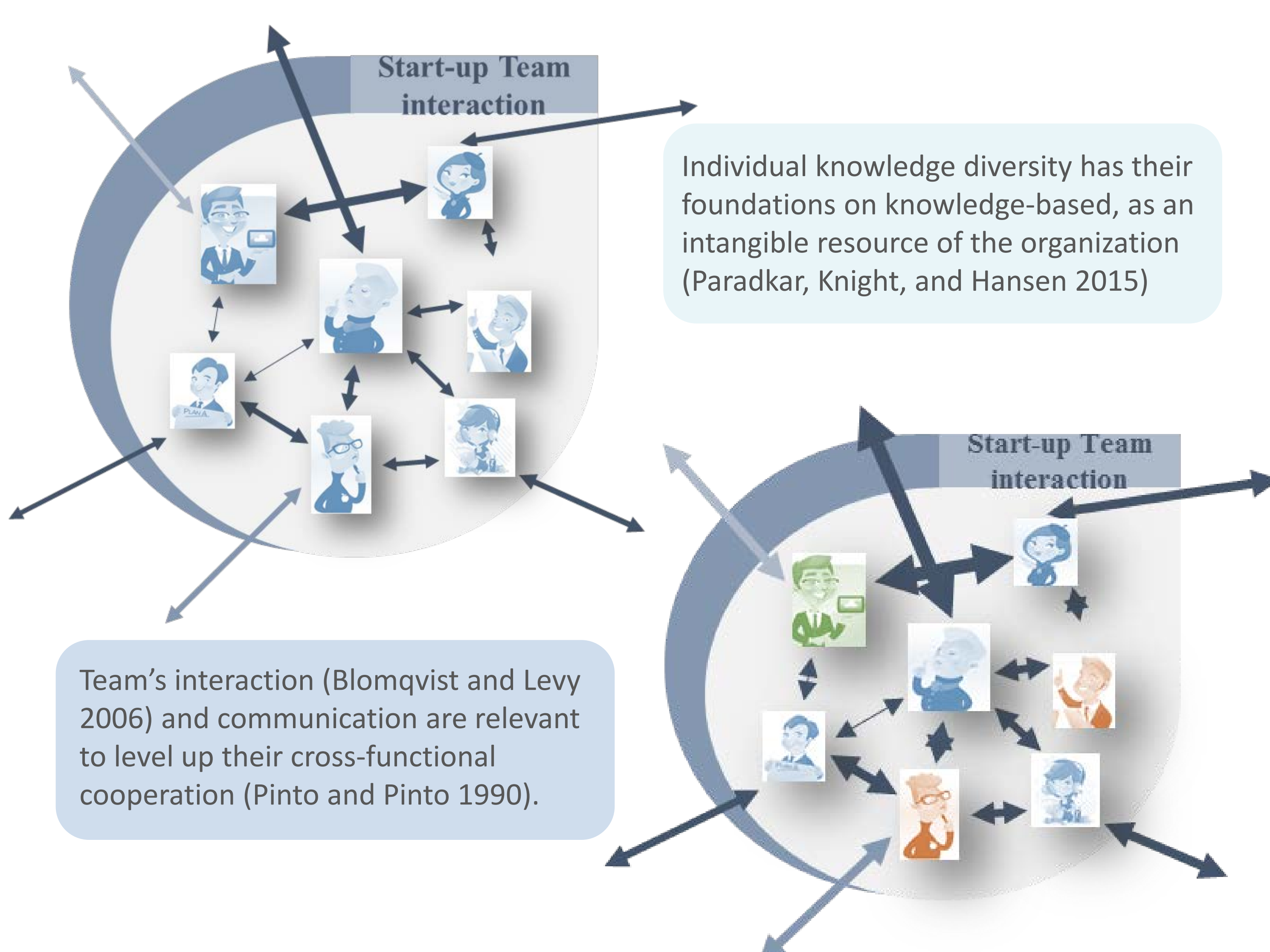
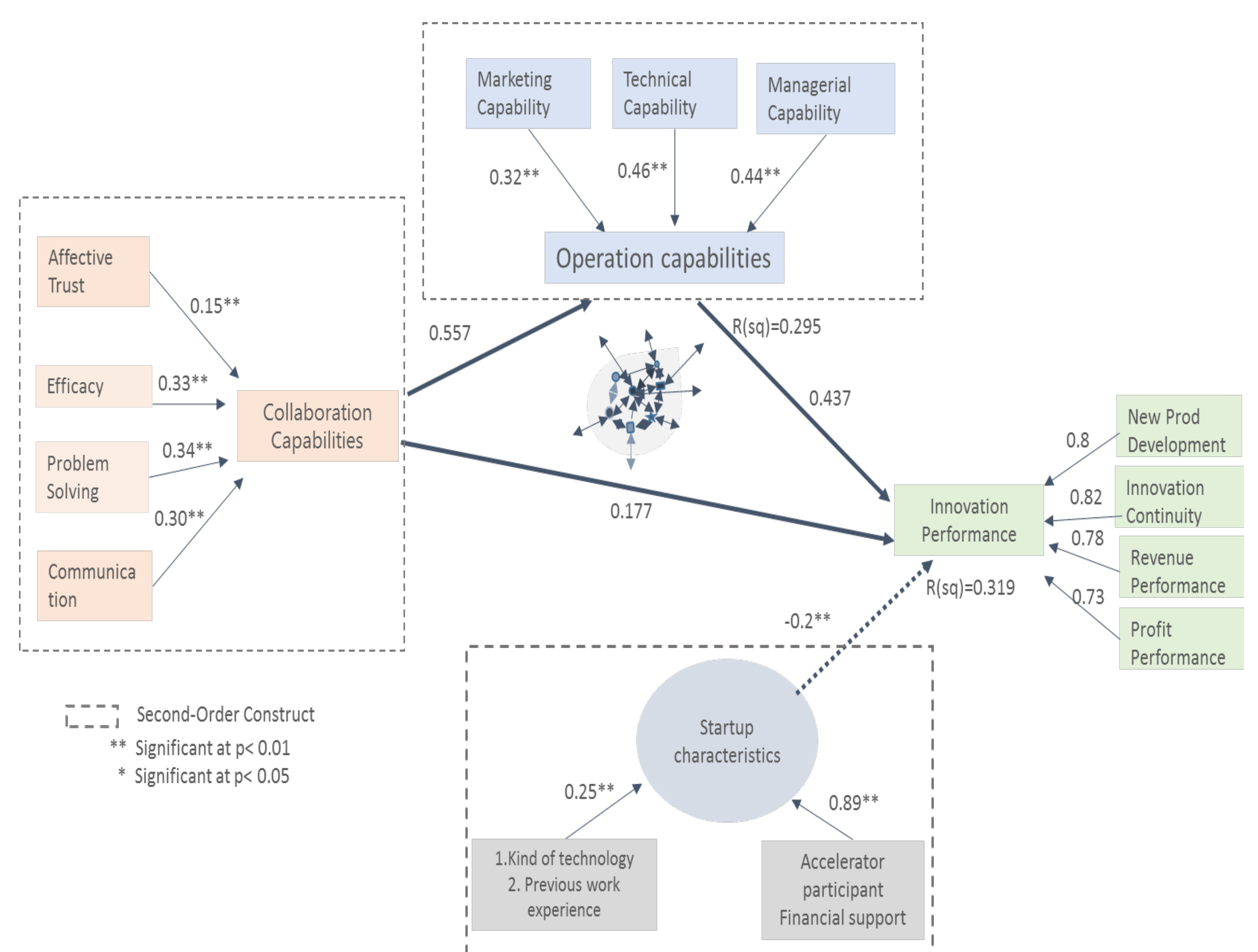
Under the Dynamic Capabilities (DCs) approach, the purpose of this study is to deepen our understanding of Collaboration Capability, and show how they are relate to operational capabilities and influence the innovation performance in TBS sector.

Research Methods

Empirical data was drawn from a survey carried out. This study basis sample 45 TBS, specialized in hardware and software technology and applications and focused on smart cities, transport, sustainability, environment, renewable energy, and clean-tech, in the Spanish context.

At the core of TBS' founder team, we explore its interaction and relations, such as trust, efficacy, communication and problem-solving. Using a general statistical modeling technique analysis: Structural Equation Modeling (SEM).

- TBS founders and CEOs answer to an electronic survey and complemented by telephonic interviews.



Emerging Findings

Results suggest that operational capabilities act as a full mediator in the relationship between collaboration capability and innovation performance. The TBS technology characteristics or previous experience in accelerator programs do not influence in their innovation performance.

The strengthening of operational capabilities and the development of collaboration capabilities are relevant for innovation performance. To conclude, there are some suggestions for TBS founders, collaborator members and future lines of research underlined.

