CODESNET: basics and outcomes of a EU project on collaborative networks

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ABSTRACT:
The EU Co-ordination Action "CO-DESNET (Collaborative Demand and Supply NETwork)" aims to promote the diffusion of the European scientific knowledge on the problem of designing and managing large-scale multi-functional Collaborative Demand & Supply Networks, that means networks of production and service enterprises. The strategic intent of the European Commission concerning the VI and VII Framework Programmes is to support research and development, privileging environment and welfare sustainability. This implies the search for criteria and conditions to support SMEs by creating new kinds of multi-SME industrial networks, in which SMEs operate together in the light of a collaborative agreement.

What does 'collaborative' mean? Which interactions between them should be regulated by a 'collaborative agreement'? How could an effective profit increase for both SMEs be obtained through 'collaborative management'? All these questions are facing both managers and politicians all over Europe.

The paper describes the model for the analysis of multi-body industrial networks adopted for the development of the CODESNET project. The model assists the investigation on different types of interactions among the SMEs inside the network and different types of collaborative decisions involving the relationships with the outside context.

Based on this simple model, the project aims to give suggestions about the links among different characteristics of the industrial networks, such as cooperation strength, network dimension and profit variation.

Besides a presentation of the basic SME network model, the proposed contribution will give a description of the outcomes obtained in the years of project activity.

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All information concerning CODESNET project can be found at the web site www.codesnet.polito.it.