

IFKAD
International Forum on Knowledge Asset Dynamics

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IFKAD 2027

22nd International Forum on Knowedge Asset Dynamics

University of Basilicata, Matera, Italy

The Ecology of Knowledge in the AI Era

CALL FOR EXTENDED ABSTRACTS - IFKAD 2027
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Special Track n.: 19

AI-Enabled Entrepreneurial Ecosystems: Knowledge Spillovers, Actor Cognition, and Sustainable Outcomes

Description

The widespread diffusion of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is fundamentally reconfiguring how knowledge is created, recombined, and distributed throughout the startup development process. In line with the overarching theme of the conference, this track focuses on the AI Entrepreneurial Ecosystem (AIEE) through the lens of knowledge ecology. It investigates how algorithmic tools, data-driven systems, and predictive technologies alter the mechanisms of startup creation, development, and scale-up, including interconnected actors, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, universities, incubators, and local policymakers.

Adopting a holistic knowledge ecology perspective is essential to understanding how knowledge assets flow, evolve, or degrade across digitally augmented environments. The integration of AI introduces novel mechanisms, such as automated ideation, data-driven spillovers, and algorithmically mediated matchmaking, that redefine the spatial and relational boundaries of startup communities. Within this framework, knowledge ecology serves as the common thread connecting the entire system: it illuminates how AI-driven spillovers originate and circulate through shifting actor relationships, how adaptive governance structures must regulate these dynamic interactions, and ultimately how these combined forces generate sustainable ecosystem outcomes.

This track invites theoretical, empirical, and policy-oriented contributions addressing key dynamics across multiple levels of analysis in different ecosystem settings (including, not limited to, resource-constrained regions):

- Knowledge Spillover Mechanisms & Dynamics: How AI diffusion alters traditional channels, velocity, and absorptive capacity during venture creation.
- Actor Behavior, Relational Dynamics, & Cultural Lenses: How AI reshapes the cognition, strategic actions, and risk assessment of entrepreneurs, mentors, and investors, considering socio-cultural norms variation within and across the ecosystems.
- Startup Growth & Ecosystem Outcomes: How AI impacts startup survival rates, scale-up capabilities, and the long-term ecosystem outcomes.
- Ecosystem Sustainability, Inclusivity, & Governance: Whether and how AI affect ESG pillars within the EE, intellectual property ownership and inclusivity.

Scholarly and Managerial Relevance From a scholarly perspective, this track bridges knowledge management, entrepreneurial ecosystem, digital entrepreneurship, and regional economics, offering new theoretical frameworks to explain how AI acts simultaneously as an enabler and a disruptor of knowledge ecologies. From a managerial and policy perspective, understanding these dynamics provides actionable insights for incubator directors, venture capitalists, and policymakers seeking to build resilient, inclusive, and effective innovative entrepreneurial ecosystems capable of thriving in an increasingly algorithm-driven landscape.

Indicative Topics

Knowledge Spillover Mechanisms & Dynamics

- How does the diffusion of AI technologies alter the traditional spatial and geographical boundaries of knowledge spillovers in entrepreneurial ecosystems?
- In what ways do generative AI and automated tools modify the absorptive capacity required by early-stage startups to identify and commercialize external knowledge?

- How do data-driven knowledge spillovers differ between open-source AI communities and proprietary, platform-dominated ecosystems?
- How does AI-mediated knowledge sharing affect the codification and transfer of tacit knowledge among co-located startup founders?

Actor Behaviour, Relational Dynamics & Cultural Lenses

- How does reliance on AI decision-support tools alter entrepreneurial opportunity recognition, risk perception, and strategic pivoting?
- What role does AI play in reshaping how incubator and accelerator managers curate mentorship, networking, and resource allocation?
- How do local socio-cultural norms and values influence the adoption, perception, and governance of AI in startup communities?
- Does algorithmically mediated networking strengthen or erode social capital, trust, and informal reciprocity within local ecosystems?

Startup Growth & Ecosystem Outcomes

- How do AI-driven knowledge spillovers impact the speed, quality, and novelty of new product development in innovative ventures?
- What is the empirical relationship between a startup's level of AI integration and its long-term survival rates and scaling trajectories?
- How does AI diffusion affect the competitive landscape and power dynamics between incumbents, AI scale-ups, and early-stage entrants?
- How do AI capabilities reshape startup valuation frameworks, IP management, and exit strategies (M&As vs. IPOs)? Ecosystem Sustainability, Inclusivity, & Governance
- How can regional policymakers design governance frameworks that encourage open AI spillovers while safeguarding intellectual property and data privacy?
- What are the systemic risks of ecosystem over-reliance on centralized, dominant AI platform providers (e.g., Big Tech platform dependencies)?
- How can AI-driven knowledge spillovers be leveraged to enhance environmental and social sustainability outcomes across regional innovation hubs?
- In what ways does AI diffusion impact the equity, diversity, and economic inclusivity of regional entrepreneurial ecosystems?

Being aware of the disruptive potential of AI adoption in EE, we strongly encourage authors to address relevant research questions across different contexts, including, but not limited to, contributions focusing on emerging economies, such as MENA countries. We expect studies that underline the impact of these powerful-enabling tools in resource constraint areas, where financial, educational, infrastructural and institutional resources are scarce.

Keywords

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem; AI-enabled knowledge spillovers; AI-driven relationship; AI Startups; Sustainable Outcome; resource-constrained regions.

Organizers

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Follow this link to see the Special Track details on IFKAD website ››

Guidelines and Requirements

Researchers wishing to contribute are invited to submit an EXTENDED ABSTRACT (in MS Word format) of min 500 and max 1000 words, not later than **22 JANUARY 2027**. All submission must be done via dedicated form on our website. The abstract should address theoretical background, research objective, methodology, and results in terms of expected contribution to Knowledge Management theory and practice.
Authors are required to follow the guidelines and templates available on IFKAD website: www.ifkad.org

Important Dates

22 January 2027 – Extended Abstract Submission Deadline
19 February 2027 – Acceptance Notification to Authors
16 April 2027 – Early-Bird Registration & Payment Deadline
23 April 2027 – Full Paper Submission Deadline
28 May 2027 – Regular and PhD Students Registration & Payment Deadline

12 June 2027 – Conference Program Release
28-30 June 2027 – Conference sessions *(to be considered as 3 full working days)*

Please note that all above indicated dates are **CUT-OFF** deadlines. There will not be an extention to any of these.

Further Information

For any information related to the conference and/or any special track, please see the event website at www.ifkad.org or contact the conference manager at **info@ifkad.org**