

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910465725303321
Titolo	Innovation governance in an open economy : shaping regional nodes in a globalized world // edited by Annika Rickne, Staffan Laestadius and Henry Etzkowitz
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Abingdon, Oxon ; ; New York, N.Y. : , : Routledge, , 2012
ISBN	1-280-66512-2 9786613642059 0-203-12130-9 1-136-32654-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (329 p.)
Collana	Regions and cities ; ; 56
Altri autori (Persone)	EtzkowitzHenry <1940-> LaestadiusStaffan RickneAnnika <1966->
Disciplina	338.064 338.9485
Soggetti	Regional planning - Sweden Technological innovations - Economic aspects - Sweden Diffusion of innovations - Sweden Business and education - Sweden Organizational learning Electronic books. Sweden Economic policy Case studies
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Cover; Innovation Governance in an Open Economy; Copyright; Contents; List of illustrations; List of contributors; 1. Regional governance in global innovation processes; 2. The theoretical foundation for Swedish innovation policy; 3. "Spaces": A triple helix governance strategy for regional innovation; 4. Regional dynamics in non-metropolitan hi-tech clusters: A longitudinal study of two Nordic regions; 5. Regional strength in global competition: Collaborative patterns for life science firms in 6. Between the regional and the global: Regional innovation systems

policy and industrial knowledge formation7. Regional policy as change management: Theoretical discussion and empirical illustrations; 8. Constructing an innovation policy agency: The case of the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems; 9. Policy scripts and practice; 10. Can regional innovation systems be "constructed"?; 11. Gender in governance of regional innovation: Why gender matters and is mainstreamed in the Swedish case; 12. Entrepreneurship and public policy in emerging clusters  
13. The "start-up factor": Regional innovation policy convergence between the US and Sweden14. Lessons on regional innovation governance in open economies; Index

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## Sommario/riassunto

In an increasingly globalised world, paradoxically regional innovation clusters have moved to the forefront of attention as a strategy for economic and social development. Transcending international success cases, like Silicon Valley and Route 128, as sources of lessons, successful high tech clusters in niche areas have had a significant impact on peripheral regions. Are these successful innovation clusters born or made? If they are subject to planning and direction, what is the shape that it takes: top down, bottom up or lateral?

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