



How are cluster and RIS policies supporting global open innovation?

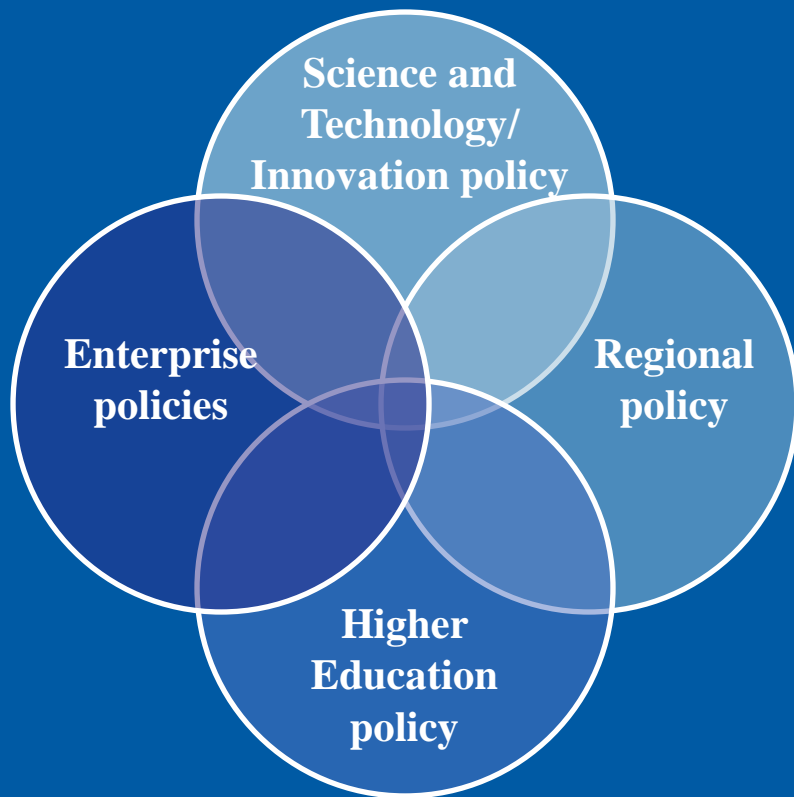
Symposium on Global Open
Innovation Networks

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Different national policy streams support clusters and regional innovation systems...

Policy family	Old Paradigm	New Paradigm
Regional	Redistribution from leading to lagging regions	Building competitive regions by bringing together actors and targeting key local assets
Science and Technology/Innovation	Financing of individual, single sector projects in basic research	Financing of collaborative and multi-sectoral research involving industry and commercialisation
Enterprise	Subsidies to firms; national champions	Supporting common needs of firm groups and technology absorption (especially SMEs); Promoting spillovers from MNEs
Higher Education	Focus on teaching role of HEI and on basic research	Promoting closer links with industry and joint research; more specialisation among HEIs

...leading to a convergence of objectives that may support open innovation



- Many programmes effectively link objectives for more than one policy stream
- Most programmes require collaboration across types of actors (large firms, small firms, HEIs, PROs)
- Changes in objectives over time:
 - SME networks to competitiveness clusters
 - Increasing focus on innovation

Type of support for open innovation will depend on policy goals/ targets

Places	Sectors/ Clusters	Actors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Leading ✓ Lagging ✓ Hubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dynamic ✓ Exposed ✓ Strategic importance (growth potential, technology) ✓ Social importance (major employer, environmental) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Universities ✓ Spin-off firms ✓ All small firms ✓ Large firms ✓ Foreign firms & investors



National objectives	or	Regional objectives
Dynamic sectors	or	Exposed sectors
Leading regions	or	Lagging regions
All sectors	or	Strategic industries
Small firms	or	Large & foreign firms

Support for open innovation across levels of government

	Federal, decentralised	Centralised	Small country
Innovation environment	↔	↑	↑
Innovation poles, clusters and science parks	↓	↔	↔
R&D, basic research/applied	↔	↑	↑
Enterprise support for innovative firms	↓	↔	↔

