

W5 - Managing innovation eco-systems as complex adaptive systems: challenges, advantages and limits for research and practice

21. ECOSYSTEMS ALLIANCES AND COLLABORATIONS

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Track summary: Innovation is a dynamic, complex phenomenon. Most scholars and practitioners would agree on that, and an empirical confirmation can be found in the recent dynamic reaction of innovation eco-systems to the COVID pandemic and to the transition towards circular economy, where companies are innovating their business models and supply chains. Innovation eco-systems are actually evolving as complex adaptive systems, in which many actors are leveraging their resources and capabilities and creating new ones, by interacting one with each other at multiple levels, to allow innovative solutions to new problems emerge, in very short time. Despite the above, the use of complexity science (and of the related methodologies) in the field of innovation management is still very limited and, hence, it is not clear yet how studying innovation eco-systems with the lens of complexity science would help a better understanding of these systems.

This track is aimed at presenting and discussing current researches that adopt the approach of the complexity science and the related methodologies to investigate innovation eco-systems and their organization. The objective is to understand what the potential contribution of this approach is, whether it can provide insights for new management support tools and guidelines, how it can be integrated with traditional approaches to achieve a more comprehensive and meaningful representation of innovation eco-systems.

The track is organized in a workshop format, where participants will be given the time to actively comment the presented researches and the potential (added) value of complexity science for R&D and innovation management