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Manfred M. Fischer · Javier Revilla Diez
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In Association with Attila Varga

Metropolitan Innovation Systems

Theory and Evidence from Three
Metropolitan Regions in Europe

With 40 Figures
and 159 Tables



Springer

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ISBN 978-3-642-07548-3

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data applied for
Die Deutsche Bibliothek – CIP-Einheitsaufnahme

Fischer, Manfred M.: Metropolitan Innovation Systems: Theory and Evidence from Three Metropolitan Regions in Europe / Manfred M. Fischer; Javier Revilla Diez; Folke Snickars. In Assoc. with Attila Varga. – Berlin; Heidelberg; New York; Barcelona; Hong Kong; London; Milan; Paris; Singapore; Tokyo: Springer, 2001

(Advances in Spatial Science)

ISBN 978-3-642-07548-3 ISBN 978-3-662-04630-2 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-3-662-04630-2

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© Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2001

Originally published by Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg New York in 2001

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2001

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Hardcover-Design: Erich Kirchner, Heidelberg

SPIN 10835130

42/2202-5 4 3 2 1 0 – Printed on acid-free paper

Preface

This book presents the findings of a comparative study of three European metropolitan regions: Vienna, Barcelona and Stockholm. The heart of the work consists of empirical studies carefully designed and developed in order to identify the main actors and mechanisms supporting technological innovation in each of the metropolitan regions. The authors have also highlighted the similarities and differences across regions and countries, investigating how these came to be, and discussing the possible implications.

The introductory as well as the concluding Chapter was written by Manfred M. Fischer who, assisted by Attila Varga, was also responsible for Chapter 2 on the Metropolitan Region of Vienna. Javier Revilla Diez contributed Chapter 3 on the Barcelona Metropolitan Region. Folke Snickars has provided Chapter 4 which examines the Metropolitan Region of Stockholm and. All authors have reviewed and commented on the whole contents so that the volume represents a collective endeavour which has been rendered as homogeneous as possible. A particular effort has been made to ensure that the study is based on a common conceptual framework.

The project that led to this book was an integral part of the second stage of a larger research programme concerning 'Technological Change and Regional Development in Europe' sponsored by the German Research Foundation and ably managed by Ludwig Schätzl (University of Hanover), the overall project co-ordinator. The research has been conducted through a partnership of five research institutions: the University of Hanover, the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, the Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm, the Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, and the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

The authors of this volume wish to thank Vera Mayer, Walter Rohn (both of the Austrian Academy of Sciences), Ingo Liefner (University of Hanover) and Olof Seidel (The Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm) for providing fundamental help in conducting the postal surveys. The design of the surveys has drawn heavily on the questionnaires developed by Ludwig Schätzl (University of Hanover), Rolf Sternberg (University of Cologne), Max Fritsch (Technical University of Freiberg), Frieder Meyer-Krahmer and Knut Koschatzky (Frauenhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research) in the first stage of the above research programme of the German Research Foundation with a focus on Central European regions. The use of professional translation in the production of the questionnaire forms and the exercise of central control (University of Hanover) over the sampling methodologies and production of the questionnaires

has been crucial to the optimisation of this European metropolitan innovation survey.

We wish to acknowledge the support provided by the German Research Foundation, the Institute for Urban and Regional Research at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Department of Economic Geography and Geoinformatics at Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, the Institute of Geography at the University of Hanover and the Department of Infrastructure and Planning at the Royal Institute of Technology Stockholm. We would like to thank Thomas Seyffertitz for his capable assistance in co-ordinating the various stages of preparation of the book. Finally, we would like to thank Angela Spence for providing expert editorial assistance. Her care and attention to the linguistic editing and indexing, together with her efforts in the production of the final copy have considerably enhanced the quality of the work presented here.

March, 2001

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