COTEC

FONDAZIONE PER L'INNOVAZIONE

INNOVATION ASSESSMENT

workshop

MARCH **27** | PM **3** |

Centro Studi Tagliacarne
Piazza Sallustio 9
Rome

LIVE STREAMING

The innovation assessment aims to establish what the socio-economic effects of innovation can be. This can occur with various non-ecological methodologies such as foresight, experiments or qualitative and quantitative analyses. However, the suboptimal results of these methodologies have been known for long time.

If we exclude these approaches, two alternatives remain:

1) sand-box type experimentation on limited areas (see the Chinese example);

2) the collection of data on the effects of innovation in countries and regional areas (see the Ukrainian example on the digitization of services).

As regards the first case, in order to be useful for innovation assessment, experimentation must be able to be based on learning deriving from the active involvement of the population or at least of the stake holders (as in the Scandinavian countries). Furthermore, it must be kept in mind that some solutions deriving from experimentation may be strongly context dependent and therefore not be replicable elsewhere. This does not mean that it is not desirable that the information on the experiments be made public. Lastly the social experimentation should be applied also by industries as pharmaceutical ones that neglect the importance of social dimension to assess the effect of some categories of drug. For example only the three stages trials of opioids allow only to understand their biological effects and not the socio psychological effects of addiction that increase in a social enivironment and in every day life.

As regards the second case, the crucial point is the availability of data on the effects of innovation which are often kept confidential as they are of a proprietary nature by companies (see the cases of the effects on opioid addiction in the US and that on addiction to social networks in the world) or by particular political regimes (see China). The second problem is that of the irreversibility of some changes produced by innovation. For example, the addiction to social networks and the lack of propensity to read books on the part of the generations born in this century are irreversible effects that have and will have an impact on the formation of their personality and cognitive ability. Even if now we have data on these negative effects, any policy aimed at neutralizing them could have an effect on new future generations and not on the current ones.

The problem of anticipation therefore remains central in the Innovation Assessment and the transparency of information alone may not be sufficient. Added to this is that of the context dependency of the experimental results or information data. The same effect of an innovation can be present in one context but not in another due to different background knowledge and cognitive styles in dealing with the same problem (see Geography of Thought by Richard Nisbett on the difference between West and China).

European evidence based approach to policy making seems suitable to overcome the obstacles to information transparency. What it is lacking is the on time collection of data that should inform the policy making.

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PROGRAM

3 pm - 6.30 pm

3.00	Gaetano Fausto Esposito - General Director Centro Studi Tagliacarne: Welcome
3.10	Luigi Nicolais - President Cotec: Welcome and Chair
3.15	Riccardo Viale - President Scientific Committee Cotec: Introduction
3.30	Dominique Foray - Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne and Merle Jacob - Lund University: Why Innovation Assessment?
4.30	Luc Soete - Merit and Riccardo Viale - Cotec: Innovation Assessment of Artificial Intelligence (IA of AI)
5.30	Discussion Maria Savona - Luiss, Roma Luigi Marengo - Luiss, Roma Dario Guarascio - Università La Sapienza, Roma Gianfranco Ruta - Director Cotec
6.30	Conclusions