Contents

Introduction

The structural evolution of industrial districts and adaptive competitive advantages
Giulio Cainelli and Roberto Zoboli

1. Industrial districts and local systems of production: 3
   An overview of the Italian experience and the theoretical debate
2. Italian industrial districts and European 'regional clusters' 6
3. The contribution of this book 8
   3.1. Three theoretical perspectives 9
   3.2. Firm re-organisation and growth 11
   3.3. Patterns of formal and informal innovation 14
   3.4. Diverging propensities towards internationalisation 16
4. Evolving competitive advantages? 17
   4.1. Measurability and models 18
   4.2. Sustainability of performances 19

Part I. Theoretical Perspectives 31

Regional governance and economic development:
A European perspective
Gilberto Antonelli

1. Introduction 33
2. Firms and local systems of production in the Italian economy 35
   2.1. The phases of development in the post-war Italian economy 36
   2.2. The competitiveness of industrial districts 38
   2.3. Questions of interpretations and the new needs of economic policy 39
3. Regional economic development and convergence/divergence 43
4. The allocation of the tools of economic policy and the role of the regions 50
Italian industrial districts: Facts and theories
Fabio Nuti

1. Introduction .................................. 55
2. Why should we study industrial districts at all? .................................................................... 57
   2.1. What are Marshallian industrial districts? ..................................................................... 57
   2.2. A single or many concepts? .......................................................................................... 58
   2.3. History of an idea .......................................................................................................... 58
   2.4. Historical and recent districts ........................................................................................ 60
   2.5. The cyclical interpretation ............................................................................................. 63
   2.6. Traditional and technologically advanced districts ......................................................... 65
   2.7. The concept of Marshallian industrial districts revisited ............................................... 66
   2.8. The ‘wishful residual’: industrial atmosphere and innovativeness .................................. 66
   2.9. Externalities and trickling down ..................................................................................... 68
   2.10. What kind of innovative activity? ................................................................................... 69
   2.11. Co-ordination .............................................................................................................. 71
   2.12. Co-operation and trust ................................................................................................ 72
   2.13. Flexibility and flexible specialisation ........................................................................... 74
3. Conclusions ........................................... 75

Modelling the structure and evolution of industrial districts
Mario Agostino Maggioni

1. Introduction ........................................ 78
2. How do industrial districts come about? Agglomeration economies and firms’ clustering ........................................................................................................... 79
   2.1. The effect of previous locations on clustering dynamics .............................................. 79
   2.2. Locational benefits and costs and the development of an industrial district .......... 80
   2.3. A logistic model ............................................................................................................ 84
   2.4. Location process in a two-districts framework ............................................................. 90
   2.5. Co-operative interactions .............................................................................................. 95
3. How do industrial districts work? Emergence and evolution of governance structures ......................................................................................................................... 100
   3.1. The evolution of industrial districts: a simulation exercise ......................................... 103
4. Conclusions .......................................... 110
Part II. Firm Ownership and District Organisation 115

Institutional innovations in industrial districts 117
Riccardo Varaldo and Luca Ferrucci

1. Introduction 117
2. Barriers to institutional changes inside the firms 117
3. The industrial district firm between institutional specificities and barriers to changes 118
4. New competitive strategies and institutional innovation 120
5. Towards new institutional paths for districts firms 121
6. Industrial and financial policy in supporting institutional changes in districts firms 125
7. Conclusions 125

Groups of small and medium-sized firms in industrial districts in Italy 128
Donato Iacobucci

1. Introduction 128
2. The unit of analysis: companies or groups? 130
3. The presence of business groups in the Italian manufacturing industry 133
4. The causes explaining the presence of business groups among SMEs in industrial districts 135
5. The role of groups of SMEs in the evolution of industrial districts 139
   5.1. Furniture groups 140
   5.2. Footwear groups 142
   5.3. Household appliance groups 145
   5.4. Groups operating in other districts 146
6. Conclusions 148

Ownership linkages and business groups in industrial districts. 155
The case of Emilia Romagna 155
Francesco Brioschi, Maria Sole Brioschi and Giulio Cainelli

