

# Glossary of innovation district terms



## From collisions to placemaking: a glossary of key innovation district terminology

1. **Accelerator:** A time-limited program that offers intense support, mentorship, and resources to startups to help them rapidly grow and scale their businesses.
2. **Agglomeration theories:** The belief in concentrating individuals in confined spaces to maximize innovation and economic outputs, connecting innovation to geographic proximity, and facilitating interactions among various economic entities.
3. **Anchor institutions:** Research universities and research-oriented medical hospitals with extensive R&D capabilities.
4. **Cluster:** A concentration of interconnected businesses, organizations, and institutions in a specific industry or sector within a defined geographic area, often fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and innovation.
5. **Collaboration space:** A physical or virtual environment designed to facilitate collaboration and interaction among individuals and organizations, often equipped with resources and tools to support innovation and knowledge sharing.
6. **Collaborative leadership network:** A collection of leaders from key institutions, firms, and sectors who regularly and formally cooperate on the design, delivery, marketing, and governance of the district.
7. **Collision:** In the context of innovation, "collision" refers to the intentional and unplanned encounters or interactions between individuals, organizations, and ideas from diverse backgrounds and disciplines within an innovation ecosystem or district.
8. **Coworking space:** A shared office environment where individuals, freelancers, startups, and small companies work alongside each other, promoting collaboration and providing flexible workspace solutions.
9. **Creative places:** Driven by open competition, collaboration, and cross-pollination, these are environments where a potent mix of uses are encouraged to expand beyond traditional silos to nurture spontaneous interaction and serendipitous exchange, fostering an economy of convergence.
10. **Economic assets:** The firms, institutions, and organizations that drive, cultivate, or support an innovation-rich environment.

11. **Entrepreneurship ecosystem:** A network of interconnected organizations, resources, and individuals that support and promote entrepreneurship and startup activity in a specific region or community.
12. **Governance in innovation districts:** Supported by both public and private sectors, involving leadership from anchor institutions such as universities, hospitals, and businesses. This new governance model encourages entrepreneurial living, shifting responsibility from the state and market to the individual, thus fostering self-governance and leveraging entrepreneurship for urban development.
13. **Inclusive innovation districts:** New models for integrating inclusive growth into the strategic direction of development projects, emphasizing the importance of a collective vision and an agile governance structure.
14. **Inclusive growth:** Using innovation districts as a platform to regenerate adjoining distressed neighborhoods as well as creating educational, employment, and other opportunities for low-income residents of the city.
15. **Incubator:** A program or organization that provides support, resources, and mentorship to early-stage startups, helping them develop their ideas, products, and business models.
16. **Innovation achievers:** Economies that perform above expectations relative to their level of economic development, showing sustained innovation performance.
17. **Innovation district:** A geographic area or neighborhood that brings together a mix of companies, startups, universities, research institutions, and other organizations to foster innovation, collaboration, and economic growth.
18. **Innovation ecosystem:** It denotes the dynamic mix of start-ups, educational technology, and creative industries that collaborate to create a thriving environment for innovation.
19. **Innovation investments:** The financial inputs into R&D, IP, and VC that contribute to the development and growth of innovation ecosystems.
20. **Innovation pipeline:** The continuous flow of ideas, projects, and initiatives through various stages of development, from ideation to commercialization, within an innovation ecosystem or district.
21. **Knowledge economy:** An economic system where the generation and exploitation of knowledge and information are the primary drivers of growth, wealth creation, and employment across all industries.
22. **Knowledge transfer:** The process of sharing and disseminating knowledge, expertise, and best practices from one organization or individual to another, often with the aim of driving innovation and improving performance.
23. **Labor market participation:** The potential of innovation districts to grow jobs in multiple sectors and connect residents in high unemployment areas to occupations that require a variety of skills and work experiences.
24. **Local entrepreneurship:** The opportunity for local entrepreneurial growth within innovation districts, often supported by specific programs designed to grow or support entrepreneurs from less educated residents and workers.
25. **Networking assets:** Relationships between actors, such as between individuals, firms, and institutions, that have the potential to generate, sharpen, and/or accelerate the advancement of ideas.

26. **Open innovation:** A collaborative approach to innovation that involves actively seeking external inputs, ideas, and expertise from a variety of sources, including customers, partners, and the wider community.
  27. **Participatory budgeting:** A transparent model of community empowerment that directly engages citizens in decision-making on the spending and prioritization of the public budget.
  28. **Physical assets:** The public and privately-owned spaces—buildings, open spaces, streets, and other infrastructure—designed and organized to stimulate new and higher levels of connectivity, collaboration, and innovation.
  29. **Placemaking:** The intentional design and development of physical spaces to create vibrant, inclusive, and attractive environments that foster community engagement, creativity, and social interaction.
  30. **Prototypes:** Tangible or digital representations of a product, system, or concept that are created during the design and development process to test and validate ideas, gather feedback, and refine designs before proceeding to full-scale production.
  31. **Research and Development (R&D):** The activities and processes undertaken by organizations to develop and improve products, services, and technologies through scientific research, experimentation, and innovation.
  32. **Smart city:** An urban environment that uses data, technology, and connectivity to improve the quality of life for its residents, optimize resource usage, enhance sustainability, and support innovation and economic growth.
  33. **Smart infrastructure:** Intelligent use of infrastructure and tax incentives to remove barriers and support the growth and connectivity of innovation districts.
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### **Selected sources & further reading:**

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