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Track 8: Information Systems, Local Knowledge and Innovation

Track Chair

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Introduction

This track invites papers that examine how local knowledge and knowledge-related processes can be enhanced by information technology in its broadest meaning, leading to innovation in products, services, processes, strategies or business models in a specific spatial (geographic) location in the Mediterranean region.

With knowledge-related process can be understood knowledge creation – learning, knowledge dissemination, knowledge sharing, and knowledge use. Whatever local knowledge or knowledge process we relate to, knowledge in an organizational context is a means to an end, and in this track that particular end is innovation in some form. This innovation should also be recognized or potentially recognizable at the local geographical level. IT/IS are seen as enablers in the process of transforming knowledge into innovation. The ambition is to collect a multi-disciplinary group of papers that examine these issues from various theoretical angles including IS Management, Knowledge Management, Learning, Innovation Regions, Innovation Systems, Innovation Dynamics.

The objectives of the track are to disseminate findings and exchange experiences on how information systems enable and facilitate the leverage of local knowledge, and local knowledge exchange and expansion that lead to innovation outcomes at the local level. Theoretical, empirical, case studies, panel contributions and policy-oriented contributions in the form of both full papers but also short research-in-progress papers are welcome.

Suggested topics (but they are not limited):

- Absorptive capacity enhanced by IT/IS
- IT/IS infrastructure at territorial and firm level, and its impact on knowledge leverage
- Leverage of local knowledge through IT/IS
- The role of IT/IS in the emergence of innovation regions
- Local knowledge and Open Innovation – role of IT/IS
- Local learning dynamics and innovation outcomes
- Enhancement of regional technology and innovation potentials through IT/IS
- Local knowledge and innovation networks

BIO of track chair

Eric Soderquist holds a Doctorate of Business Administration from Henley Management College and Brunel University, and a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm. He is an Associate Professor of Innovation and Knowledge Management at the Department of Management Science and Technology of the Athens University of Economics and Business (AUEB), Greece and was previously on the faculty of the Grenoble Graduate School of Business (Grenoble Ecole de Management), France.

His research and teaching interests are in the areas of Innovation and R&D Management and Policy Development, Knowledge Management and Organizational Change and Development. Dr Soderquist has acted as a consultant to various companies in the manufacturing and service industries, and to the European Union on issues related to innovation management, evaluation and policy-making. He has recently been involved in the INNOVATION IMPACT study "Analyzing and Evaluating the Impact on Innovation of Publicly-Funded R&D Programs" (DG Enterprise), and the IST Evaluation and Monitoring study "Evaluation Plan – Blueprint of the Evaluation and Monitoring of the IST R&D in the 6th and 7th FPs" (DG INFSO). He has also worked as a consultant for the Swedish Office of Science and Technology in Paris. He has experience in project management, evaluation studies, innovation policy studies and management of academic programs.

He has served as Editor-in-Chief of *Les Cahiers du Management Technologique* (currently *Révue du Management Technologique*), and is Editor-in-Chief of *InnKnow FORUM*, a periodic research newsletter published by the Management Science Laboratory of AUEB, within which he is also heading the Innovation and Knowledge Management Unit. Dr Soderquist has more than 25 publications in peer reviewed journals in his areas of expertise.