



Learning Centers

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2004-11-19 Ronneby

Background

- **Sweden is a vast country**
- **Scarly populated**
- **A growing need & demand for education**
 - **On various levels, including higher education**
- **apx. 40 universities & college universities**
- **The goal is 50% of all high-school grads. to enter higher education before the age of 25**
- **The key is access!**



Critical instruments

- **To establish an infrastructure**
- **A central government "Netuniversity"**
 - **Not a new university**
 - **Dual mode, working through existing uni.**
 - **Established in 2001**
 - **Now more than 10.000 courses available**

Parts of the infrastructure

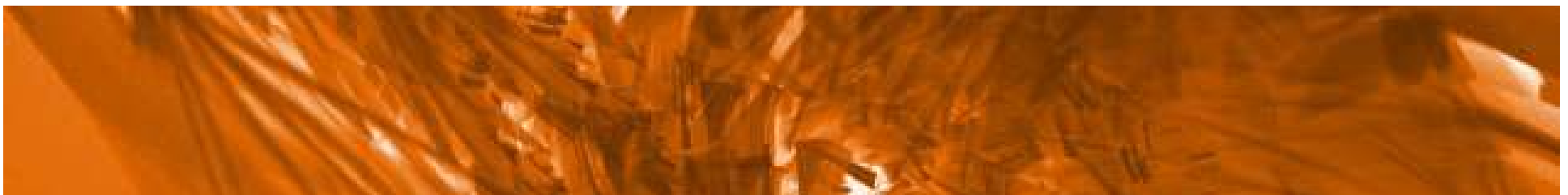
- **Universities (hubs/senders)**
- **Learning centers (semi-hubs or nodes)**
- **Municipal libraries (nodes)**
- **Households (nodes)**



Whats a learning center

A good question?

- **Run by the municipality (250 of 290 has one)**
- **The business depends on local needs and possibilities (strategy, funding, supply of education).**
- **Researchers Thomesen & Grepperud has concluded the learning centers to be:**



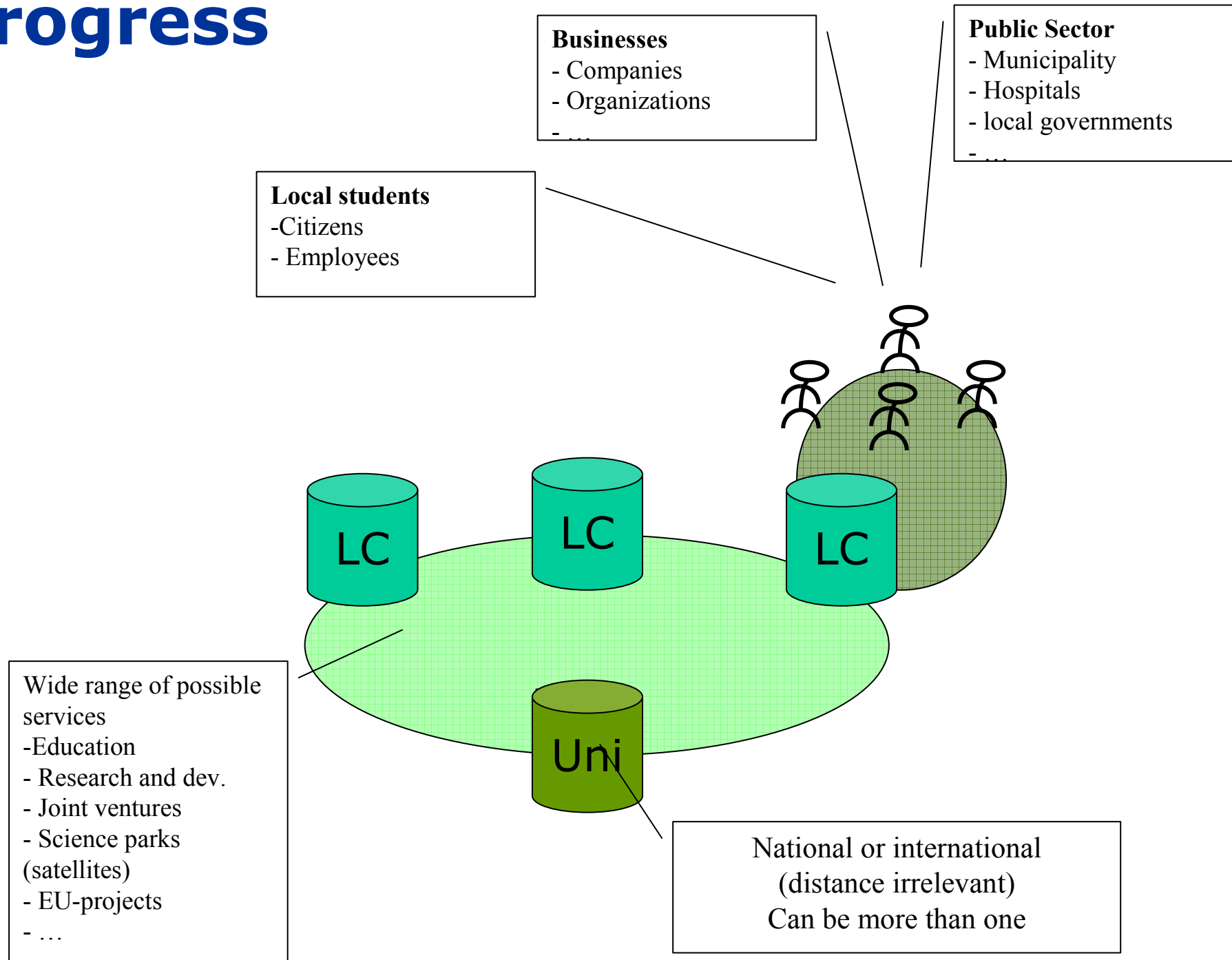
The three M:s

Thomsen & Grepperud:

