



INNOVATORS' STRATEGIC ADVISORY BOARD ON PEOPLE- CENTERED INNOVATION TO G7 LEADERS

Chair's Summary

PREAMBLE

Under the G7 Italian Presidency, G7 Leaders convened in Taormina, recognized in their Communique how the Next Production Revolution (NPR) is going to offer an extraordinary opportunity to increase competitiveness and to boost an innovation-driven growth.

For the very first time, the G7 adopted in Taormina an Action Plan on Innovation Skills and Labor, whose main goals were to reassess the importance of putting people at the very heart of any technological advancement and to identify a set of Key Policy Priorities that would help in making innovation a source of well-being for our Countries and the whole mankind.



Governments need to understand the changing size, scope and shape of the digital economy if they are to maximize the opportunities available, and respond appropriately

In addition to this, Leaders recognized the importance that a stricter dialogue among innovation key stakeholders would have in order not only to provide the G7 with the most appropriate endorsement to their policies, but with first-hand insights on innovation issues too. To this end, the G7 decided to set up the I-7, as a “Strategic Advisory Board to G7 Leaders on People-Centered Innovation”, whose first meeting takes place today, September 25, under the supervision of the G7 Italian Presidency¹.

The I-7 contribution, under the form of this Chair’s Summary, will support the discussion of the Ministerial Meetings of the Innovation Week that are taking place at the same time. We, the I-7, would also stand ready to support the incoming Canadian G7 Presidency. The I-7 also believe that the main stakeholders of the innovation will benefit as well.

The I-7 concentrated their work on three parallel sessions:

- Artificial Intelligence (AI). How can AI help governments make better decisions and deliver policies and services more effectively?
- Big Data: from regulation to active management. How can a more proactive approach to Big Data lead to smarter countries?
- The changing nature of society: the future of work. How could innovation help deal with upcoming social and demographic changes?

By becoming model users, Governments can tap the unprecedented opportunities offered by digital innovation to develop policies and create new services with a positive impact not only on their citizens’ well-being and the job market but also on the innovation ecosystem as a whole. Technological innovation should give us hope, not despair. If history is a guide, the march of innovation should give every human more opportunity, not less, therefore we need to take concerted actions.

We summarize the discussion under the following 4 themes: training and education; technology; ethics and society; and jobs and income.

“TRAINING AND EDUCATION” KEY POINTS

- High Impact awareness, training and education programs about exponential trends in technology and other fields for the whole of society, including politicians, policy

¹ (See <https://teamdigitale.governo.it/en/i7.html> for the members of the Advisory Board).



makers and business leaders, faith leaders, opinion leaders, teachers and professors, journalists and the media. The need to acquire fundamental and new skills and competences, such as creativity and the capacity for solving tough, complex problems, logical reasoning, or coding, become imperative for all sectors in an advanced economy. Encourage basic technology and data literacy education in primary and secondary schools.

- Educational systems should support ‘lifelong learning’ and retraining of the workforce.
- Alongside the above, education should also include the key human attributes of creativity, originality, reciprocity, responsiveness, empathy and adaptability.

“TECHNOLOGY” KEY POINTS

- APIs are the nervous system of the 21st century. Silos that prevent data integration are greatly reducing the power of high-variety data to deliver deep insights. To overcome these, we encourage collaboration on common open APIs in sectors of shared importance and promote access to and exchange of data.
- The development and maintenance of trust among citizens and businesses is critically important for the effective implementation of AI solutions. The corollary of trust is trustworthiness. All of those that participate in the development of such systems should recognize the importance of behaving in a trustworthy fashion. This includes consistent observance of best practices to maintain security and privacy. AI technology itself can be used to enhance security and privacy.
- G7 countries should acknowledge the importance of innovative applications of AI for government work and the opportunities for collaborations between them.
- Governments around the world are implementing machine learning and AI to develop and deliver services. We encourage sharing amongst G7 Countries of best practices and lessons learnt from these examples.
- G7 Countries encourage research in key scientific, technological and societal fields to provide an environment conducive to the emergence of innovation and development of a digital economy. Advancement in security technology is a key priority.

“ETHICS AND SOCIETY” KEY POINTS

- The transformational nature of Big Data will require continuous adaptation of all key actors involved – governmental bodies, businesses, citizens – in their multiple roles of data generators, data analysts, and end users, and a different conversation on the concepts of digital privacy, data ownerships, and digital security, and accountability in the sharing and use of the data.
- Policy makers and providers of AI based services should consider how they can be delivered in the most inclusive fashion.



“JOBS AND INCOME” KEY POINTS

- The new technology platforms have created new working environments and the so called ‘gig’ economy. Governments need to consider how to recognize and encourage these new platforms and to consider the terms and conditions under which this new workforce operates.
- It is important to monitor and measure what kinds of jobs are created, changed and lost. This will help businesses and policy makers to constantly update the attributes needed for modern workplaces.
- In the era of increasing automation, we need to find better ways of measuring the ‘gig’ economy, non-paid labour, volunteering, to improve social inclusion and civic engagement.

