Chapter 8.14
Exploring Paths toward Knowledge Cities Developments:
A Research Agenda

Kostas Ergazakis
National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Kostas Metaxiotis
National Technical University of Athens, Greece

Emmanouil Ergazakis
National Technical University of Athens, Greece

INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, knowledge is considered as one of the most valuable assets of an enterprise which has to be managed efficiently and effectively in order to gain a competitive advantage in the knowledge economy era. Knowledge Management (KM) evolved into a strategic management approach, finding application not only in the business world but also in other areas such as education, government and healthcare. In this way, the new link between KM and KBD created the appropriate environment for the advent of a new concept in the scientific and practitioners' communities, the concept of "Knowledge City" (KC). Nowadays, the theme of KCs is a 'hot' topic of interest and discussion.

The process for developing a KC, is neither quick nor simple. This seems to be already understood by the research community, which the last few hears has begun to concentrate its efforts so as to develop appropriate frameworks, methodologies, tools, systems, etc so as to support the development of KCs. In this context, and given that there are still many pending issues, this article attempts to propose a taxonomy of KC research, by co instantaneously presenting the status with these major themes of KC research. The discussion presented on this article should be of value to researchers and practitioners.

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-60960-783-8.ch8.14

BACKGROUND

The "Knowledge City" (KC) concept is a subfield of Knowledge-Based Development (KBD) and refers to all aspects of social, economic and cultural life of a city. It can be defined as follows: "*A Knowledge City is the term used to describe a KBD strategy that has as target to enhance and continuously support the knowledge management processes that take place in an urban area. This is achieved through the continuous interactions of knowledge agents among them as well as with the knowledge agents of other cities, so as knowledge continuously flows. The successful formulation of strategy, the shaping of a coherent vision, the advanced communication networks, the city's infrastructures and the citizen's education level continuously support these interactions"* (Ergazakis et al., 2004). The term "knowledge agent" refers to any entity (human, organisation, company, university, technology park, research centre etc.) that manage knowledge. The definition of the KC concept is illustrated in Figure 1.

The reader can refer to Ergazakis et al. (2004, 2006a) for further details on the different views regarding KCs as well as on their benefits.

TAXONOMY OF KC RESEARCH

As already mentioned, the field of KC has begun to attract the interest of researchers only recently. A review of the KCs-related literature reveals that since this concept is new, its real success is still under investigation in the research community. There is little, in terms of development and assessment, frameworks for KCs, and consequently little consensus regarding the design requirements and the development parameters for building a successful KC (Carrillo, 2004). In what follows,

Figure 1. The knowledge city concept, adapted by Ergazakis et al. (2004)