

Abstracts

COOKE, P.: "From Technopoles to Regional Innovation Systems: The Evolution of Localised Technology Development Policy". This paper critically reviews linear thinking in innovation and technological policies as they are expressed in regional economic development terms. Beginning with a review of two classic technopoles in France and Japan, it is concluded that mere geographical proximity does not induce interactive innovation or innovation synergies. Drawing on some mature European cases from Germanic areas it is shown that soft infrastructure networked around intermediary service-providing agencies is a superior, but still-limited approach. Finally, the paper advocates Regional Innovation Systems and strategies to enhance the interactive capabilities of these as a new and exciting approach to integrating firms and intermediaries with the innovation or science base to maximise regional innovation potential.

MAILLAT, D. and L. KEBIR.: "Framework Conditions and Competitiveness Reconsidered" [Conditions cadre et compétitivité: une relecture].. This paper explores the role of framework conditions and their adequacy to the current modalities of competitiveness. In the context of globalisation, it appears that homogenising conditions aiming at the reduction of disparities in terms of infrastructure and production costs are no longer sufficient. Though it is still appropriate to maintain a certain level of infrastructure, framework conditions have to encourage the specification of the various territorial systems of production and the development of collective learning processes. The paper concludes that these conditions must take into account the heterogeneity of space and thus support the maintenance and the development of specific resources, the activation of learning processes and the improvement of accessibility to various markets, networks and mobile resources.

LAMARI, M., R. LANDRY and N. AMARA: "Learning and Innovation: An Econometric Analysis of Firm Survey Data from the Regions of Quebec and Chaudière-Appalache" [Apprentissage et innovation: une analyse économétrique à partir de données d'enquête dans les entreprises des régions de Québec et de Chaudière-Appalaches]. This paper addresses the following question: What is the impact of learning on innovation? Based on the data of the 1998 regional innovation survey of the Chaudière-Appalaches and Québec City regions, the paper estimates a multinomial logit model to test various hypotheses related to learning. The findings of this study suggest that learning by using (advanced technologies) and learning by searching (learning through R&D) constitute the major determinants of process, product, as well as simultaneous product and process innovations. To a lesser extent, learning by interacting (measured by networking and trust) and learning by regional externalities (learning region) and learning from industry spillovers also represent contextual factors that are required to innovate. The last part of the paper discusses these findings and some policy implications regarding the promotion of innovation at the regional level.

LAGENDIJK, A.: "Regional Learning Between Variation and Convergence: The Concept of 'Mixed Land-Use' in Regional Spatial Planning in The Netherlands". Recent literature on regional learning has started to pay more attention to the external aspects of regional learning, that is, to the inter- (or supra-) regional dimension of learning. Learning dynamics, in this context, is characterised by a continuous dialectic of convergence and variation. Tendencies towards convergence stem from the fact that many regions face similar pressures (e.g. competitiveness, environment, land-use claims), constraints (e.g. broader institutional and policy frameworks and processes), and opportunities (e.g. financing, national and international programmes). Partly as a result of this, regional actors tend to focus on similar problems and draw on comparable solutions (partnerships, cluster competitiveness strategies, etc.). Variation, on the other hand, is a consequence of the fact that the actual sites of

learning - the regional settings in which specific strategies are developed and policies are implemented - present unique processes of learning. Drawing on the recent regional literature, in combination with new insights into theories of knowledge development, this paper will explore the learning dynamics in an interregional perspective. The object of study is the evolution of innovative concepts in regional spatial planning, focusing, in particular, on the institutional-organisational setting in which such innovative concepts evolve.

ISAKSEN, A.: "Building Regional Innovation Systems: Is Endogenous Industrial Development Possible in the Global Economy?". The article discusses regionalisation as an important aspect of economic globalisation and as a starting point in shaping endogenous industrial policy that is adapted to specific regional circumstances. For these tasks, the article suggests definitions of central concepts as regional clusters, regional innovations systems and systems barriers that emphasize the importance of 'non-economic' factors to a much larger extent than typically found in the Porterian approach. The article then refers to the a consolidation attempt on the part of Ericsson, which took place in Norway a few years ago, in order to illustrate both threats and possibilities for local industrial development in the global economy. This event includes the decision made by the transnational corporation Ericsson to relocate one of their development departments from a small Norwegian town to the capital region, and the later change of plan because very few of the engineers seem to be willing to move along with the department. Lastly, the article departs from the Ericsson event to discuss, from the regional innovation system perspective, possible development policies to anchor units of transnational corporations to a local area.

GUILLAUME, R.: "Local Production Systems , Public Action and Innovation: the Example of 'Mecanic Valley' (Midi-Pyrénées, Southern France)"[Systèmes productifs localisés, action publique et innovation :

l'exemple de la 'Mécanic vallée' (Midi-Pyrénées-France)]. The industrial configuration of the Midi-Pyrénées region enables the identification of a number of zones, beyond that of the regional capital Toulouse, characterised by a spatial concentration of firms in closely related economic sectors. Amongst these territorial entities, 'Mecanic Valley' has a unique configuration. Identified by the DATAR (the French regional development agency) as one of the 60 French local production systems, its most striking characteristic is its great heterogeneity. The objective of this paper is to present an analysis of the zone's economic structure, and to describe the institutional framework within which this local production system has developed. The conclusions draw out the role played by the various public bodies which have overseen the valley's development.