TRACK INFORMATION

Title: SkillsXInnovation: Exploring a complex twofold relationship

Outline (max. 300 words):

A large body of literature has focused on identifying the relation between human competences and innovation. Due to its multi-faceted configuration, skills and competences are of great and increasing interest to the innovation management community as well as policymakers and industrial representatives. One of the most intriguing aspects of the relation between skills and innovation is the bidirectional relationships between the two concepts.

On the one hand, single skills are a necessary but not sufficient condition for innovation to take place. Innovation skills are usually identified as a combination of cognitive profile of a person (preferred way of gathering, processing, and evaluating information), soft skills (e.g., problem solving, critical thinking) and technical skills (e.g., research techniques, project management, or IT engineering). On the other hand, mixing skills is leading to the disruption of job profiles (Chiarello et al., 2022).

At the same time, innovation has an impact on skills. This is particularly true in the era of the digital transformation, where workers may need to re-skill or up-skill to adapt to the reorganisation of tasks and the emergence of new jobs (OECD, 2021). The introduction of digital technologies in companies, under the industry 4.0 paradigm and with the pressure of the sustainable transition, appears more like a skills revolution rather than a technical revolution (Ciarli et al., 2021). However, companies are struggling to fill their skills needs to properly manage sustainable and digital changes, resulting in a widespread skill-mismatch (Chiarello et al., 2022).

Indicate a maximum of 5 key topics to be addressed in the track:

For these reasons, we invite papers studying skillsXinnovation to gather multidisciplinary contributions and explore different research methods that can be academically focused, practice relevant, or a mix of both. The track organisers invite academically rigorous and industrially relevant contributions, including on quantitative and data driven methods, that fit (but are not limited to) the following themes:

SkillsXInnovation: Most important innovation skills for the next decade; Hard and soft skills for innovation; Innovation boosters skills and knowledges for companies; Novel definition of innovation skills; Mixing skills in team to boost innovation; Cognitive profiles and innovation; Green and sustainable skills for innovation; Innovative skills beyond R&D function; The role of the innovation manager and the re-definition of this job profile; The disruption of job profiles under the pressure of innovation

InnovationXskills: The relation between technologies and skills; The impact of digital technologies on skills; The impact of sustainable transition on skills; The innovative skills mismatch; The role of policy makers to foster skills for innovation; How to educate innovative skills; Challenges of higher education to deliver skills for innovation; New technologies and pedagogical approaches to deliver skills for innovation; Educating soft skills for innovation; Skills for innovation and life-long learning

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Is the Track part of a Special Issue? If so, please, indicate:	
Journal:	
Title of the Special Issue:	
Key dates:	