
Editorial: Innovation and entrepreneurship

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Competition challenges and the desire to conquer new markets do encourage firms to innovate. There are various avenues firms can follow to pursue innovation. They can take an idea from a different sector and adapt it for use in their own production processes or in their market. Entrepreneurs are obliged to innovate when, in order to answer an innovator, they try to bypass the competition by using their creativity.

Firms search for different ways to innovate, for example, new markets to explore. They can be based on technological innovation or, in the configuration of new products and services to offer to their customers, a radical change that will create the impression that they can get more for their money or a greater valued added product.

Innovation can also respond to the introduction of a different focus in an activity. This is the case in new firm models and ones traditionally distributed with the main aim of creating new markets or increasing profitability in existing ones.

In the response of firms to different market pushes, their competence in innovation is as important as their competition through price. For that reason, the promotion of the creation of new firms is a key factor in many sectors. At the same time, they can generate an upper value for the customers.

In this scenario, the use of information and communication technologies can be of help. They make new relationships with customers, providers, partners and employees possible. Processes can be easily integrated, interlinked and new relationships and probabilities of services can be seen. New paradigms make possible some new varieties in customer service.

Information and communication technologies stress the importance of the firm's strategy apart from making it easier to transfer knowledge management and innovation. They also help with customer loyalty and reduce costs by enabling greater connectivity and integration.

In this special issue, we want to stress some of the above mentioned aspects, which is the reason why we have incorporated the following articles:

The internet and future entrepreneurs: an empirical analysis. This study tries to analyse the uses that entrepreneurs develop for different information and communication technologies. Based on the main attitudes and degrees of acceptance of some information technologies, firms have a tendency to incorporate them in order to achieve the desired levels of satisfaction.

Concurrent design methods for impression and function. The focus of this paper is effective in determining an accurate design solution in a short period of time in order to place products on the market at the right time in tune with users' needs

The figure of the intrapeneur in driving innovation and initiative for the firm's transformation. This article investigates the relationships between entrepreneurship and innovation from an updated view of the intrapreneurial dimensions of the intrapreneur today. The model deals with innovation, change and initiative.

Technological capacity and innovation in Spain: a qualitative analysis based on patents. This study is focused on Spanish technological capabilities. Through the analysis of the patents studied, the strength of technological cooperation and their quality are measured according to the number of claims.

Cluster analysis of innovative companies of the Basque country. This discusses and analyses the four most important groups of innovators in this area of Spain, constant innovators, design innovators, process innovators and opportunistic innovators.

A model for the analysis of innovative products: a regional perspective. This article exposes a diagnostic tool for industrial company products. It can help companies to discover their main weakness and strengths in order to best plan the development of some industrial products.

E-commerce innovation in the Veneto region: sociotechnical alignment in the context of a public administration. The paper focuses on the practices of e-commerce in a concrete region. It also presents a case of success: the Bollo Auto.

E-lectricity models. In the framework of the liberalisation of the electricity sector in many international markets, this analysis constitutes an attempt to study the nature of these groups and to describe the new e-business models that have appeared.