- **Mötesplats** - **Meeting place / arena for students, different organizers of education, public sector, companies...**
- **Mäklare** - **Broker of education, contacts, a door into the universities**
- **Motor** - **Motor for regional growth and dev.**



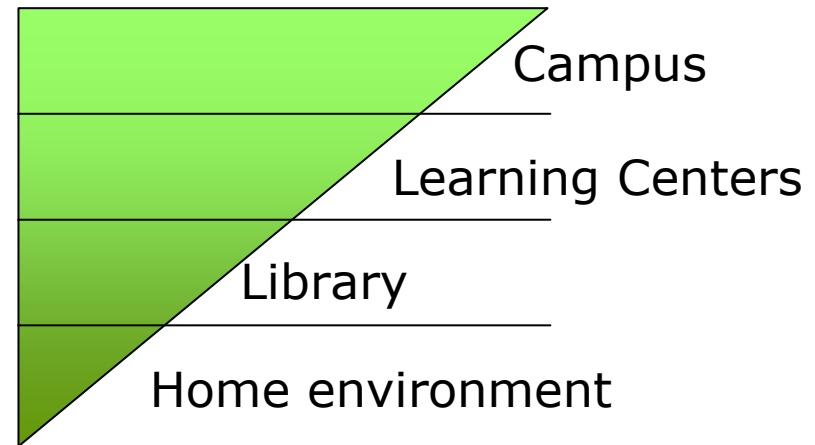
Progress



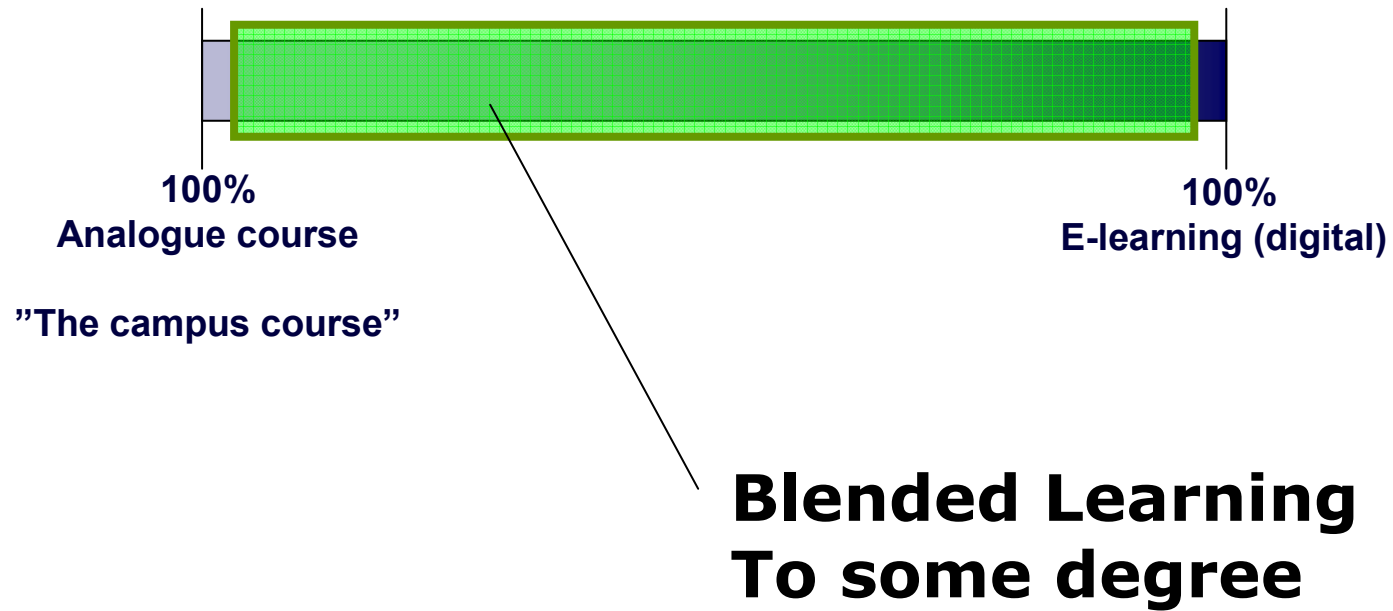
Education delivery

Research

Education
- Production
- Support
- Quality a.



Course composition



Flexible learning

Different forms side by side

- **“traditional” education organized at the learning center (off campus education)**
- **Videoconference-mediated education (“traditional distance education)**
- **Net-based learning (e-learning)**
- **Blended learning (mixed forms within the same course)**



Development

- **Net-based learning is established and accepted**
- **ICT-tools used to various degrees depending on what type of course, form and audience is at hand**
- **Learning Centers are beginning to adopt/be assimilated into the net-based course concepts**
- **Technology is no longer the main focus, today it is considered basic level and the topics of discussion are more about pedagogy, organization and funding.**



Please communicate

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