

Knowledge Futures: AI, Technology, and the New Business Paradigm

IFKAD 2025
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NAPLES, ITALY

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS – IFKAD 2025

Special Track n.: 44

Thematic Area: KM, Organizational Systems and Innovation

Shaping the Future: Adapting HEIs to the Evolving Knowledge and Innovation Landscape

Description

The evolving global knowledge environment have a significant impact on Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Technological development, shifting labour market demands, and emerging societal challenges are forcing HEIs to rethink their classical roles (focusing on knowledge creation and dissemination) and responsibilities in this new knowledge and innovation landscape. Because of the blurring boundaries between academia and industry, HEIs are becoming key players in innovation ecosystems, requiring strategic adjustments in institutional structures, technological integration, and program portfolio (*Etzkowitz, 2003*). In this context, HEIs must align their programs with labour market demands and societal needs. The rise of digital technologies, artificial intelligence and automation, are transforming the labour market and have strong effect on the education sector, necessitating curriculum renewal, new educational models, and the development of lifelong learning opportunities (*Aoun, 2017*).

This special track seeks to explore how HEIs can effectively respond to these changes, emphasizing institutional adaptability, the related technological developments, and different aspects of program innovation.

This track welcomes a wide range of topics that use integrated approaches of strategic, project, and knowledge management at higher education institutions, including theoretical and empirical papers employing qualitative, quantitative, and critical methods, and aims to focus on:

- Institutional transformation and governance: Understanding how HEIs can adapt their governance, organisational structures and strategy to meet the demands of a rapidly evolving knowledge environment.
- Technological integration and digital transformation: The role of digital tools, AI, and automation in renewing the learning and administrative processes at HEIs.
- New program portfolio, program innovation and curriculum renewal: Developing future-ready programs that incorporate interdisciplinary approaches, lifelong learning models, and emerging topics like sustainability, AI, and digital literacy.
- University-industry collaboration and innovation ecosystems: Investigating how HEIs can strengthen their roles in regional and global innovation networks, fostering partnerships with industry, government, and civil society.

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- Preparing students for the future labor market: Assessing strategies and frameworks that align educational outcomes with the skills and competencies demanded by future work environments.
- Sustainability and social innovation in HEIs: The role of universities in driving sustainable development and fostering innovation that addresses societal challenges.

Keywords

Strategic management, project management, knowledge management, innovation management, higher education institutions

Organizers

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[Special Track details published on IFKAD website >>](#)

Guidelines

Researchers wishing to contribute are invited to submit an **EXTENDED ABSTRACT** (in editable format) of **min 500 and max 1000 words** not later than **31 JANUARY 2025**, using the submission procedure available on the 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 for both extended abstracts as well as full papers available on IFKAD site: www.ifkad.org

Important dates

31 January 2025	<i>Extended Abstract submission deadline</i>
24 February 2025	<i>Acceptance notification to authors</i>
20 April 2025	<i>Early-Bird registration cut off</i>
02 May 2025	<i>Full paper submission deadline</i>
31 May 2025	<i>Registration deadline</i>
2-4 July 2025	<i>Conference sessions</i>

For further information

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