

7th European Conference on Corporate R&D and Innovation **CONCORDi 2019**

Industrial innovation for transformation

Seville (Spain), Wednesday 25 (noon) to Friday 27 (noon) September 2019

Corporate Research, Development and innovation (RDi)

RDi are key factors for EU competitiveness and job creation. They **are at the core of the EU socio-economic reform agenda**, "preparing the transition to a knowledge-based economy and society by better policies". **Innovation is a main engine of industrial dynamics**. If well directed, such an evolution is able to tackle the **societal challenges**. Some of the challenges ahead have multiple dimensions, such as the scientific and technological development, employment and mobility, environment and security related issues. **There, the industrial innovation systems are effected by and contribute to both global and local socio-economic endeavours, and influence the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.**

Innovation, structural change and industrial transformation

At the global level, industry is undergoing a profound structural transformation from changes driven by digitalisation, other new technologies and new business models (European Commission, 2018). This requires an effort towards **industrial modernisation** especially in the EU: embracing technological change, integrating products and services, and developing environmentally and employment friendly technologies also economically affordable for producers and consumers.

At EU level, although there is a large consensus on the importance of the manufacturing sector to foster competitiveness, innovation and sustainable growth, the last decades were characterised by a progressive EU decline of the manufacturing sector share, both in value added and job creation. Hence, the EU target for the manufacturing sector is to represent 20% of a country's value added. This should also result in an increase of R&D, given the positive association between manufacturing and R&D investment. It also suggests that the **link between manufacturing and R&D depends on the specialisation of a country's industrial structure.**

At the territorial level, innovation and R&D capacities attract industrial activities and favour industrial participation in global value chains and networks with resulting dynamism of the territorial innovation system. Still, managing the industrial transition exploiting the territorial convergence in response to globalisation and technological change is highly demanding.

Industrial innovation and socio-economic transformation

Together with facilitating the transition to a low-carbon and circular economy, **policies aimed to foster industrial competitiveness, innovation and technological leadership have the ultimate objectives to create more and better jobs**, and to accompany those regions and workers most affected by industrial development and globalisation. Here, **the employment impact of industrial innovation and transformation is expected to be large**. In this process, the dynamics of the internal demand, wages dispersion among territories, the skills needs, and the job polarisation become topics of great importance. In this context, **a strengthened link between innovation and industrial policies is essential to generate employment and good jobs through healthy business dynamics.**

CONCORDi 2019 is articulated around two core thematic lines:

1. **Innovation for structural change and industrial transformation:** In a context of rapid transformation of the economy, the distinction between manufacturing and service industries is becoming more and more blurred. One country's industrial structure (specialisation) cannot be ignored without looking at the relationship between innovation and competitiveness. In an evolutionary perspective, different patterns of structural change (sectoral dynamics) can be associated with specific technological dimensions. Moreover, to ensure industrial competitiveness, EU should reinforce its industrial capacities in key areas that underpin the undergoing industrial transformation, while it should also strengthen areas of its present competitive advantage.

Example of specific topics:

- **Innovation, structural change and industrial transformation**, e.g.: from technology to market structure change; sector specialisation vs multi-sectors usability of innovative products/services (as the dual-use technologies: military ↔ civil applications).
- **Role of key enabling technologies as a driver of structural change**, e.g.: digitalisation; artificial intelligence; advanced manufacturing; key-technologies for energy and mobility.
- **Territorial dimension of the innovation systems contributing to R&D global endeavours**, e.g.: regional and urban R&D and innovation development, including smart specialisation strategies; industrial clusters; innovation ecosystems & hubs and future mission oriented research and innovation (R&I) initiatives under the next EU framework programme for R&I.

2. **Industrial innovation and socio-economic transformation:** Industrial innovation has an important impact on socio-economic transformation and its sustainability. The changes in the structure of the labour market and the speed of technology diffusion result in persistent cross-sectional differences in the economic growth of countries, regions and cities. Regarding the socio-economic impact of innovation, economic growth is thus closely intertwined with the development of labour markets in the wider socio-economic context including some objectives of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, namely its goal on industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG9).

Example of specific topics:

- **Employment impact of innovation, structural change and industrial transformation**
- **Dynamics of the internal demand, job polarisation, wages dispersion**
- **Social return** of technological development, socio-economic sustainability
- **Skills need** to adapt to new and next technologies generation.

Although priority will be given to papers related to these two core themes, the conference will also accept submissions of research articles related to other industrial innovation topics. Without being exhaustive, these comprise:

- **Returns of innovation** (Impact on competitiveness, firm dynamics and firm selection),
- **Diffusion of innovation for the EU industry** (RDI collaboration: private-public collaborations; open innovation; outsourcing and globalisation; innovation as a recombination of ideas; ...)
- **New industrial innovation policy** (horizontal vs sector/technology specific policies; structural funds & fiscal measures; evidence-based industrial innovation policies for territories; new public R&I policies to support the transition of mature industrial sectors via an increased technological and managerial capacity; new policies for better performance of new technology-based firms; new policies that favour system innovation; ...).
- **Global innovation networks and RDI value chains** (internationalisation of RDI; organisation of innovative activities and their relation to production; Industry 4.0; ...)
- **Advanced methodologies applied to RDI analyses** (machine learning and artificial Intelligence; analysis of economic complexity; network analyses; behavioural models; ...).

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