

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.: 21

Artificial Intelligence in the Innovation Process: Interdependence, Human Judgment and Technology Intelligence

Description

Artificial intelligence is reshaping how organizations innovate. Digital technologies have challenged established assumptions about innovation processes (Nambisan et al., 2017), while AI increasingly permeates organizational activity (von Krogh, 2018). The innovation process spans idea generation, development and implementation, supported by cross-cutting activities: the evaluation and selection of ideas and projects, intellectual property management, performance assessment and the acquisition of external technological knowledge. AI, including generative AI, is expanding technological support for these activities through pattern recognition, prediction, content generation and decision support (Haefner et al., 2021; Füller et al., 2022; Mariani et al., 2024).

Within this landscape, Technology Intelligence (TI) offers a lens for examining the transformation of innovation work. TI comprises the activities through which firms identify information needs, search for and interpret technological developments, and communicate intelligence to support innovation decisions (Kerr et al., 2006; Kerr and Phaal, 2018). Its configuration reflects different information requirements (Mortara et al., 2009), while its value depends on how it reaches decision makers (Mortara, 2015). Research has examined the reorganization of TI under digitalization (Fang et al., 2023), capability development (Noh et al., 2023), and the integration of expert knowledge and machine learning in patent analysis (Park and Lee, 2026).

Building on these contributions, the track examines AI across the innovation process, with particular attention to TI and the interdependencies among activities. Automated search may change which signals attract attention and which forms of expertise are needed to interpret them. Generative AI raises further questions about how interpretations are produced, validated and communicated. Human–AI complementarity emerges as an outcome whose conditions and limits require investigation. Viewed as an ecology of knowledge, innovation involves human expertise, artificial systems, organizational routines and external knowledge sources jointly shape what organizations notice, understand and act upon. The track invites research on the conditions that sustain diverse sources and interpretations, enable scrutiny of AI outputs, and preserve accountable human judgment.

These questions also concern system design. Interaction patterns, transparency, opportunities to challenge outputs and prompts for deliberate reflection may influence whether AI strengthens judgment or encourages uncritical reliance. Viewing AI through the lens of digital agency (Ågerfalk, 2020) opens questions about how systems can expand individual and organizational capacities to translate knowledge into action.

For managers, these questions concern the design of innovation and intelligence processes, investment in organizational capabilities (Noh et al., 2023), and whether technological support improves the use of knowledge in decisions. The track welcomes theoretical, empirical and methodological contributions on AI in innovation management, particularly on technology intelligence, scouting, foresight and roadmapping practices. Qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods are encouraged, including expert-based and computational approaches, as are studies of universities, intermediaries and providers.

Indicative Topics

- How does AI adoption in one innovation activity reshape other activities, information needs and organizational routines?
- AI and generative AI across the innovation process: idea generation, development and implementation.
- Allocation of analytical tasks, interpretive authority and decision-making responsibilities between human experts and AI systems.
- Generative AI and large language models in technology scouting, monitoring, interpretation and assessment.
- Diversity and quality of intelligence sources, including weak signals, non-conventional data and real-time information.
- Integration of expert judgment and computational approaches in Delphi studies, scenario analysis and technology roadmapping.
- AI in evaluation and selection, intellectual property management and performance assessment of innovation projects.
- Organizational capabilities, learning and maturity for AI-supported innovation and intelligence, including the specific conditions of SMEs.
- Validation, traceability, confidentiality and accountability in AI-supported innovation and intelligence processes.
- Automation bias, convergence of interpretations and the preservation of expertise and critical judgment.
- Knowledge exchange and interpretation across firms, universities, intermediaries and technology providers.
- Communication, managerial use and evaluation of intelligence outputs: relevance, timeliness, decision quality and strategic action.
- Design of AI-based intelligence and decision support tools that enable human agency: dialogic interaction, reflective friction, transparency and contestability of outputs, and the translation of intelligence into action.

Keywords

Innovation process; technology intelligence; artificial intelligence; generative AI; human–AI interaction; knowledge ecosystems; organizational capabilities; technology foresight

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**