

Ivan Napoli

☎ +39 345 4547957 • ✉ ivan.napoli@unicatt.it • 🌐 ivannapo.github.io
in ivan-napoli-0123 • DOB: 21/05/1998

Profile

Applied economist and PhD researcher in the economics of innovation with experience in digital technologies and the impact of Artificial Intelligence on development and economic systems.

Solid background and field experience in Sub-Saharan Africa in quantitative analysis, financial inclusion, and evidence-based policy support within international organizations.

Strong analytical and writing skills, with experience supporting socially inclusive development strategies.

Professional Experience

IGC, London School of Economics (LSE) and University of Oxford **Lusaka, Zambia**
PhD Fellow and Consultant - Zambia Evidence Lab 06/2025 – 09/2025

- Selected for a **competitive PhD fellowship** supporting field-based research on supporting inclusive finance through **AI-oriented solutions** and **development policy**. The programme is a joint initiative of LSE and Oxford University under the International Growth Centre and supported by the Zambian Ministry of Finance.
- Conducted **policy-oriented analysis** of national household and labour surveys (Labour Force Survey, ICT Survey), focusing on **vulnerable groups**, **labour market access**, and **financial inclusion**. The goal was to inform inclusive finance and digital learning strategies, in collaboration with Central Bank of Zambia.
- Performed **quantitative analysis** on demographic, employment, and digital usage indicators to support **evidence-based recommendations for AI-driven inclusive credit strategies** and **digital education access**.
- Engaged with national stakeholders, financial institutions, and public agencies to align research with **policy implementation** and local development priorities.

United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) **Geneva, Switzerland**
Researcher - Technology, Innovation, and Knowledge Development 03/2024 – 06/2024

- Conducted research on **national industrial and innovation policies**, analyzing OECD and national datasets to inform UNCTAD's policy work.
- Provided analytical support to the **Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)**, contributing to global discussions on **digital transformation** and **AI governance**.

MFR – MicroFinanza Global Rating Agency **Milan, Italy**
Financial and Economic Inclusion Analyst 04/2023 – 01/2024

- Conducted **field assessments** of microfinance institutions, banks, and non-banking financial institutions through on-site assessments, actively engaging with institutions and interviewing key figures, to ensure a **comprehensive evaluation of financial and social performance**.
- Performed **Social Ratings, ESG Ratings, and Client Protection Certifications** under the **European Investment Bank (EIB) SIFTA (InvestEU) program**, ensuring compliance with **international standards for responsible finance**.
- Fine-tuned and updated **macro-financial benchmarking tools**, analyzing **regional economic trends** and integrating data from **international statistics and global development databases**.
- Analysed **financial institutions and regulatory frameworks** in emerging markets, with a focus on **access to finance, risk assessment** and **sustainable investment**.

CISL Lombardia **Milan, Italy**
Economic and Social Researcher 12/2022 – 03/2023

- Conducted **quantitative and qualitative research** on labour conditions, employment trends, and worker vulnerability.
- Presented applied research reports to national stakeholders addressing gender equality, labour rights, and digital inclusion at the regional level.

Education

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore **Milan, Italy**
PhD in Economics of Innovation 10/2023 – Present

Research focus: Artificial Intelligence, economic transformation, and social sustainability.

Teaching Activity: The Economics of Digital Transformation (AI, Human Capital and Growth in Developing Countries) (8h) - Graduate Course.

- Digital Humanism Jr. Visiting Fellowship; Institute for Human Sciences (IWM); Wien, Austria**
Competitive PhD fellowship funded by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure.

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
MSc Economics, Finance and International Markets
Final grade: 110 cum laude/110

Milan, Italy
09/2020 – 10/2022

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
Bachelor in Economics and Service Management
Final grade: 110 cum laude/110

Milan, Italy
09/2017 – 07/2020

Skills

Languages: Italian (Native), English (C1), French (B1)

Digital Skills: Stata, Excel (Pivot Tables, Simtools), LaTeX, Microsoft Office Suite, Python (API), Databases (World Bank, Orbis-Bureau van Dijk, WDI), ATLAS

Policy Works and Public Outreach

A Deal With the Algorithm in the African Gig Economy: IWMpost – Dimensions of Digital Transformation
Technology and Innovation Report 2025, UNCTAD: Technology and Innovation Report 2025

Training and Awards

2025: BREAD-IGC Social Protection Advanced Course

- I completed a 12-weeks advanced course on the economics of social protection in low- and middle-income countries, covering beneficiary targeting, program design, digital delivery, and impact evaluation.

2025: Workshop: Artificial Intelligence Algorithms in Practice – University of Groningen

- I completed an intensive, hands-on training on the application of artificial intelligence across diverse policy and research domains.
- I developed AI solutions for forecasting, sentiment analysis, and classification using Python (XGBoost, neural networks, LSTM).

2024: Advanced Training in Impact Evaluation of Development Policies – Sapienza University and IFAD

- I was engaged in hands-on training with policy examples using STATA, and acquired competencies in evaluating public policy in developing contexts.
- The course was delivered in collaboration with experts from FAO, IFAD and the World Bank.

2024: Global Youth Leaders Program – Innovation and Digital Transformation (G7-G20)

- Selected to engage with experts from the Italian G7 Presidency, international organizations and major companies, contributing to policy proposals.
- The program is supported by ILO, UNDP, OECD, UNICEF, UN SDG Lab, FAO, WFP, UNSSC.

Conferences (Presenting Author)

2025: IWM Fellows Conference - Digital Humanism, IWM Vienna.

2025: Seminar Presentation, TU Vienna.

2025: REGIS Innovation Studies Summer School, Bordeaux

2025: Workshop on the Organization, Economics and Policy of Scientific Research, Strasbourg.

2024: 12th Workshop in Economics of Innovation, Complexity and Knowledge, Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin.

2024: 9th Edition KU Leuven Data and Algorithms for STI Studies, Antwerp.