G. Bender/ D. Jacobson/ P. L. Robertson (eds.)

Non-Research-Intensive Industries in the Knowledge Economy

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It is a well-known assumption that industrialised nations are currently undergoing a fundamental transformation into knowledge-based societies. The competence to generate and utilise new knowledge is seen as a decisive factor for both economic success and societal progress in the modern era. This argument is accompanied by a firm belief that in the current situation the improvement of research-intensive high-tech industries is the key to welfare. Correspondingly, so called low-tech sectors are presented as being less important as agents for change in major industrialised countries. The papers in this issue paint another picture. The authors argue that non-research-intensive industries can be important sources of innovation and growth and they introduce innovation concepts that are not biased towards R&D-based innovation. Earlier versions of the papers were presented at a conference the research consortium “Policy and Innovation in Low-Tech” has organised in Brussels in June 2005.

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