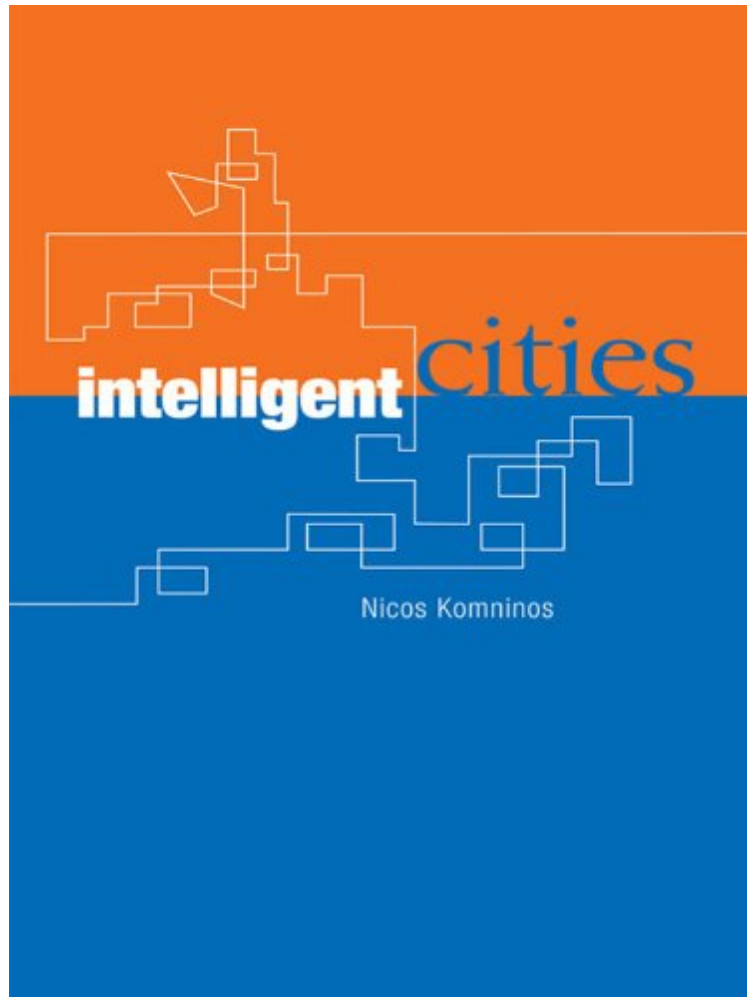


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Intelligent Cities: Innovation, Knowledge Systems and Digital Spaces

Nicos Komninos

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Nicos Komninos : Intelligent Cities: Innovation, Knowledge Systems and Digital Spaces before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Intelligent Cities: Innovation, Knowledge Systems and Digital Spaces:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. From Industrial Districts to Virtual Innovation Islands By Beber This book is based on more than a decade of practical experience in RD and innovative projects conducted by the Urban and Regional Innovation Research Unit (URENIO) in Thessalonica and supported by the European Commission. It pays particular attention to concrete examples of innovative projects in less favoured regions and offers a well balanced analysis of policy models and theoretical issues. The essay is about the contribution of the environment of innovation to the creation of new knowledge. The analysis is articulated around two dimensions: the first focuses on the areas of technological innovation, i.e. cities and regions whose development relies on research and technology; the

second concerns the newest development in areas of technological innovation where the information society offers new avenues to handle knowledge and increase the 'intelligence' of cities and regions. The originality of this book is that it combines two complementary strands of analysis which are usually not researched together: theories and planning models for innovative regions on the one hand, and virtual cities and digital applications for the dissemination of innovation on the other hand. By doing this, the author pushes the debate on innovation and regional development a step forward. His central reasoning is that innovative regions evolve from relatively simple structures (such as industrial districts and science parks), to more complex ones where institutional arrangements and digital (non-material) procedures of learning and knowledge diffusion take over. The author's novel contribution is to extend the debate on innovative environments to the next paradigm of technological innovation, based on the dematerialization of basic processes and their digital transcription.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Real to virtual innovation policy

By Alasdair Reid

This important book in the field of regional policy should be required reading for policy-makers, and students of regional policy, interested in the creation or development effective support networks for stimulating innovation in enterprises. The book provides a comprehensive overview of recent trends in regional innovation and technology policy. It illustrates the link between theory and practice through a number of case study projects which Nicos Komninos and his team have implemented in Greece; as well as at EU level through innovation networks with partners in other European regions. Drawing on this experience, the author sets out some ground rules for building such virtual innovation management systems at regional level. The argument that is developed is that policy implementation must increasingly focus on diffusing knowledge and learning through virtual support environments. The book explains how the move from 'real' infrastructure driven innovation and technology environments (science parks, innovation centres, industrial districts) has developed towards the need for knowledge diffusion techniques in all sectors of the regional innovation system. It does so through case studies and examples but a final chapter drawing together the conclusions of all these experiences in a summary critique would have been perhaps a useful addition to this otherwise excellent book. For the range of information covered and the practical information on both policy development for regional innovation strategies and specific techniques such as innovation management tools and regional technology, the book is recommended reading, notably for policy makers and stakeholders in the candidate countries to the European Union faced by the need to 'catch-up' in policy terms.

At the turn of the century some cities and regions in Europe, Japan and the USA, displayed an exceptional capacity to incubate and develop new knowledge and innovations. The favourable environment for research, technology and innovation created in these areas was not immediately obvious, yet it was of great significance for a development based on knowledge, learning, and innovation. Intelligent Cities focuses on these environments of innovation, and the major models (technopoles, innovating regions, intelligent cities) for creating an environment-supporting technology, innovation, learning, and knowledge-based development. The introduction and the first chapter deal with innovation as an environmental condition, and with the geography and typology of islands of innovation. The next three parts focus on the theoretical paradigms and the planning models of the 'industrial district', the 'innovating region', and the 'intelligent city', which offer three alternative ways to create an environment of innovation.

About the Author

Nicos Komninos is professor of Urban Development and Innovation Policy in the School of Engineering, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and he has taught in universities in France, Italy, and the UK. His research interests focus on the areas and environment of technological innovation. He is the author of numerous scientific books, director of the research unit URENIO (Urban and Regional Innovation) and has co-ordinated many project of the European Commission.