

Swedish initiatives for research & innovation milieus – strategies for internationalization

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Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation
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at

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe,
Policies for Innovation in the 21st Century: Broadening
the Horizons of Collaboration and Risk-Sharing, 12-13

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About VINNOVA

- Sweden's research and innovation agency
- Established 1st January 2001
- Under the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications
- Director General: Charlotte Brogren
- Budget approx. SEK 2 billion; € ~210 million (doubled through co-financing)
- VINNOVA's R&D appropriation for 2009 was equivalent to 6.5% of national public R&D funding
- Around 200 employees
- Offices in Stockholm and Brussels



Connect & Catalyze

Strong Research & Innovation Milieus

Such environments are characterised by

- attractive to skilled people, companies and capital,
- internationally outstanding research
- cooperation with the best environments globally
- new R&D-based growth companies
- high growth rate in existing R&D-based companies
- anchoring of large R&D-based companies
- innovations with a high market and processing value
- mobility of people

→ A strong research and innovation milieu is a centre of excellence in research and innovation

Initiatives for Strong R&I Milieus at VINNOVA

The long-term goal is develop and/or maintain milieus at the highest international level

Center of Excellence in Innovation and Research programmes

- Competence Center program – 28 (1995-2007)
- VINN Excellence Centers – 19 (2004-)
- Berzelii Centers – 4 (2006-)
- Institute Excellence Centers – 7 (2006-)

Regional Innovation Capacities (Triple Helix)

- VINNVÄXT – 12 (2003-)

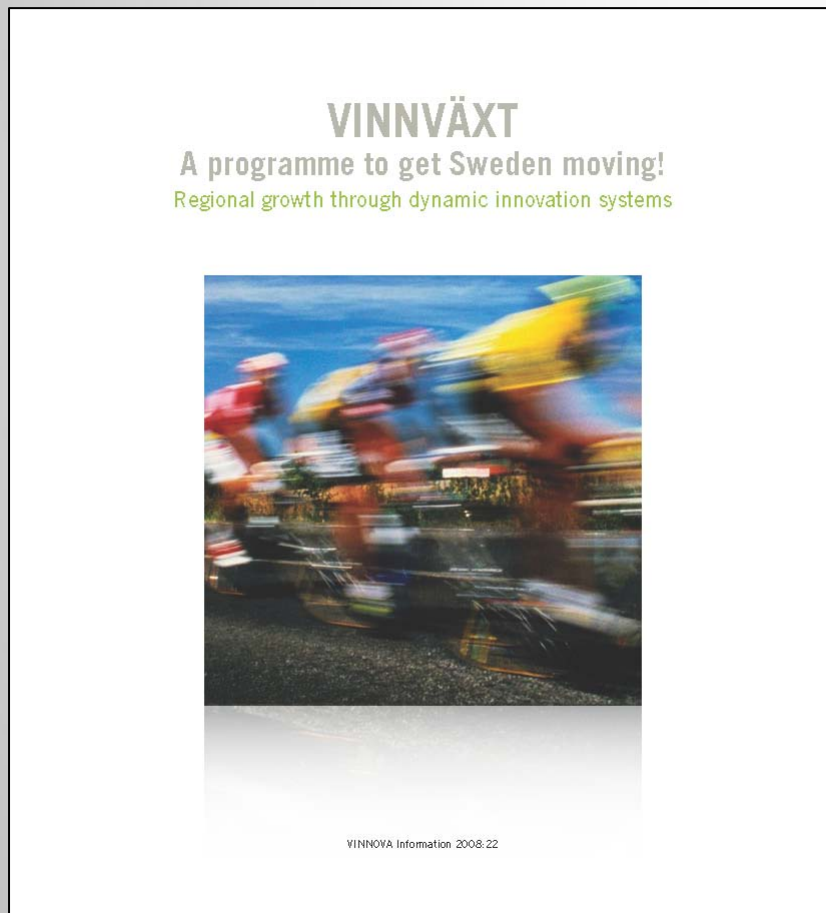
The second generation - e.g VINN Excellence Center

