

Welcome to the July 2018 Edition Issue of SMART SPACE Newsletter



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The roundtables for the policymakers in Italy

In the months of May and June, the three Italian regions participating to [Smart Space](#) - Piedmont, Lombardy and Veneto - organized each a roundtable in order to analyze the regional situation and the opinions of the most relevant local stakeholders in order to support a real transformation towards the smart manufacturing. These workshops were the first steps of a path addressed to create a common strategy in the Alpine Space to support the smart manufacturing. Some common points emerged like the need for a new cultural approach for better understanding the importance of the right technology for their company, the need to work together as a network/cluster. Moreover, the possibility of a transregional collaboration was welcomed.

In the month of September and October, other meetings will be organized in order to compare the regional strategies and start in drafting a common roadmap for the next period.

Venice, 17 May 2018



On May, the 17th 2018 Venice hosted the workshop "Is there an Italian Digital Manufacturing ? Indications and suggestions for new support policies" organized by [Veneto Innovazione](#). Representatives from [Veneto Region](#), universities, entrepreneur associations and chambers of commerce discussed the relationship between digital manufacturing and companies.

It emerged that in general companies acquire digital technologies from their usual providers and they usually do not know the range of possibilities that offer their machines. The adoption of new technologies does not mean an increase in the number of employees. Businesses lack personnel trained for new technologies. Yet companies are quite reluctant to be assisted by universities or research centres. There is a strategic and cultural problem: it is hard to understand how much important digital technologies are for those that do not use them.

Companies receive too many information and they are not able to distinguish which are more important. It is necessary for companies to find desks where they can ask which technology is better for their organization, or production, or market.

All participants agreed in working for the provision of assistance to companies in the digitalization of production, training courses for employees and desks to give complete information on which are the best technology for their need.

Turin, 21 June 2018



In Piedmont, the roundtable organized by [CSP](#) took place on 21 June 2018 at the Circolo dei Lettori di Torino.

The workshop had a twofold objective: to share the image of the regional SME system among the interested parties in order to harmonize the different actions and to present the goals and actions of the SMART-SPACE project, with particular reference to the launch of the Regional Pilot intended to policymakers.

Representatives of the University of Turin and the Polytechnic, Chambers of Commerce, Innovation Poles and the [Piedmont Region](#) were invited to the table.

The [DIH Piedmont](#) presented some qualitative data of the survey carried out by them on more than 300 SMEs from Piedmont and has highlighted some critical aspects for the transition to manufacturing 4.0, which are mainly of an organizational and cultural nature, as well as registering the difficulty of these companies to work online.

The discussion continued among the participants at the table along two paths: in the first, stakeholders were asked to witness the transformation underway according to their point of observation and in the second they were asked for an opinion on the needs of the system, to try to draw - even if charcoal - the characteristics of the activities that the Smart Space project is organizing.

Milan, 29 June 2018



The Lombardy Digitalizing Round Table has been organized on the 29th of June in Palazzo Pirelli (Milan) by [AFIL](#) and [STIIMA-CNR](#), in the framework of the Interreg Alpine Space Projects SMART-SPACE and BifocAlps. The aim of the workshop, moderated by Alessandro Marini (AFIL Cluster Manager) was to discuss with policymakers and intermediary organization the state of the art of support actions addressed to companies, especially SMEs, undertaking the digitalization process and to highlight the main gaps to be overcome with the next regional measures. The meeting was attended by Lombardy Region and Friuli-Venezia Giulia Regions.

A first section was addressed to the discussion of available regional measures to support companies within the digitalization of their processes. A second section was dedicated to the ever-increasing importance of intermediaries, as trustful organizations that can support companies in finding the right measures and supporting them. The interaction with the participating companies was important to underline gaps and their needs. The feedback the participants was positive, and everybody realized and agreed on the preliminary goal of this first, that is only the springboard for further collaborations.

Second SMART-SPACE Study Visit, Stuttgart 19-21 June

The Smart Space study visit in Stuttgart was organized in frame of the international [ICE/IEEE Conference](#), the innovation technology conference with a special focus on digitalization.

The Smart Space participants could get in touch with representatives from all over the world and got trends and state of the art in innovation, digitalization and industry 4.0.



Next to plenary session and dedicated workshops 4 site visits have been organized to let the stakeholders understanding better the situation in Baden-Württemberg.

The proposed site visits were: the Stock Exchange from Stuttgart, a Co-working space active in social innovation, a construction site (of the main station of Stuttgart where concrete digitalization pilot projects are implemented) and one company visit (Nokia).



Finally, as the [Alpine Space Project BIFOCALps](#) organized in the frame of the conference a dedicated workshop (topic: introducing a digital twin in manufacturing industries), the representative of [SMART SPACE](#) have been invited to join it, in order to foster the collaboration and the transfer of knowledge between the two projects.

Visit of the German Secretary of State at aws, Vienna

Austria

On the 25th of June 2018, Thomas Wunsch, the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Economy, Science and Digitization of Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany, visited [aws](#) to learn more about current funding programs in Austria. The delegation consisted of around 25 people, who were mostly representatives in the field of healthcare management and medical engineering.

To give the participants an overview of what is happening in the field of digitalisation in Austria, the SMART SPACE project was presented. Kathrin Schelbaum, project manager at [aws](#), talked about the common goals of the project and made a short introduction to the Digital Innovation Hub platform. Furthermore, she gave an overview of the pilot actions planned for the next semesters. After the presentation, there was time for questions concerning the project.



EIT DIGITAL CONFERENCE 2018

The EIT Digital Conference will be held in Brussels, at [The EGG](#), on 11 September, 2018.

On 11 September 2018, the leading European open innovation organisation EIT Digital will host its third annual Conference showcasing EIT Digital's vision and achievements about shaping digitalization in Europe. Here you can find the [Programme](#)



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