↔ = both central and regional levels involved

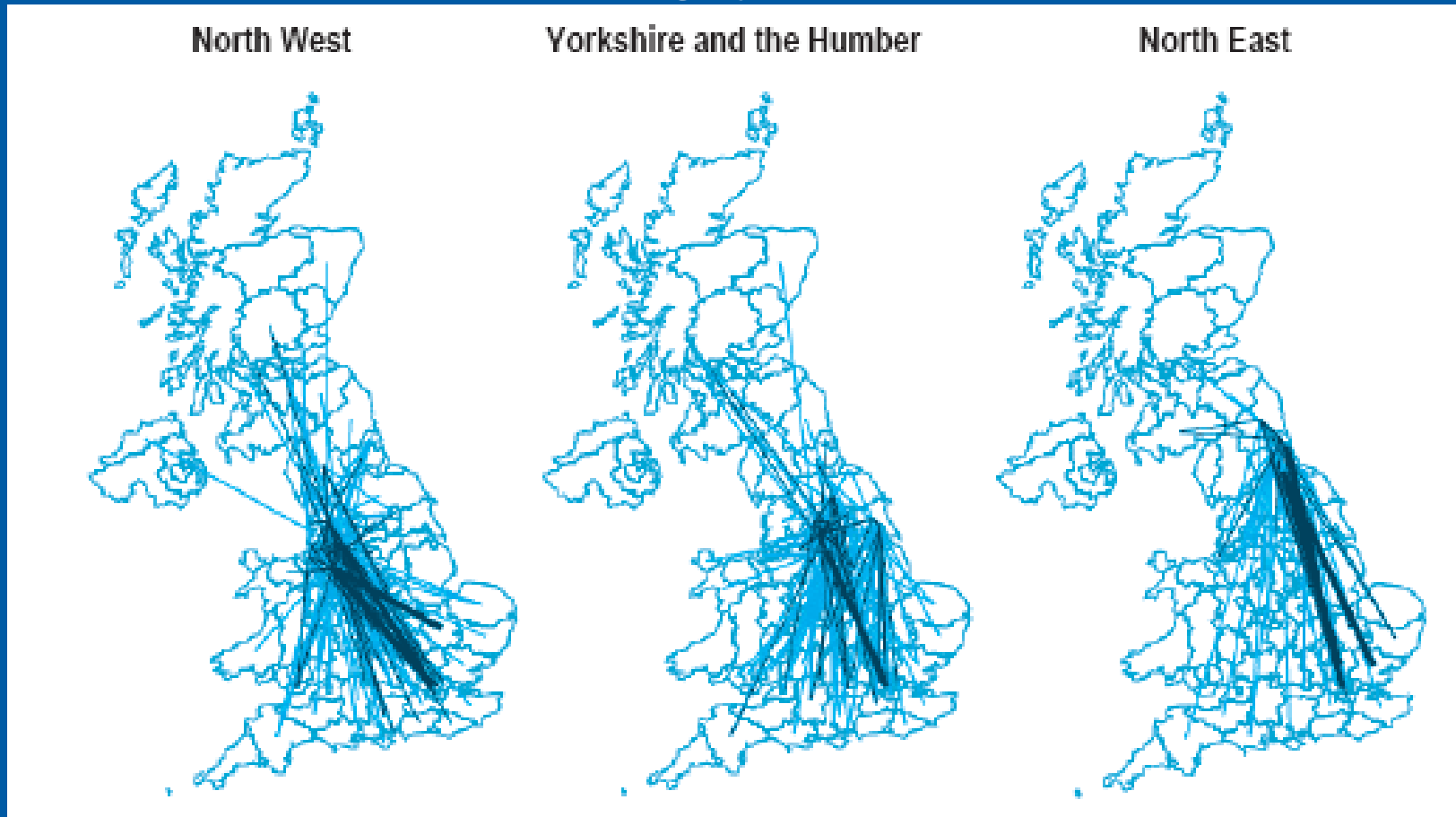
↑ = essentially a national responsibility

