



Organizations, Institutions and Innovation in the ICT sector: Where do we stand?

Conference organized by
Institut Télécom
Télécom École de Management

Paris, 25-26 June 2012

The central theme of this conference is innovation in the ICT sector. The ICT sector is one of the few sectors in which technology co-evolves with a profound variety of actors, including individuals, groups, communities, and formal organizations. Aside from its being a general purpose technology involving a broad spectrum of sectors, there are two features that reinforce this variety in the way actors organize; the nature of the knowledge supporting their development, and the profound impact of ICTs on our lives. On one hand, knowledge creation and diffusion processes are governed by a landscape which favors creativity and innovation owing to this variety. On the other hand, the diffusion of ICTs also raises serious concerns regarding key societal issues such as property rights, ecological impacts, or privacy concerns. All these elements have probably influenced the nature of innovation in this sector in a more profound way than in other sectors.

How does technology evolve in the ICT sector in the face of these challenges? What are the dynamic forces behind innovation? How does the institutional context shape and is shaped by the evolution of technology and organizations in ICTs? The conference aims to provide answers to these key questions, with a focus on the following themes with regard to ICTs:

1. Organizational heterogeneity: Inter-organizational networks, communities, crowd sourcing
2. Open source software and innovation
3. Property rights: patents, licenses and innovation dynamics
4. Management of creativity and innovation
5. Competitive dynamics
6. Broadband evolution, net neutrality and policy implications
7. Institutional context and its impact on technology and organizations
8. Green ICTs: Definitions and innovation dynamics

Special session on Green ICTs

There are increasing concerns about whether ICTs might cause negative externalities that could offset their economic, social, and environmental benefits for human societies and natural ecosystems. From an economic and social point of view, digital infrastructures, terminals and software have played a key albeit seldom underlined role in the recent financial and economic crises. From an environmental point of view, the ecological impacts of ICTs are often underestimated when analyzing the environmental performance of these technologies. Could the “grey side of ICTs” offset the social and environmental benefits of (green) ICTs? To use Luc Soete’s expression, how can such ecoinnovations contribute to a substantial decoupling between an increased wellbeing and a worsening of ecological destructions, instead of supporting the current “destructive creation” of technological development? In order to investigate these challenges, this special session welcomes papers relating to current developments in green ICTs (servers, PCs, cell phones, smart grids, Internet, software, e-waste solutions, ...), and to their innovation dynamics (including their societal and policy contexts).

What are the main characteristics and dynamics of green ICTs? To what extent do they differ from non environmental ICT innovations and other ecoinnovations? Which policies and policy instruments can best support the development of radical ecoinnovations in the ICT sector, namely of green ICTs that can contribute to the aforementioned absolute decoupling? Can green ICTs avoid the traps of greenwashing and rebound effects? In order to explore the research frontier of this emerging field, these are some of the questions that this special session will address, thanks to the support of the French environment agency (ADEME).

Registration and Important Dates

The conference will take place in Paris on 25-26 June 2012 (*Cité Internationale Universitaire de Paris*).

Participants who wish to present their research at the conference are invited to submit an abstract (not exceeding 500 words) to kind.researchtem@gmail.com before **15 March 2012**.

Decision of acceptance will be given by 15 April 2012.

Final papers are expected latest 30 May 2012.

The conference fee is 200 Euros, which will cover the conference package, lunches, and conference dinner. Accommodation and travel expenses will be covered by the participants. Limited funding is available for PhD students (interested applicants should contact us).

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- Grazia Cecere
- Cédric Gossart
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Sponsors

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