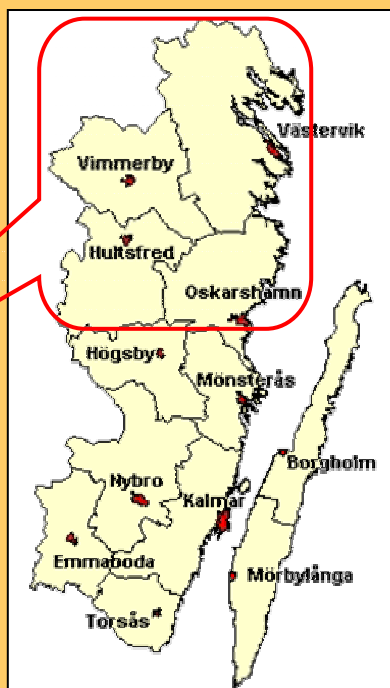


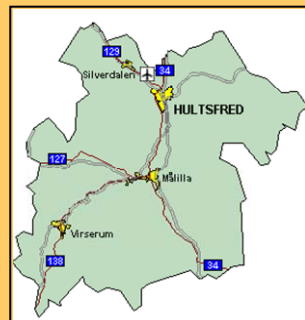
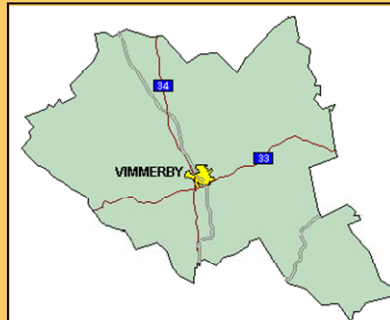
**Setting up Local Research and
Development Environments in the
Northern Kalmar County - An Inquiry
of Corporate Needs and Requirements**

Kalmar County

Northern Kalmar County



Four Municipalities in the Northern Kalmar County



Local R&D Environments in Northern Kalmar County

The aims and goals of this inquiry

- To **investigate** the corporate development needs, development strategies and support needed to achieve desirable development goals.
- To **investigate** how Universities looks upon setting up local R&D environments.
- To **explore** the prerequisites for Universities to actively take part in setting up local R&D environments.
- To **indicate and point out** some possible and interesting areas where local R&D environments could be setup based on the prerequisite in the northern Kalmar county.

Local R&D Environments in Northern Kalmar County

Some assumptions in this inquiry

- ... that industrial and corporate development and growth needs to be supported by investments in R&D in collaboration between industry, academia and public sector (Triple Helix).
- ... that corporations with their own products can achieve higher development, have greater growth potential and competitiveness, and survival through investments in R&D.
- ... that general increase in knowledge can be the basis for actions in the future in order to raise industrial profitability, competitiveness, and growth in the long run.

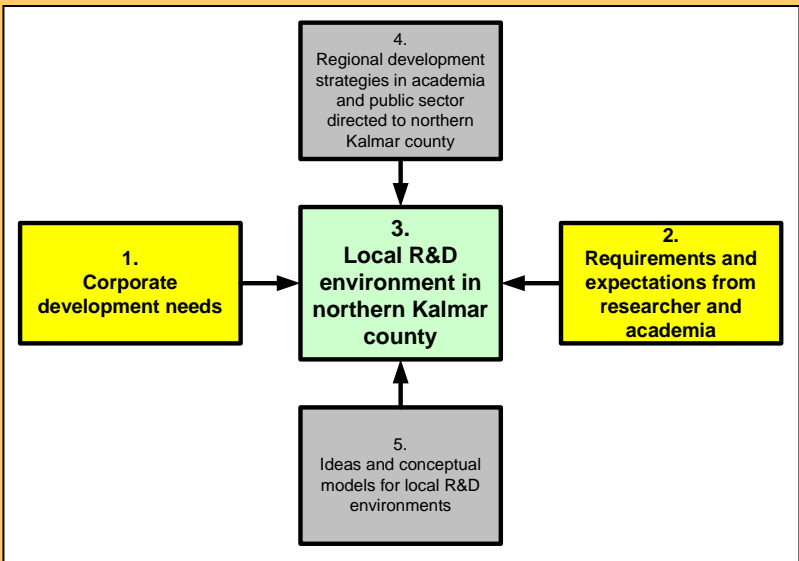
The Preliminary Definition of LOCAL R&D ENVIRONMENT

Local R&D environment is an organizational context where people with different development competencies, and backgrounds from different areas, collaborate in order to support corporate development. This conceptual model enables academic researchers, doctoral students, and under graduate students to perform research related to universities and corporations on the regional basis. Academic society collaborate with industrial research institutes and local consultants. Local R&D environment is a melting point between local corporations, public organizations, municipalities, and universities.