1. Introduction 155
2. Industrial districts, ownership linkages and business group structures 156
3. The corporate grouping within the industrial districts of Emilia Romagna: the empirical evidence 158
4. The evolution of the industrial district organisation 167
5. Conclusions 171
The role of medium-sized and large firms in the evolution of industrial districts. The case of Marche
Valeriano Balloni and Donato Iacobucci

1. Introduction 175
2. The role of small and medium-sized firms in industrial districts 176
3. The Marche region and its industrial districts 179
4. The role of large and medium-sized firms in the industrial districts of the Marche region 188
5. Conclusions 193

Entrepreneurship, labour organisation and labour mobility in industrial districts
Massimo Omiccioli and Fabio Quintiliani

1. Introduction 198
2. Ownership and management structure 199
3. Labour organisation and mobility 202
4. Conclusions 204
Appendix 207

Integration and convergence in the internal dynamics of industrial districts. A case study
Mario Nosvelli

1. Introduction 219
2. The area of Parabiago within the textile district of Asse Sempione 220
   2.1. On the existence of the footwear district of Parabiago 222
3. The evolution of the district and sub-district 227
   3.1. The location quotient and shift-share analysis 227
   3.2. The ASPO data bank 229
   3.3. Empirical results 230
4. The Asse Sempione district and the Parabiago sub-district: sectors and territory, integration and autonomy 233
5. Conclusions 235
Appendix 239
Part III. Innovation

Can a Marshallian industrial district be innovative? The case of Italy
Giulio Cainelli and Nicola De Liso

1. Introduction 243
2. Division of labour, codified and tacit knowledge within industrial districts
   2.1. Theoretical issues 244
   2.2. From theory to empirical analysis: some clarifications 246
3. The empirical analysis 247
   3.1. The data set 247
   3.2. Some performance indicators: a descriptive analysis 248
4. The econometric investigation 249
   4.1. The modelling strategy 249
   4.2. The results 251
5. Conclusions 253

Are industrial districts more conducive to innovative production?
The case of Emilia Romagna
Riccardo Leoncini and Francesca Lotti

1. Introduction 257
2. Innovative activity, organisation and market structure 258
3. Data and methodology 261
4. The empirical results 261
   4.1. Innovative activity and R&D expenditures 262
   4.2. Potential and actual innovative production 264
5. The role of the public sector 267
6. Conclusions 269

Environmental impact and innovation in industrial districts
Anna Montini and Roberto Zoboli

1. Introduction 272
2. Environmental policy, industrial innovation, and the advantages of IDs 273
3. Agglomeration dis-economies and the environmental impact of industry 277
4. Measuring air pollution by manufacturing industries in Italy
   4.1. Estimates of air pollution in the ‘Local Labour Systems’ of Emilia-Romagna 281
   4.2. Main features of innovative responses to environmental policy 283
5. Responses to environmental policies in Italian industrial districts 294
   5.1. Environmental investments and policy-induced innovations 295
   5.2. Main features of innovative responses to environmental policy 304
6. Conclusions: unexploited ‘cooperative advantages’? 305
Appendix 312
Part IV. Internationalisation

Local engines of global trade: the case of Italian industrial districts
Stefano Menghinello

1. Introduction 319
2. Industrial districts as a source of competitive advantage 320
3. Methodological background 322
4. Some empirical evidence 326
   4.1. Export performance of local industrial systems 326
   4.2. Contribution of industrial districts to Italian exports 328
   4.3. Output quality and variety of industrial districts exports 330
5. Conclusions 334

Small multinational groups in the Italian industrial districts: interpretations and empirical evidence from the mechanical engineering industry
Sergio Mariotti and Marco Mutinelli

1. Introduction 336
2. The atypical nature of Italy's internationalisation 336
3. Internationalisation of production by the districts 339
4. Empirical findings 341
5. Conclusions 345
The Evolution of Industrial Districts
Changing Governance, Innovation and
Internationalisation of Local Capitalism in Italy
Cainelli, G.; Zoboli, R. (Eds.)
2004, XII, 347 p. 13 illus., Softcover
ISBN: 978-3-7908-0095-1
A product of Physica-Verlag Heidelberg