- 19 new Centers started 2004-2006 – Thematic focus but bottom-up through call-for-proposals
- One university “host” for each VINN Excellence Center
- Consortium – academic, business and public sectors
 - Joint research undertakings – pre-competitive, long-term research
 - New contract “Model agreement” incl. IPR
- Appr. € 500 million in turnover for 19 centres over 10 yrs
 - A center has a total budget of approx. € 23 million for 10 years, of which maximum € 7 million is grant from VINNOVA
 - Universities in charge of handling common IPR (TLO company or similar organisation)
- Regular performance evaluation
- Increased focus on innovation/commercialization and internationalization
- <http://www.vinnova.se/en/Activities/VINN-Excellence-Center/>

VINNVÄXT

Regional Growth through Dynamic Innovation Systems

National initiative leveraging regional innovation processes



Strategy

- Support the development of strong research and innovation milieus
- Stimulate Triple Helix based regional partnerships to enhance the innovation system in Swedish functional regions to an international level within specific areas of strength
- Be a catalyst for coordination of resources
- <http://www.vinnova.se/en/Activities/VINNVAXT/>



99% of the worlds
research takes place
outside of Sweden.



Research & innovation
more and more in
international networks



Co-publications -
Swedish R&I milieus
lack developed links to
new nodes



Rapidly changing
economic "world map"



Lack of incitements or
lack of strategy?



New geographic nodes
of knowledge creation
and utilization



Pilot initiative – "Global
Links for Strong R&I
milieus

Internationalization of R&I Milieus

Global Links for Strong R&I Milieus

- Open consultation – 15 questions, ~90 respondents
 - Existing int'l links: North America, Europe (fewer in Asia, RoW) – personal contacts (hidden), not aggregated at center level
 - Obstacles: economic/funding, cumbersome to take part, IPR/legal
- *Very few had a strategic approach to internationalization on the level of milieu/center!*
- Pilot initiative "Strategies for Global Links"
 - Open call for proposals
 - Thirteen were selected for funding – € 75 000 each
 - One-year projects – should result in an internationalization strategy
 - **to be the basis for center's decision-making and**
 - **to be supported by the Board**

The process and the results

- The projects chose which approach to take
- VINNOVA offered workshops and some process support
 - Introduction to bibliometry – to benchmark and to find "hot spots"
 - Workshop on legal matters incl. the need to handle IPR
 - Use of Swedish Science & Technology Offices abroad for contacts and visits (mainly visits to China, Japan, South Korea and India)
- The reporting focused on describing processes and experiences from strategy development, not the strategy itself
 - The strategies differed both in scope, content and level of concreteness – from ¾ page to 100 pages



Internationalization at the level R&I milieu adds new levels of complexity



Support from Governing Board essential for implementation – are they there yet?



Process support and feedback necessary – develop a “tool box” for practical use



Can we translate the experiences to other internationalization initiatives? Yes, we believe so.

Summary and conclusions

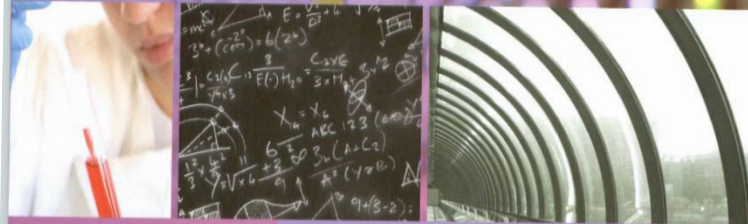
by Science and Technology



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June 2010

**International cooperation of
Competence Research Centres**
Final Report of the COMPERA joint study



Crest working
group report on

Industry-Led Competence
Centres - Aligning academic/
public research with
enterprises and industry needs

Suggested reading

<http://www.vinnova.se/en/Activities/VINN-Excellence-Center/Publications/>

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Thank you for your attention!