↓ = essentially a regional responsibility

Potential policy pitfalls

Policies may promote networking with nearest, not necessarily best, partner

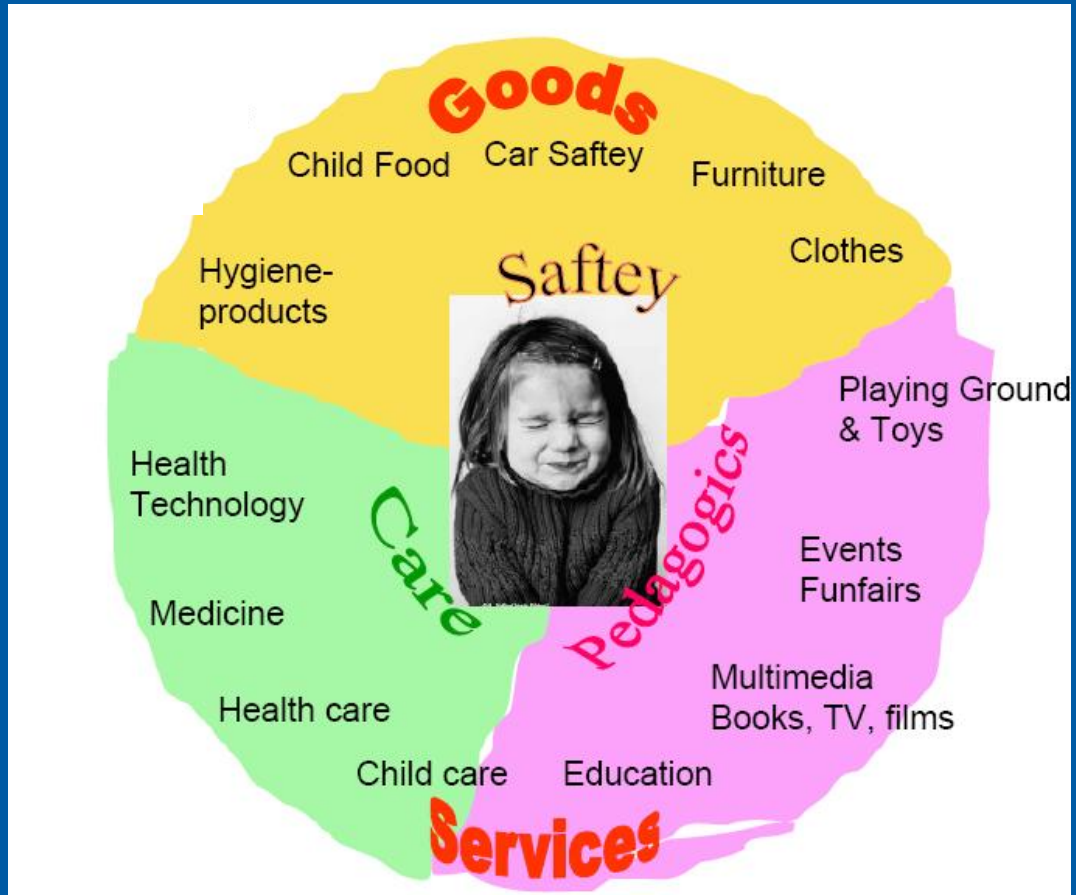
Co-patenting by inventor, 2004



A cluster policy approach that is too sectoral may limit multi-disciplinary collaboration

Children's play, learning and education cluster

County Södermanland, Sweden



Other potential policy pitfalls

- Instruments promoted in regional innovation strategies often supply rather than demand driven
- Artificial boundaries for target areas
- Institutional clutter making networking more complicated
- Collaboration promotion entities (cluster initiatives, technology platforms, etc.) may only last as long as the public funding

Reaping the benefits of global open innovation in all regions

- Regions do not sufficiently understand their niche in global networks when designing policies
- Regions may build areas of research expertise but not capture the economic benefit
- Spatially blind innovation policies often picked up by leading regions, questions as to how to better engage “ordinary” regions

Additional publications regarding regional innovation systems

