

Ivan Napoli

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Profile

Innovation Economics PhD researcher with expertise in AI impact analysis and international experience with field exposure in **impact evaluation**, **financial inclusion** and **economic development**. Skilled in **data-driven research**, **quantitative** and **qualitative analysis**, and clear research **communication**. Ability to engage in multilateral cooperation and international project collaboration.

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 was hosted by the Zambia Evidence Lab under the International Growth Centre, a joint initiative of LSE and Oxford University supported by the Zambian Ministry of Finance.

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 **technology 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**.
- Collaborated with **institutional stakeholders** to enhance **access to finance for underserved populations**, reinforcing the role of **inclusive finance in sustainable development**.

CISL Lombardia

Milan, Italy

Economic and Social Researcher

12/2022 – 03/2023

- Conducted **quantitative and qualitative research** on **labour economics, working conditions, and industrial relations** in Lombardy.
- Designed and analyzed **surveys on worker welfare and employment trends** to inform **union policy recommendations**.
- Contributed to research reports, including *"La Voce delle Donne Iscritte a CISL Lombardia"* (2023) and *"White Blue Collar"* (2024), contributing to regional discussions on **gender equality and labour rights**.

Cerved Master Services SpA

San Donato Milanese, Italy

Operations and Risk Analysis Intern

03/2022 – 09/2022

- Assisted in **regulatory compliance monitoring, risk assessments, and anti-money laundering (AML) reporting**.
- Evaluated **financial risk and supervisory reporting obligations** for structured finance portfolios.

Education

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Milan, Italy

PhD in Economics of Innovation

10/2023 – Present

Research focus: AI, labour markets, economic transformation, and social sustainability.

Teaching Activity: Economics of Innovation and Innovation Policy (8h) - Graduate Course.

- “Chat-PhD”: The Role of LLMs in Shaping the Research Practices and Productivity of Young Scholars.
- Harnessing AI for Inclusive Finance in Zambia through Alternative Data Credit Scoring.

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, Databases (World Bank, Orbis-Bureau van Dijk, WDI), ATLAS

Policy Works

Technology and Innovation Report 2025, UNCTAD: <https://www.un-ilibrary.org/content/books/9789211068016>

Training and Awards

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, credit scoring, and classification using Python (XGBoost, neural networks, LSTM).

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

- I completed an advanced training program focused on impact evaluation of development policies and programs.
- 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)

- I was selected for the Global Youth Leaders Program 2024 in the “Innovation and Digital Transformation” priority area.
- I engaged 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 and others.

Conferences (Presenting Author)

2025: REGIS Innovation Studies Summer School, Bordeaux

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

2025: REGIS discussant for Italy, presenting “Who is Replacing AI? The Impact of Generative AI on Online Freelancing Platforms” by Demirci et al.

2024: 12th Edition Workshop in Economics of Innovation, Complexity and Knowledge, Torino.

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

Certificates

2019: IELTS, overall score: 7.5 (C1+), issued by British Council Milan.

2020: BMC, Financial markets topics and introduction to the Bloomberg terminal, issued by Bloomberg.

2020: Fundamentals of project management, issued by FormaTerziario, Milan.

2020: Excel extra-curricular course, issued by FormaTerziario, Milan.

Volunteering

Mi Ami Festival

Volunteer Staff

Milan, Italy

2022 – Current

- I assist in the planning and execution of Mi Ami Festival, an annual alternative music festival, and I contribute to logistics, on-site coordination, and artist liaison activities, collaborating with a diverse team of volunteers and professionals.