

## **“Innovation Systems and Innovation Policy: the state of the art”**

Abstract of paper to be presented at the DRUID Nelson/Winter Conference, Aalborg, June 2001. (Under theme F: ‘National Systems of Innovation, Institutions and Public Policies’.)

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The paper will have two parts, which are partly related.

The **first part** will evaluate the state of the art of the systems of innovation (SI) approach, i.e.:

- how it has developed so far,
- which are the achievements, and
- which are the most important remaining problems.

This includes discussions of:

- the complementarities between the national, regional and sectoral versions of the generic SI approach,
- the identification of the main elements and the main functions in SIs,
- the importance of disaggregation into different kinds of innovations,
- the importance of defining the boundaries of the systems, and
- how innovation can be related to other kinds of organisational learning (R&D, routine building, etc) as well as to individual learning (education).

The **second part** of the paper will discuss the use and usefulness of the SI approach as a framework for innovation policy design. It will briefly discuss general and specific innovation policy implications of the SI approach. But it will also touch upon how innovation policy can be influenced by societal forces (pork barrelism, lobbyism, etc). This will be related to the fact that the SI approach lacks a theory element about the role of the state.