

**Innovation Networks,  
Corporate Coherence and Environmental Capabilities**

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## Abstract

The rise of environmental issues and their diffusion through the selection environment lead to the necessity of firms to build environmental capabilities. Depending on the firms prevailing capability structures, they often pose a challenge to corporate coherence, since the firm has to develop and respond to - inherently - particularly different, originally bio-physically encoded kinds of knowledge. In order to deal with this coherential 'stretch', the establishment of cooperative relationships, to - environmentally more competent - firm-external actors is in many instances inevitable. From this perspective, peculiarities of 'innovation networks', in the sense of innovation systems as an 'extended' concept of Marshallian industrial districts (e.g. in terms of spatial proximity or involved actors), and the necessary organisational and institutional impacts are investigated, attempting to develop contributions of an environment-related analysis to the general understanding of the principal idea of networks and related phenomena.