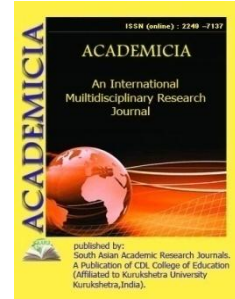


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A REVIEW ON NETWORKING AND INNOVATION: THE POTENTIAL ROLE OF INNOVATION POLES

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ABSTRACT

There is considerable discussion in the literature about how to make Industrial Symbiosis (IS) effective, as well as the variables that may influence its implementation, such as networking and creativity. They've found little room for study thus far, preferring to focus on other technical and economic problems including the nature of the processes involved, regulatory difficulties, economic feasibility, and stakeholder engagement. They may, however, become important in certain situations, particularly when examined collectively and in their synergistic interplay. The Innovation Poles (IPs), which are government-sponsored consortia created within EU programs with the goal of stimulating innovation within networks of organizations and promoting competitiveness in specific industries or value chains at a local or regional level, are an interesting context to consider in this regard. In this article, we first describe how these issues have been handled in IS research so far, and then we examine the key characteristics of the IP model in order to determine if and how it may help to the growth and spread of IS. The study's knowledge base was built on a review of the literature through desktop analysis and direct investigation, with an emphasis on Italian patents. The findings indicate the beneficial role that the IP model may play, both in terms of its institutional activity of knowledge creation and distribution and, more importantly, as an applicative framework for IS.

KEYWORDS: *Clusters; Industrial Ecology, Industrial Symbiosis, Innovation, Innovation Poles, Networks.*

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