

Preface

This report is one of the outputs from a Nordregio research project on "Competitiveness, Localized Learning and Regional Development Policies", carried out during the period 1999-2001, with Prof. Peter Maskell, Copenhagen Business School (project Leader), Prof. Anders Malmberg, Uppsala University, and Assistant Prof. Mark Lorenzen, Copenhagen Business School, as principal researchers. Göran Hallin and subsequently Staffan Larsson have represented Nordregio in the project.

The aim of the present report is to make accessible to a Nordic audience, some of the outputs from the project. The report thus consists of three separate items.

The first essay, written by Anders Malmberg and Peter Maskell and here presented in Swedish, is to be seen as an executive summary of the project. It contains an outline of the main theoretical argument developed by the research group and discusses, in general terms the policy implications of adopting this theoretical framework.

The second item is a paper by Mark Lorenzen containing a state of the art review of the advice given by scholars throughout the OECD countries and beyond on how to enhance the regional competitiveness through policies based on localized learning. The paper has been accepted for publication in the *European Planning Studies* 2001.

The third and final element of the report is a review of arguments brought forward during conversations which took place at two pivotal workshops, organized as a part of this project, in Mississauga, Canada in September 1999, and in Venice, Italy, in October 2000, respectively. The accounts from these workshops have been written out, edited and circulated to the participants for approval. The two accounts was then amalgamated into one common framework and the resulting text has been given the title "Clusters, localized learning and policy. Conversations between North American and European Scholars".

The main scholarly output from the project is a series of papers published or in the process of being published in various international academic books and journals. Besides the paper by Mark Lorenzen mentioned above (to be published in *European Planning Studies* 2001) this line of output includes:

- Maskell, P.: “Regional Policies: Promoting Competitiveness in the Wake of Globalisation”. In: Felsenstein, D. and Taylor, M., (Eds.) Promoting Local Growth: Process, Practice and Policy. Ashgate Publishers. (in print)
- Maskell, P.: “Knowledge creation and diffusion in geographic clusters: Regional development implications”. In: Felsenstein, D., McQuaid, R., McCann, D. and Shefer, D., (Eds.) Public Investment and Regional Economic Development. Edward Elgar (in print).
- Malmberg, A. and Maskell, P.: “Localised capabilities and industrial competitiveness.” In Simonsen, K. & Öhman, J. (Eds.) Trends of renewal in Nordic human geography (Forthcoming)
- Malmberg, A. and Maskell, P.: “The Elusive Concept of Localization Economies – Towards a Knowledge-based Theory of Spatial Clustering.” Accepted for publication in Environment and Planning A.
- Maskell, P.: “Towards a Knowledge-based Theory of the Cluster.” Accepted by Industrial and Corporate Change vol. 4, 2001.
- Maskell, P.: “Knowledge creation and diffusion in geographic clusters.” Accepted for publication in The International Journal of Innovation Management, 2001.

Readers of the present publication can obtain copies of any of these titles by contacting the authors directly. Their co-ordinates are listed at the back of the report.

Stockholm, June 2001