

Call for Papers

## **Managing Knowledge for Sustainability – IFKAD 2023 call for papers**

### ***Special Project Management track to be included***

10 November 2022 – London, UK and Matera, Italy – The International Forum for Knowledge Asset Dynamics (IFKAD) will hold their 2023 conference during 7-9 June 2023 in Madera, Italy. A call for abstracts has been issued, with abstracts due 16 January 2023. The aim of IFKAD 2023 is to develop an understanding of the new approaches, models, tools and practices of knowledge and innovation management required to effectively address the growing pressures and the emerging opportunities deriving from the “sustainability agenda”. ([www.ifkad.org](http://www.ifkad.org)). In the context of project management, a special track has been prepared.



### ***Organizing Projects for Sustainability: Knowledge Integration for Overcoming Organizational Tensions and Barriers***

The importance of sustainability in managing projects represents a key issue highly recognized both in the academic and practitioners’ debates (Huemann and Silvius, 2017; Nieto-Rodriguez A., 2021). Project managers face trade-off decisions when trying to reconcile sustainability-related objectives with iron triangle constraints in highly volatile and uncertain contexts (DeMeyer et al., 2002). Delivering effective projects in the current organizational environment requires an understanding of effective knowledge management for sustainability (Contreras-Medina et al., 2021; Suarez and Montes, 2020). In fact, tensions arise over sustainable objectives (temporality of objectives, organizational barrier, lack of control) putting under pressure organizational cases for project sustainability (Sabini and Alderman, 2021).

Knowledge management is often required in project settings to ensure proper coordination and effective achievement of conflicting project goals across organizational barriers. AI (artificial intelligence) may have a significant impact allowing project managers and team members to focus on higher-level, complex activities and planning. Project settings in fact are characterized by peculiar features such as: needs for coordination of activities, integration of knowledge and simultaneously autonomy requirements. Project characteristics influence knowledge integration: time constraints enable people to become involved quickly and to directly accomplish major tasks (Caligiuri et al., 2020). Nevertheless, knowledge sharing

may be superficial; domain specific working experience is not automatically transferred within the project or across projects.

Appropriate coordination mechanisms are needed to ensure that project activities are carried out recognizing existing interdependences (Bruns, 2013). For instance, joint planning, task allocation, meetings, social structures, are specific mechanisms that enable people to share and create organizational knowledge. Studying the relationship between projects and knowledge management for sustainability in the current scenario is a way of understanding how organizations work nowadays, and what practices take place (Lundin et al., 2015).

For more information, go to <https://www.ifkad.org/call-for-abstracts/>  
For Abstract submission: <https://www.ifkad.org/abstract-submission/>

## **Background**

Knowledge management has been widely acknowledged as an essential process to guarantee and support competitive organisational advantages. More recently, a renewed attention on the knowledge-based dimensions has emerged because of their fundamental role as a facilitator of strategies and enabling factors in the managerial and policy approaches and actions related to sustainability as multifaceted and complex concepts grouping environmental, political, economic, and socio-cultural issues.

The emerging context of sustainability orientation determines a set of changes in the positioning and in the business modelling of the organisations, where the issues of the social and environmental responsibility gain the same importance as the economic viability. Therefore, in this scenario, knowledge management needs to be treated as a new paradigm of development to foster compliance with the new economic, environmental and social sustainability guidelines.

Focusing on the organisations' new demands, constraints and opportunities regarding the requirements to be fitted with the sustainability implications, a significant need for studies discussing these issues further stands in different research streams. In particular, it seems to emerge an increasing need to understand better how to improve knowledge management processes and practices to better frame and assess the environmental, social and economic impact of sustainability-driven initiatives.

At the 18th edition of IFKAD, we wish to elaborate, extend and improve theories and discuss and share findings, practices and experiences to inform academic, managerial and policy debates about the role of the knowledge drivers to stimulate and support the organisational capacity to address the emerging challenges of the sustainability. By developing and implementing new products and services, re-thought operations, new ways to conceive and use technology and digitalisation, renewed relationships with customers and stakeholders, and new business models.

We look for your contribution to making IFKAD 2023 the forum and the place to advance academic understanding of how managing knowledge organisations can face business and socio-economic challenges related to sustainability both at the micro, meso and macro-level of investigation. Moreover, IFKAD 2023 aims to provide also valuable insights to help leaders, managers and policy-makers to re-think their organisations according to a new way to perform business and services and help them to try to answer the questions about what practical initiatives might be taken going beyond the rhetoric of the “greening”.

The IFKAD 2023 conference is organized in collaboration between **Arts for Business Institute**, **LUM University** and **University of Basilicata** together with our associate partner of Institute of Knowledge Asset Management.

*Editor's note: This announcement was provided by PMWJ correspondent [Antonio Bassi](#) who is also a member of the IFKAD Scientific Advisory Committee.*