

# The enterprise 4.0 paradigm: An international benchmark

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## Abstract

The current context of higher global competition and more complex customer demands pushes the manufacturing companies to provide value-added products to the market in a faster and more reliable way. According to this view, companies can exploit the outstanding improvements in digital technologies whose adoption has brought to the so-called fourth industrial revolution, also known as “Industry 4.0” (I4.0). Indeed, technologies such as Additive Manufacturing (AM), Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), Big Data & Advanced Analytics, Virtual & Augmented Reality and Cloud Manufacturing are turning companies into “smart enterprises”, where all the processes and the resources are interconnected. Although several contributions have been made concerning the investigation of adopted technologies and the benefits related to this new paradigm, it seems that no study has been conducted regarding the adoption level of Industry 4.0 principles in Italy, who plays a very important role in the European manufacturing context. Thus, this research is aimed to make firstly a general review of I4.0 paradigm in Italy through an exploratory survey. Then in the next future, by adopting the same methodology, we will extend the boundaries of the research involving companies of other countries (Germany, as first target), in order to highlight eventual differences compared to Italy. Consequently, by analyzing the survey result, we would try to find the best practice, and build up potential benchmark. Finally, a data-driven managerial framework is to be developed which could facilitate the smart decision-making process.

## Research Structure

