

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Board of the DIGEP**

### **“Department of Excellence” project.**

**Torino, 03/02/2020**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Advisory Board (Alexander Dolgui, Aldo Geuna, Alexis Tsoukiàs, Raquel Xalabarder) took place at the premises of the Department of Industrial Production and Management (DIGEP) of Politecnico di Torino the 03/02/2020. The meeting was organised on the following schedule:

- 08.40am Welcome and presentation by the Project Coordinator.
- 09.00pm Scientific presentations by the 8 teams of the Department.
- 14.30pm Visit to the Department.
- 15.00pm Meeting of the Advisory Board.
- 16.30pm Meeting between the Advisory Board, the team leaders and the Project Coordinator.

Meetings and the scientific presentations took place to the new offices which the Department rents in front of the Politecnico di Torino headquarters.

#### **1. General Comments**

The committee, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, has been positively impressed by the quality and volume of the research conducted within the Department of Management and Industrial Production (DIGEP) of Politecnico di Torino. We also note with pleasure that the project funding is appropriately used for the project’s purposes, despite a number of delays due to unforeseeable reasons. The usual uncertainties of such large projects apply in this case also and do not represent a warning condition. We would like to congratulate the coordination committee and the coordinator himself for the accountable presentation of the whole project activities.

As a matter of fact, the project is now at a critical point, this being the second year of activities. Under such a perspective it is important that two issues, arisen by the project, get appropriate attention and be discussed within the DIGEP and project coordination.

1. What is the added value of this project with respect to the regular activities conducted and/or coordinated by the DIGEP? Which is the ambition of the DIGEP for the next 10-15 years and how this project can help the department to reach such an ambition?
2. Which are the innovations, with respect to the existing research, training and management activities, that this project is expected to introduce in the DIGEP life for the forthcoming years?

This project represents a big opportunity for the DIGEP. The project's budget allows to talk more risks in terms of further trans-disciplinary research among the different teams and, possibly, the development of some interdisciplinary topics. It would be a pity if the Department miss such an opportunity.

## **2. Specific Comments**

1. The coordination committee, in cooperation with the DIGEP leadership, should formulate an explicit scientific policy about the use of the budget. Which are the general principles guiding the project coordination? Preparing this document (which can be rather short) could become an opportunity to discuss the scientific ambition of DIGEP and how the project could help in achieving it.
2. We warmly suggest dedicating a small, but significant (such as funding a PhD or a post-doc), part of the budget to trans-disciplinary projects involving more than one among the existing different teams and research topics. Interdisciplinary topics could and should be privileged. This is the perfect time for starting such an experiment.
3. We recommend that the DIGEP and the project coordination undertake a SWOT analysis, focusing upon the advantages DIGEP presently has with respect to other similar departments nationally or internationally: several disciplines present, co-existence of quantitative and qualitative research topics, availability of hard and soft skills etc...
4. We recommend considering how the project could help innovating the training activities coordinated by the DIGEP (regular or extraordinary ones), since this could be one among the significant long-term impacts of the project.

## **3. Next meeting expectations.**

For the next year meeting the Advisory Board we expect to see more presentations focusing upon the long-term scientific policy, the project's added value and the trans-disciplinary activities. That said, we suggest considering the opportunity organising at the same time a (one day?) meeting of the whole Department, possibly at a different location: the DIGEP days. This could become a regular activity in the future.

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