

## **TOWARDS THE FUTURE, ON THE SHOULDERS OF THE GIANTS.**

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We live in an era marked by discontinuity and paradigmatic transitions. The global and local effects of the so-called digital revolution are radically redefining the system of competences and development objectives. The processes of change triggered by Industry 4.0 and Digital Transformation can be qualified as epochal in terms of intensity, scope and speed.

These new scenarios require a radical rethink in the design and management of corporate and system innovation interventions; a methodological, organizational and operational rethinking. The change will be profound, it is proceeding at an exponential speed and is already intimately revolutionizing the archetypes on which humanity has been based during its evolutionary path that has lasted millennia.

Over the next ten years everything will change: the internet of things, artificial intelligence, robotics, the interaction between virtual and real and the progressive digitalization of current processes, enabling technological acquisitions, the birth of new jobs and of unprecedented organizational and business models will all determine the establishment of new and constantly evolving practices, tools and methods of interaction.

There is now an urgency to acquire the capacity to generate tangible development and progress objectives in this changed context of reference, building an economy inspired by the principles of circularity and innovation and oriented to results of competitiveness and employability.

In this perspective, beyond the sporadic (and heroic) isolated and private initiatives, long delays are evident in the construction of widespread conceptual and operational infrastructures and systems, which would be necessary to effectively and efficiently accompany this irreversible process. We must equip ourselves to accompany the start-up system and, more generally, innovation, in this fascinating and stimulating journey to the future that will bring new challenges and new opportunities.

Yesterday's categories will no longer exist: the way of doing business, development and innovation will change. Only by going beyond the rigorous perimeters of classical training approaches can a virtuous and iterative process of contamination and trespassing be undertaken.

It will be necessary to train new professional and managerial figures who, in terms of Open Innovation, promote and favour the transition from vertical knowledge to horizontal integration of widespread domains of intervention, through an interdisciplinary and multilevel, integrated and organic approach. New skills will have to be acquired, combining socio-economic and humanistic disciplines with scientific and technological ones, in order to be able to dominate dispersed knowledge. Science will have to harmonize with wisdom, since in changing scenarios the fundamentals, however, remain and our times will demand Innovation Managers, who will be new, creative and capable of effectively managing change, inserting it in the wake of the most ancient and solid traditions of human thought.

In this context, we will recount the real, and at the same time new, unique and surprising, experience of a private initiative born within the Colorni-Hirschman Institute network, which, from a territory that is very backwards (but with great and unexpressed potential) such as that of southern Italy, and in organic collaboration with the local research system, has been able to promote the launch of a good practice established on a national scale, acting as a reference hub for the most qualified sector networks in international areas and updating the Colornian and Hirschmanian teachings (and assonances) in such an innovative and still unexplored disciplinary and operational field.

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