

By Benoît Gailly, 1 January 2018

Introduction: Make sense of innovation

Browse the chapters to discover the innovation management body of knowledge, or scroll down to know more about our project and discover our Zinnovants cartoons

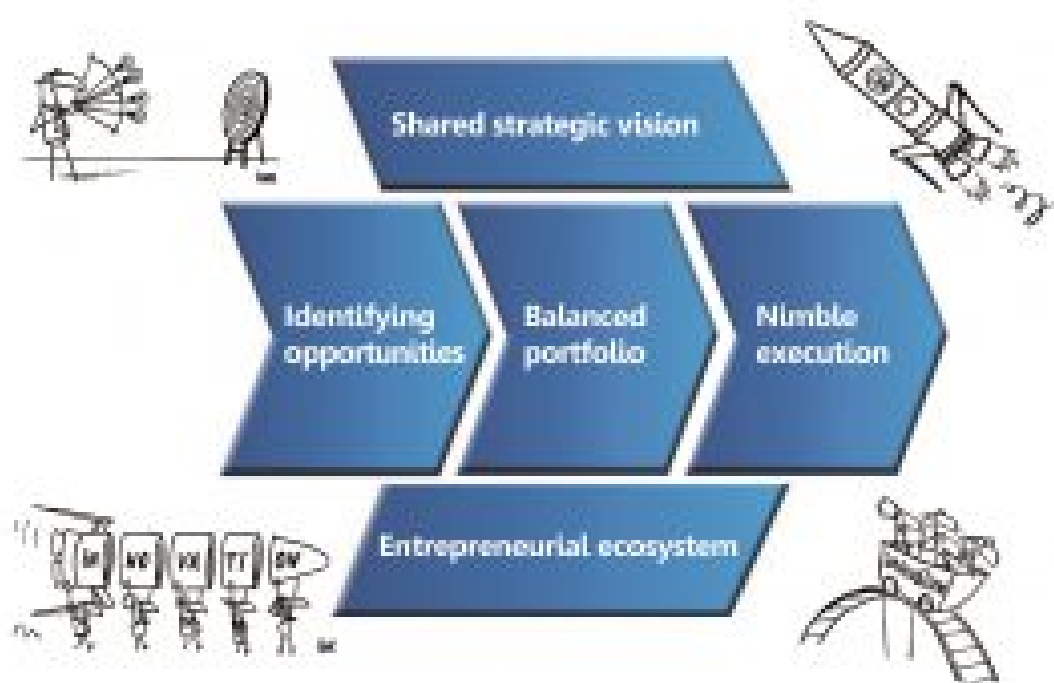
Innovation is today on top of the agenda of managers, entrepreneurs and policymakers. It is an opportunity to develop and grow new business models but also a threat to existing ones. It is also a societal challenge, as entire professions disappear while new ones are created, and as our ecosystems are disrupted and threatened. Simply ignoring innovation is therefore not an option.

But innovation debates too often seem more like buzzword competitions than rigorous management thinking. From digital transformation to industry 4.0, from sustainable business models to crowd-hackathons, managers can get lost in what has often become a complex and confusing maze of ideas, concepts, tools and initiatives. The scientific literature on innovation can often be a valuable source of knowledge and inspiration, but navigating through this literature remains a challenge for most non-scholars.

As a consequence, too many managers, entrepreneurs and policymakers still live and think in “innovation wonderland,” a place where great opportunities are just an ideation workshop away, where spending more on R&D or creativity sessions is the key to success, where crowds always have wisdom and where being the first to move is always the winning option.

But in the real world of innovation, opportunities must be hunted and matured, distinctive innovation management capabilities must be developed and tough strategic choices regarding innovations must be made. Being a very creative business is one thing; successfully managing innovations is another.

The key to innovation success is to do much more than generate ideas. The key to innovation success is to have an organization capable of effectively identifying, prioritizing and capturing innovation opportunities, in line with its strategy and ecosystem.



(c) Prof. J. Bessant Gailly, executive director of IPdigit

The key to innovation success is therefore more “brain” and less “storming”!

Building upon previous scholarly initiatives, the goal of the Navigating Innovation portal is to develop and maintain an open, easy-to-navigate and up-to-date online access to the fundamentals of innovation management, through a structured selection of the main high-quality scientific articles regarding innovation management and its challenges (you can find a detailed description of the objectives and methodology in the [Appendix](#)).

You will find in this site some key insights and selected references, organized along the five innovation challenges and the key issues they involve. Feel free to explore them using the menu in the left column, or get the (e)book to access a more detailed presentation of the key insights.

You can find [here](#) the review of our work by Prof. J. Bessant, published in *International Journal of Innovation Management*.

You can also test your Business Innovation Potential through our self-assessment survey (available [here](#)).

Welcome to the real world of innovation. Fasten your seat belt and enjoy the journey!

Adapted from Gailly B. (2018), “Navigating Innovation: How to Identify, Prioritize and Capture Opportunities for Strategic Success”. Introduction text reproduced with permission of Palgrave Macmillan.

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