## **Relational Value:**

# A New Perspective on Innovation Units

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**CERN Idea Squares** February 24, 2023



## What do Innovation Units really do...



## **Pressures for innovation in International Organizations**



But their impact and true value propositions are difficult to measure in the non-profit context where for-profit metrics such as revenue and patents are less important.



#### What is Relational Value?

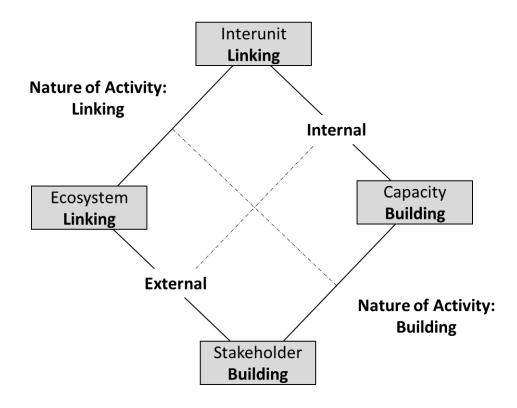


"The set of relationships and the knowledge embedded in them that help the organization achieve its objectives"

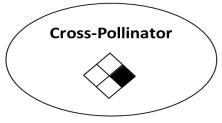
For example: changing internal culture and mindsets, connecting siloed units, sharing knowledge with external stakeholders, sourcing ideas in the ecosystem....



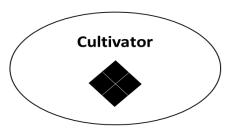
## Activities lead to four distinct relational value processes



## We see two types of innovation units...



One dominant relational value creation process



All relational value creation processes over time

#### An alternative relational perspective...

Units can emphasize the development of intangibles through relationships (internal and external) with the goal of creating relational value that is not owned by any one party

Implicates the resources the unit receives, perceived impact of the unit, and organizational support



#### What does this mean?



#### **Different success metrics**

An understanding that innovation is not just about developing products and patents, but can be about creating culture change and building ecosystems

A new way to look at the way a unit creates value for its organization







Thank you!
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