Journal of Innovation Economics
Call for papers

Topic:
Innovation, Growth and Sustainable Development

Innovation is one of the essential factors of enterprise performance as well as national economic growth. Either on the micro or the macroeconomic level, the relationships between innovation and performance have been (and are still being) studied in several important works (Schumpeterian and neo-Schumpeterian analyses, endogenous growth theories, etc.). Although Schumpeter emphasized a multiplicity of innovation forms, the accent in most of these analyses is essentially upon technological innovation (based on Research and Development). Public policies to support innovation that are inspired by Schumpeterian analyses are henceforth and all scientific and technological policies.

Relatively recent preoccupations in terms of durability, either they concern social sciences or the public debate, invite to substitute for the question of growth, a question of sustainable development (considered under a tripartite dimension: economic, ecological and social); In other words, they invite to endogenize durability in economic and scientific systems.

In a sustainable development context, technological innovation plays an ambivalent role: it is the source of the problem (on the ecological side) and, at the same time, it represents its hope for solution. However, the change of orientation (from growth to sustainable development) invites one also to think more fundamentally about the nature of innovation. This change should allow renewed emphasis on (and integration into the theoretical analysis of) the non-technological forms of innovation that could be present in the industrial sector, as well as in services and which are not necessarily based on R&D activity.

In some way, it can be thought that in a perspective of the relationship “innovation-performance”, the economic analysis is characterised by a double deficit or gap relative to innovation and performance. The “innovation gap” translates the difference between the reality of innovation produced in an economy and the perceptions of the traditional innovation indicators (R&D, patents). It corresponds to what might be called invisible innovation (non-technological innovation, social innovation). As for the “performance gap”: it measures the difference between the reality of performance in an economy and performance evaluated by the traditional economic tools (essentially productivity and growth). It corresponds to the hidden performance that is invisible to these tools (sustainable performance). These two gaps blur the innovation-performance relationship and are at the origin of a “policy gap”: subsequently, they encourage speculation about the legitimacy of some public policies to support innovation.

The purpose of this special issue of the “Journal of Innovation Economics” is to highlight the question of the relationship between “innovation, growth and sustainable development” all by filling the different gaps outlined above. Original proposals could be empirical, theoretical or methodological.

General presentation of the Journal of Innovation Economics on:
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Editor of the Journal: Dimitri Uzunidis
Publisher: Electronic Journal published by Cairn : http://www.cairn.info

Editors of the Special Issue "Innovation, Growth and Sustainable Development"
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Deadlines:
- Proposal of paper (One or two pages abstract): December 22, 2008
- Full paper: March 1, 2009
- Reviewing process and final decisions on the publication of papers: May 10, 2009

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