The University Computer Science research unit: getting organized inside and outside.

Gaétan Hains, LACL
Université de Paris-12 (part of Paris-Est)
Computer Science now a recognized science
Our faculty demographics are stabilizing
C.Sc. (research) unit must penetrate decision instances
C.Sc. (research) unit must organize itself accordingly

YES BUT:

• How much does that cost?

• What is it worth for our colleagues?
30-person Computer Science Unit: 20 years older

- Faculty in 2007
- Faculty in 1987
More full profs, need more technicians, more doctoral students, increased funding?

What strategic choices?

Research

Teaching

Buildings, floor space

External funding
Organize the small unit like a large or private lab.
Balance cost of effort vs gain in resources

What is the cost / gain?
Roughly: its salary cost
Who pays for our research?

- Partner companies
- Research institutions
- The University
- Regional cluster
- Local gov’t
- City
- Funding agency
- Government
- EC
- The University
- Regional gov’t
- City
- Funding agency
- Government
- EC

- Partner companies
- Research institutions
- The University
- Regional cluster
- Local gov’t
- City
- Funding agency
- Government
- EC

- Partner companies
- Research institutions
- The University
- Regional cluster
- Local gov’t
- City
- Funding agency
- Government
- EC

- Partner companies
- Research institutions
- The University
- Regional cluster
- Local gov’t
- City
- Funding agency
- Government
- EC

- Partner companies
- Research institutions
- The University
- Regional cluster
- Local gov’t
- City
- Funding agency
- Government
- EC
A lab “public relations” officer

- Organizes official publications
- Communicates with the local/national media
- Improves visibility with companies and local governments
- Interacts with the University P.R.
- Cost: 1 colleague-day / month << 10K€
1 colleague on University Scientific board / board of directors

• Leverages all local applications for resources:
  • New offices, new buildings
  • New faculty positions
  • Local gov’t support for resources shared by several labs
• Cost: 2 colleague-days / month << 20K€/yr
Computer Scientist becomes University President

• All the advantages of P.R. officer + Sc Council member
• Visibility for C.Sc. In the region + national institutions
• Long-term influence inside the University
• Cost: 1 colleague > 100K€/yr
Value of basic research?

- At least the value of resources it brings in!
  - FP7 + national basic research funding > 60 K€/yr
  - 1-month visiting professor / year > 10K€/yr
  - Partnership with national research institutes >> 20K€/yr
  - Internal Habilitation/Full-Prof promotions >> +30K€/yr
  - May influence new job creations >> +100-200 K€/yr
  - Two new PhD scholarships / yr ~ 160K€/yr
  - Cost if 1/3 colleagues on it: 500K€/yr

A. Church
PC cluster agrees with most funding sources: It’s a visible equipment
PC cluster is scalable: up and down

20K€

---

40K€
PC cluster convertible against internal resources

Servers

Storage units

Switches
PC cluster supports requests for space and manpower
The PC cluster: a lab manager’s best friend
Conclusion: get organized

• Boost public relations
• Step on the Scientific Board
• Computer Scientist for President?
• Boost externally funded research: basic & applied
• Obtain and maintain mid-size equipments + staff
• Increase floor space for the lab
• ... your ideas here ...
And reap benefits for/of our research