



17th International CINet Conference

Innovation and tradition: combining the old and the new

11-13 September 2016, Turin, Italy

Author guidelines – full papers

The annual Continuous Innovation Network conference aims to provide a forum for presenting and discussing papers that make a strong theoretical and empirical contribution to the conference theme and topics, and continuous innovation in the widest sense of the word. The submission criteria reflect this aim and ambition.

We expect three kinds of contributions:

- **Full papers**, reporting completed research – length 4,000-5,000 words.
- **Research notes**, putting forward a research idea, work-in-progress or any other relevant topic that you want to share with the other participants at the conference – length up to 2,000 words.
- **Practitioner presentations**.

These guidelines cover the submission of **full papers**.

Submission criteria

First, you are requested to use the [full paper template](#), which has been designed to facilitate the production of the proceedings with all contributions looking as consistent as possible. Manuscripts not meeting the specifications embedded in the template will be returned to the corresponding author.

Before you submit your paper, you should make sure that the paper meets all of the criteria listed below. The reviewers will pay attention to these criteria when assessing your paper. The criteria concern:

- The conference theme/topics.
- Theoretical and empirical background and relevance.
- Research objective, problem and/or hypotheses.
- Research design – operationalization, sampling, data sources, data collection and analysis methods, validity and reliability, generalizability.
- Presentation of the results.
- Discussion of the results.
- Conclusions - contribution to (continuous) innovation theory and practice.
- Limitations and further research.

The conference theme/topics – The conference each year has an overall theme and several topical session tracks related to the theme and (continuous) innovation in the widest sense of the word. In structuring your paper you need to ensure that the paper fits with the theme of the conference and is suitable for one of the identified session tracks. A high-quality paper might be rejected if it is outside the scope of the conference.

Theoretical and empirical background and relevance – The background section of your paper needs to describe and discuss the theoretical and empirical considerations behind your research. In writing that section, you should draw on literature that is relevant to studies of continuous innovation and adjacent fields. References to theory should be clear and explicit, and allow for a clear positioning of the contribution of the paper. You should also address the question why the research is important from a practical perspective. Overall, this means that the background section should clarify the significance of your research. Is it new and large enough? Is it interesting and important? For whom (researchers, practitioners)?

Research objectives, problem and/or hypotheses – Should be stated explicitly. Be very explicit in saying what the paper aims to achieve.

Research design – This section must address questions such as:

- How did you operationalize your research objective, problem and/or hypotheses?
- What sampling techniques and criteria did you use, and why? How large and representative is your sample?
- What techniques did you use to collect the data, and why? When and where was the data collected?
- What techniques did you use to analyze was the data, and why?
- How did you ensure the validity and reliability (or, alternatively, credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability, or usefulness and usability) of your research?
- How did you deal with generalizability?

Results – Present your results in sufficient detail to allow your readers to draw their own conclusions and assess if your analysis has been appropriate and sufficient.

Discussion – In the discussion section you should explain how you have addressed the research problem/objectives, by situating the results and linking them to the theoretical and empirical background. A discussion section without references to existing theory and practice is not a discussion section. This is where many papers fall short.

Conclusion – In the conclusion section, you need to clearly point out the contribution of your paper to (continuous) innovation theory and practice. Furthermore, you should address the limitations of, and questions emerging from, your study, as well as the implications (of these limitations and questions) for further research.

References – A complete list of references should be provided at the end of the paper. Papers without such a list will not be accepted.

Length – The length of the paper should be between 4,000 and 5,000 words – figures, tables, list of references and appendices included. Please note that it is not allowed to make images of tables and figures in order to avoid exceeding the words limit!

If your paper meets these criteria, it will be accepted for inclusion in the conference proceedings on the understanding that the paper is an original work and has not been copyrighted, published, or accepted for presentation at any other conference.

We look forward to welcoming you to Turin!