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Special Session: Knowledge Brokerage as participatory interaction processes linking research, policy and civil society

ABSTRACT

Doing (Open) Innovation through Networking

Recently, experts and policy makers have paid special attention to processes of technological innovation, highlighting how this phenomenon responds more to the logic of Open Innovation, rather than being confined to the individual firm.

The paradigm of Open Innovation leads to a significant change of perspective that twists the traditional way of “doing innovation” and emphasizes the role of connection and cooperation between heterogeneous actors and environments. Innovation requires cross fertilization reducing at the same time the costs of cognitive distance. This hybridization may be a promising process for the involved organizations but it calls for Research and Development investments making a significant effort in terms of inter-organizational Connection and Development. Networking may support - even if it is not equivalent to - the Open Innovation strategy, benefiting the small firms above all.

The interest in Open Innovation models is the starting point of the research whose results will be discussed in this proposal. These results arises from a project aimed at studying the ability and openness of selected public and private Italian research centres to outsource theirs Research and Innovation outputs.

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