Local R&D Environment – Triple Helix Constellation



Prerequisites for Setting up Local R&D Environments in the Northern Kalmar County



Analysis of Corporate Inquiry Indicate:

- Corporations and their CEO do not always have explicit or well articulated ideas of development, but mostly **they focus on product development and internal processes.**
- Corporations with own products stresses **high level of support needed regarding product development.**
- Corporations in industry with high price competition stresses **the need for support in development of their internal processes.**
- Corporations have fairly **high needs for support!**
- The collaboration with external actors is limited among corporations. The experience of existing collaboration is however positive.
- **Corporate bonds to local community (municipalities, region etc) is insignificant.**
- **Administrative boundaries such as municipalities and county are insignificant and unimportant to corporations.**

Major Inquiry Question to Universities:

What are the prerequisites for setting up local R&D environments, from an University perspective?

Participating Universities

- Kalmar University
- Växjö University
- Blekinge University
- Borås University
- Linköping University
- Jönköping University
- Örebro University

Analysis of University Inquiry Indicate:

- Universities experience **contradictory assignments**, such as **research, education, corporate and regional development**.
- The **financial basis** for Universities has over the years become weak and **researchers spend more time searching for funding** and less time for research, corporate and regional development.
- Senior researchers spend more **time on internal activities** at Universities and in searching for funding of Ph.D. Candidates.
- **Incentive structure creates more barriers** than enables and supports researchers to engage in corporate and regional development.
- Research at Universities is driven by researchers interests and commitments. Some are committed to corporate development and some are committed to scientific development.

Local R&D Environments: Actors and Logics

Actors in local R&D environment



Three logics in action:

1. The Business Logic.
2. The Research Logic
3. The Territorial Logic

Actors and Logics

Actors and Logics

The Business Logic	The Research Logic	The Territorial Logic
Aspiration to make business	Aspiration to develop generic knowledge	Aspiration to administer and develop geographical areas
Markets and demands legitimate actions	Scientific community legitimate actions	Political decisions legitimate actions
Contributions to profitability qualifies individuals within the organization	International publications qualifies individuals within the organization	Integrative actions qualifies individuals within the organization
Short term perspectives	Long term perspectives	Long term perspectives
System orientation	Personal orientation	System and personal orientation
Assignments given by owners	Assignments given by scientific community and the researcher himself	Assignments given by population (people)
Focus on action	Focus on reflection	Focus on decision

Corporations

Universities

Local municipalities

Local university centre

Regional County Council

Consultant corporations

R&D/Industrial institutes

Our Recommendations to Actors Setting up Local R&D Environments:

- Consider the **geographic location of northern Kalmar county, in between several Universities**, as something positive. Being as in between means that you do not compete with any one and at the same time you can collaborate with them all!
- Consider **local R&D environments as an ARENA**, a melting place for people from different settings, corporations, public sector and academia.
- Consider these **ARENAS as processes and not as physical locations**. They may vary over time, change its shape and form, and are dynamic in its nature.
- Consider that **local R&D environments is a matter of establishing inter-personal relations to researchers** and scientific communities.

Our Recommendations to Actors Setting up Local R&D Environments:

- Consider that setting up local R&D environments is **easier if external funding can be raised** for the participating researchers.
- Consider that setting up local R&D environments requires that **the leading actors have competence in research**. This can give them credibility and legitimate their actions towards corporations and academia.
- Consider that setting up **local R&D environments should be declutched from the territorial boundaries** such as municipalities and counties.
- Consider that **local university centre could be one of those actors** that can develop such competence and capacity to take part in establishing ARENAS where corporations, public sector and academia meets.

THE END!