

The EU manufacturing output stands for 15% of the overall member states' GDP and EU has declared that the goal is to increase this level by 20% by the year 2020.

However, since 2008 over 3.4 million jobs have been lost in the metal industry and several studies threaten further losses in the next years. At the same time new production paradigms are growing, especially those guided by new processes of digitization of manufacturing.

The most iconic one is the so-called Industry 4.0 paradigm, a is a new production system resulting from the application of the new Internet of Things and Services to manufacturing. A paradigm born as a German economic policy but quickly spread around Europe and also in countries ad US and China. Industry 4.0 represents a game changer affecting all the activities linked to manufacturing, from planning to processes, from products to work organization and worker's skills...

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