

SCIENCE PARK (IASP Official definition)

A Science Park is an organisation managed by specialised professionals, whose main aim is to increase the wealth of its community by promoting the culture of innovation and the competitiveness of its associated businesses and knowledge-based institutions.

To enable these goals to be met, a Science Park stimulates and manages the flow of knowledge and technology amongst universities, R&D institutions, companies and markets; it facilitates the creation and growth of innovation-based companies through incubation and spin-off processes; and provides other value-added services together with high quality space and facilities.

(IASP International Board, 6 February 2002).

The expression "Science Park" may be replaced in this definition by the expressions "Technology Park", "Technopole" or "Research Park".

Author/Source: IASP

The IASP is a worldwide network. Its definition embraces the different models which exist all over the world. An effort has been made to identify the main common denominators of the different existing models, as well as to set the minimum standards and requirements that any project must have in order to be acknowledged as a "Science Park".

The IASP has cross-examined and compared the models and experiences of Science / Technology Parks in the 63 countries throughout which its members are located, to ensure the truly global character of its definition.

The IASP definition of "Science Park" encompasses other terms and expressions such as "Technology Park", "Technopolis", "Technopole", "Technology Precinct", "Research Park" etc. Although there may be certain differences between them, projects under these afore-mentioned labels share many goals, elements and methodology and therefore come under the remit of this definition. The IASP does not preclude the existence of more 'specific' definitions for each of these "labels", but will not recognise any project as a "Science Park", "Technology Park", "Technopole", etc. which does not fit within this 'broader' IASP definition.