

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Board of the DIGEP**

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

**Torino, 08/03/2021**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Advisory Board (Alexander Dolgui, Aldo Geuna, Alexis Tsoukiàs, Raquel Xalabarder) took place on-line (due to the sanitary restrictions holding) the 08/03/2022. The meeting was organised on the following schedule:

- 10.00am Welcome and presentation by the Project Coordinator and the Department Head.
- 10.20am An overview upon MCDA, by MF. Norese (just retired)
- 10.40am Scientific presentations by the 8 teams of the Department.
- 16.00pm Meeting of the Advisory Board.
- 16.30pm Meeting between the Advisory Board, the team leaders and the Project Coordinator.

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

The year under examination is by far an exceptional one. Soon after the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the advisory board the COVID-19 pandemic spread around the world with unforeseeable impacts and for a duration which until today we cannot predict. Scientific research and the University activities have been heavily impacted including, as expected, the project we are advising. Besides this general context the Department premises have been heavily impacted by a fire which spread around the University buildings the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2021. It has certainly been a VERY unfortunate year for the Department and the project.

Despite this premise, the committee, for the 3<sup>rd</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.

The grant is now regularly used (considering the already mentioned special conditions) and it can be expected that the project should be able to meet the targets announced when launched. 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, as the project is entering its fourth year, it is possible to notice the positive impact of the project in innovating the scientific topics and research subjects of the Department and in attracting new and brilliant young researchers enabling a hardly needed renovation of the human capital of the Department. We strongly recommend the University leadership to support this effort allocating premium resources to the Department.

This board expressed in its previous document (February 2020) two critical points: the first one concerning the overall scientific ambition of the Department and the second one concerning the development of more transdisciplinary and trans-group research. While the first point has been essentially discussed within the strategic document prepared by the Department, the second point is yet to be fully developed, although it is understandable the time necessary to implement such a policy.

## **2. Specific Comments**

As already mentioned within our general comments we expect to see more transdisciplinary work conducted within the project and thanks to the funds being available. In the following we suggest a couple of examples in which the project could orient such efforts. These should not be considered as requests, but just simple suggestions.

1. A topic to which the project shows interesting results concerns health care management: we suggest exploring the introduction of real constraints due to legal requirements (related to the respect of labor regulations) of substantial requirement such job charge “fair distribution”.
2. We encourage the project to use this opportunity to identify legal challenges, in diverse fields of expertise, foreseeing the future application and implementation of their research results. The Department has an outstanding position enabling to take a leading role (within Italy, and the EU) in identifying not only the current legal challenges but also new legal issues that could/should be addressed by governments and legislators in the near future. This may be, for instance, regarding issues of protection of intellectual property, personal data protection and facial recognition for specific purposes (development of products, consumer satisfaction, personal identification, etc.)

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

For the next year meeting the Advisory Board turns to suggest a proposal done in the 2<sup>nd</sup> report: organising the DIGEP day (a whole day of scientific exchanges among the Department groups) and dedicate the Advisory Board meeting in discussing the follow up of the project and the expected final results.

Torino, 08/03/2021