Towards DUI Regional Innovation Systems

PD Phil Cooke,

Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development & Centre for Advanced Studies, Cardiff University
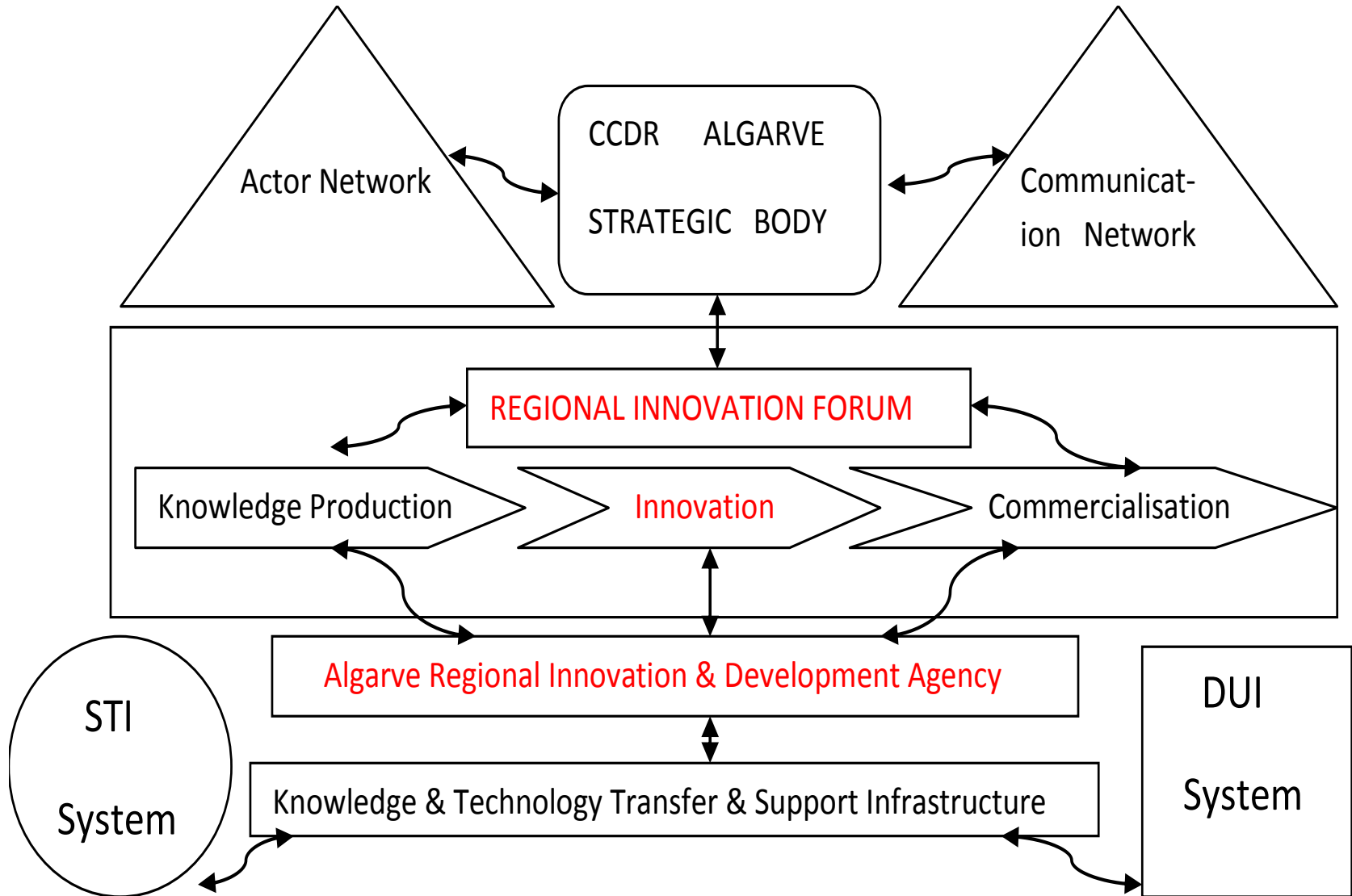
What to do in less developed or transition regions?

- In already highly specialised regions, try to diversify from the regional 'monoculture'

- In mixed development regions, also seek 'interface innovation' but integrate S&T knowledge into a 'Praxis' approach

- No clear model of how to do such DUI or DUI/STI innovation

- So, new model needed.

Towards a DUI innovation model: Algarve-style

- Have 'Thematic Issues' around which panels of industry representatives and/or entrepreneurs may interface for exploitation

- 'Learning from your industry' means 'niche opportunities' for exploitation can be ranked

- RDA must then be 'catalytic' in organising 'innovation theatre' entrepreneurs (key role involves:

ALGARVE RIS3 GOVERNANCE MODEL

Actor Network

CCDR   ALGARVE

STRATEGIC   BODY

Communicat-ion   Network

REGIONAL INNOVATION FORUM

Knowledge Production

Innovation

Commercialisation

Algarve Regional Innovation & Development Agency

STI System

DUI System

Knowledge & Technology Transfer & Support Infrastructure

Learning from your industry

- First, showcasing *existing* innovations from inside or outside the region, including abroad, that may be 'preadapted' modules or whole solutions for re-use in a new problem

- Second, showing potential innovations that explore the 'White Spaces' that no-one has yet

- RDA must then 'orchestrate' contests in which competition for RIS3 innovation subsidies and support occurs.

Strategic Niche Management

- Winners rewarded with projects (substantial private as well as public investment funding). (Key role for ARIDA)

- These may be early-stage and exploratory, mid-stage and examinatory, and final-stage and exploitative

- Finally ARIDA must establish a monitoring, learning and public communication system.

Conclusions

- Research and Practice show the STI-led innovation model ***alone*** is unsuitable for many regional innovation contexts

- Firms wish to interact more but lack the incentive

- Transversal/recombinant praxis can be DUI (or DUI/STI) leading to 'preadaptive innovation' - even 'white spaces' innovation - more exploratory

- Catalytic role as orchestrator/impresario for RIDA, a more practical "theory" of innovation