Promoting collaboration through STI Parks, innovation hubs and incubators

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Outline

• The role of collaboration in promoting innovation
• STI parks as tools for collaboration
• Evaluating STI park effectiveness
• Issues for discussion
Collaboration key for learning and innovation

- No innovation happens in isolation, but within a system, and through collaboration
- Collaboration among actors in innovation systems is critical for knowledge and technology diffusion and technological learning
- Collaboration may be among firms, or between firms, research organizations and government (the "triple helix")
STI parks, a common tool for promoting collaboration

- Establishing STI parks, other clusters, innovation hubs and incubators are all tools for promoting collaboration.
- STI parks co-locate knowledge sources (universities, public research organizations) with firms in order to promote knowledge and technology flows as a basis for innovation collaboration.
- Most developed countries and 36 developing countries have established STI parks.
Common objectives of STI parks

• Attracting R&D-intensive activities within the park
• Facilitating knowledge and technology transfers within the park
• Fostering start-up firms in the park and incubating them
• Contributing to economic development in the region of the park
What about STI parks' effectiveness?

• Evaluations of STI parks are often based on commercial feasibility, not collaboration and innovation outcomes.

• Evaluation can be difficult, as objectives may be diverse, or may be unclear.

• Measuring collaboration, and flows of knowledge and technology, require special metrics be developed.

• Evaluating outcomes should address the issue of "additionality".
Some issues for discussion

• How should STI park tenants be selected? How should STI parks be managed?
• What sectors should a park target for development?
• What are the most successful models for STI parks?
• How should their performance be measured and what indicators are best suited for this purpose?