Technology parks, a tool for innovation policies

An example: Sophia Antipolis

J.N. DURVY
SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS FONDATION
Innovation policy: the regional dimension

- INNOVATION POLICY: from framework conditions to demand side and supply side measures,

- THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL,

- FOCUS: Territorial dimension of innovation policy,

- SMART SPECIALISATION CONCEPT. (See D. FORAY)
Clusters

- Clusters, technology parks, incubators, innovation and business networks are instruments of regional / local innovation policies.

- Clusters: "Regional concentrations of enterprises active in a given area and of institutions, that maintain multiple linkages among each others".
Main characteristics of clusters

- Networks of enterprises and institutions that cooperate with each other on the basis of common interests and complementarities.
- Spatial proximity,
- Co-opetition
- Specialization,
- Market oriented,
- Cluster management team.
Science and technology parks

A Technology park:

- Facilitates the transfer of knowledge among universities, research centers and enterprises,
  (Technology transfer, cross-fertilisation, etc…)
- Supports the creation and development of start-up (incubation) and provides appropriate services (including planning and space facilities),
- Fosters networking, entrepreneurship and business development,
- Technology park management team to stimulate internal networking and cross fertilization as well as external promotion.

There is an International Association (IASP) created by Pierre LAFFITTE in 1984, currently managed in Malaga (President: Mr Sanz) and composed of 372 members from 66 countries.
Clusters / Technology Parks

- A cluster is specialised,
- A technology park can be specialised or multi-disciplinar,
- Multi-disciplinarity is important: many innovation are born at the cross road of different technology areas.

*Example:* 6 clusters are represented in Sophia Antipolis.
SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS : a surprising success

At the start : An international airport, a world-class touristic area, Parfum in Grasse and IBM in La Gaude.

But :

- No specific industrial tradition,
- No specific strength to build on,
- No world class university,
- No multinational company to structure the development of the park,
- No big metropolitan area.

A vision of Pierre LAFFITTE :
“Le quartier latin aux champs”
Some pictures of Sophia Antipolis
Some figures about Sophia Antipolis

- 1400 entities,
- 35000 jobs (50 nationalities) and 5000 students,
- 2 400 hectares,
- A potential of 2 000 000 m² offices (currently 1.3 mo),
- 5 000 researchers and 14 000 engineers.
A few examples of organisations located in Sophia Antipolis

- THALES
- ETSI
- plan bleu
- ACRI
- SOLUTIONS COMMUNAUTAIRES
- GALDERMA
- Alcatel-Lucent
- INRA
- CSTB
- EURECOM
- AIR FRANCE
- CHANEL
- ERCIM
- MINES PARIS
- Atos
- Origin
- SIEMENS
- W3C
- Bouygues
- SAP
- Inserm
- amadeus
- symantec
- Bayer CropScience
- ERCIM
- Université Nice Sophia Antipolis
- INRIA
- TELECOM PARIS
- Orange
- Schneider Electric
- Office International de l'Eau
- skema BUSINESS SCHOOL
- NXP SOFTWARE
- GDF SUEZ
- Carma
- Office International de l'Eau
- skema BUSINESS SCHOOL
Key research orientations

- Mathematics (dynamic systems, non linear physics, probabilities and statistic),
- ICT (Complex systems and computing infrastructures, mobile communication, multimedia, security, W3C, etc.),
- Biotech and health (bio-informatics, e-health, etc.),
- Sustainable development (risk management intelligent building, smart grid, etc.),
- Social Sciences (Living labs, business administrations, user centred innovation, etc.).
Some keys success factors

Pierre LAFFITTE: His vision, his network and his commitment,

A certain quality of life: Sea, sun and mountains,

International dimension: Airport, tourism, Cannes, Monaco, international schools, etc.

Some world-class research institutes / laboratories

Entrepreneurship: A pro-active business angel network,

Mobility of people and a certain “spirit”.
My conclusion

- There is not a single way to succeed, encourage imagination in your policy schemes,
- Avoid purely top-down approaches and encourage bottom-up proposals (at least some “free space” in your programmes),
- Believe sometimes in creasy ideas,
- Support entrepreneurship,
- Innovation is not only about technology, but also about market needs.
For more information:

FONDATION SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS
BP 217
Place Sophie LAFFITTE
P.O. Box 217
06904 SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS Cedex
France

Tél. : + 33 492 967 800
Fax : + 33 492 960 087

http://www.sophia-antipolis.org
durvy@sophia-antipolis.org