



1,782 54

Views | CrossRef citations to date | 3

Altmetric

Original Articles

Exploring a theoretical framework to structure the public policy implications of open innovation

Jeroen P.J. de Jong, Tarmo Kalvet  & Wim Vanhaverbeke

Pages 877-896 | Published online: 21 Oct 2010

 Cite this article  <https://doi.org/10.1080/09537325.2010.522771>

Sample our
Economics, Finance,
Business & Industry Journals
>> **Sign in here** to start your access
to the latest two volumes for 14 days

 Full Article

 Figures & data

 References

 Citations

 Metrics

 Reprints & Permissions

Read this article

 Share

Abstract

Open innovation is increasingly popular among practitioners and scholars, but its implications for public policy making have not yet been analysed in detail. This paper explores a theoretical framework to structure the debate about public policy making that facilitates open innovation. We first define open innovation in terms of firms' open innovation practices and external conditions that encourage enterprises to practice open innovation. We show that policies for open innovation are legitimate as traditional arguments like market and system failures continue to apply. Next, we identify several guidelines for policymaking. Rather than just offering R&D and interaction-oriented policies, we conclude that open innovation warrants attention in a broader range of policy areas, including entrepreneurship, education, science, labour markets and

competition. Developing truly horizontal policies is a major challenge to facilitate open innovation in developed economies.

Keywords:

- open innovation
- policymaking
- national innovation systems
- market failure
- system failure

Acknowledgements

This paper builds on a research project that was commissioned by VISION Era-Net, a collaborative network of nationally leading innovation policy organisations (www.visioneranet.org). This project explored the implications of the open innovation framework for policymaking (see De Jong et al. [2008](#)). Additional funding was provided by the Estonian Science Foundation (grant no. ETF8423). We thank Erkki Karo and Steven Peleman for research assistance and Henry Chesbrough, Hannes Toivanen, Luuk Klomp, Peter Spyns and Lauri Tammiste for their comments and feedback. We are also indebted to two anonymous referees for their valuable comments.

Notes

We have identified these guidelines by confronting the different dimensions of open innovation (see section entitled ‘Open innovation’ the different policy areas that seem to be relevant. The guidelines themselves are the result of several discussions with innovation policy experts in the Netherlands, Flanders (Belgium) and Estonia. For more information, see De Jong et al. ([2008](#)).

www.proinno-europe.eu

Related research

People also read

Recommended articles

Cited by
54

Information for

[Authors](#)

[R&D professionals](#)

[Editors](#)

[Librarians](#)

[Societies](#)

Opportunities

[Reprints and e-prints](#)

[Advertising solutions](#)

[Accelerated publication](#)

[Corporate access solutions](#)

Open access

[Overview](#)

[Open journals](#)

[Open Select](#)

[Dove Medical Press](#)

[F1000Research](#)

Help and information

[Help and contact](#)

[Newsroom](#)

[All journals](#)

[Books](#)

Keep up to date

Register to receive personalised research and resources by email



Sign me up



Copyright © 2026 Informa UK Limited [Privacy policy](#) [Cookies](#) [Terms & conditions](#)

[Accessibility](#)

 Taylor and Francis Group

Registered in England & Wales No. 01072954
5 Howick Place | London | SW1P 1WG