



Seagull - an Interreg IIB project

Work Package 3
Innovative centres and SME:s
as vehicles in regional development
Expert reports, first versions, July 2003
Report 2

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Seagull

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Review of existing links between innovation centres and
clusters, such as science parks etc, in the member
regions of Euro-region Baltic (ERB)

Per-Olof Svensson



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Review of existing links between innovation centres and clusters, such as science parks etc, in the member regions of Euro-Region Baltic (ERB).

The Seagull project aims at supporting a long-term, sustainable development of ERB in line with the EU policies of social and economic cohesion as well as environmental sustainability. Central outcomes of the project are planned to be a long-term strategy for the ERB development and a joint Trans-national Development Programme for the whole region. This report is built on interviews with relevant individuals, both at the universities and in the public sectors in Liepaja, Klaipeda, Gdansk, as well as with the Swedish partners. I have a lot of knowledge regarding the Swedish Technology / Science Parks, and there is even more information from the other two WP3-reports and their contacts with the parks in ERB. Additional information has been found in literature, other project-reports, and through Internet searches.

I am still searching for contacts in Kaliningrad for information regarding technology parks. Currently I only have information about the new “Memorandum of Co-operation” between Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) and Kaliningrad University.

To create contacts and networks between universities, businesses, and organizations in the region, BTH and Kalmar University have organised the Industrial Liaison Office, ILO. In Växjö, TEC-Kronoberg has that same role. Along the lines with the latest developing activities, in research as well as industries, the ILO serves as the link between companies and organizations that want to develop ideas, products, processes, operations and skills for their business. Also, provide students, researchers and teachers who can assist with the know-how. As an ongoing process, this activity has an important role in the continuing growth of both the region and its universities.

In the universities in both Blekinge and Kalmar, ILO has pre-incubators to help students, researchers and teachers to start companies up. In Blekinge there is the so-called “Entreprenörstorget”. At these pre-incubators people can get assistance with business advices and plans, patents and financial questions, etc. Everything in order to develop their own ideas for new business ventures, licenses, etc. Another organisation that works the same way is “Drivhuset”, which is run by the student-organisation in Kalmar and Växjö.

Also the Connect-organisation in the Southeast of Sweden has an important role in entrepreneurship.

For further information regarding clusters, valuable information can be found mainly at the Region Council in Kalmar County.

On the East side of the Baltic Sea there is a specific form of technology parks under development, the so-called “Free economic zones, FEZ”. I have studied some of them, especially the Pomeranian Special Economic Zone in the Tri-City region, Gdansk, Sopot, and Gdynia. These FEZ’s are active for a twenty-year period starting in 1997. Two of these FEZ’s are Tczew and Zarnowiec, which cover a total area of 34,837 hectares. These have preferential lines of businesses and investors, mainly in the areas of electrical / electronic,



telecom / software, pharmaceutical / biotechnical and food processing. The most well known companies in these zones today are Flextronics, Gemplus, and Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V. These parks could not be defined as technology parks because they are not in corporation with any universities. They are more like industrial parks. However, some of them might be transformed into technical parks or clusters in a near future.

Technology / Science Park in the ERB region (- indicate:s not known by author

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Involved in</i>
Developing Center	Västervik	1988	
Business Development Center	Oskarshamn	1998	Energy Cluster, Automotive Cluster
Kalmar Science Park	Kalmar	1994	-
Rock City / Music Management	Hultsfred	-	-
Soft Center	Ronneby	1985	Water-jet cutting cluster, Contact Center Cluster, Software Cluster
Telecom City	Karlskrona	1993	Telecom Cluster
Netport	Karlshamn	2000	Edutainment Cluster, Logistic Cluster
Vidéum Science Park	Växjö	1986	Automotive Cluster, Aluminium Cluster, Wood Cluster
Internet City	Växjö	1998	-
Erverbhuset i Nexö	Bornholm	2001	-
Klaipeda Science and Technology Park	Klaipeda	2003	-
Kaunas Science and Technology Park	Kaunas	1991	-
Kaunas Innovation Center	Kaunas	1994	-
Lithuanian Innovation Centre	Vilnius	1995	-
Vilnius Science and Technology Park	Vilnius	1992	-
Technology Park of North City	Vilnius	-	-
Pomerian Technology Park	Gdynia	2002	-
Elblag Science Park	Elblag	2003	-
Latvian Technological Centre	Riga	1993	-
Latvian Technology Park	Riga	1996	-
Business Innovation Centre	Riga	1997	-

National and International Associations.



The Swedish Science Parks are all members of Swedepark, an association for technical and science parks in Sweden. Swedepark is a member of ISAP, the International Association of Science Parks.

In Latvia the established parks are members of the organisation LTICA - Latvian Association of Technological Parks, Centres and Business Incubators.

The established parks in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are members of BASTIC, Baltic Association of Science / Technology Parks and Innovation Centres, which is a member of ISAP.

IRC Estonia, IRC Latvia and IRC Lithuania are members of another international association IRC, Innovation Relay Centres.

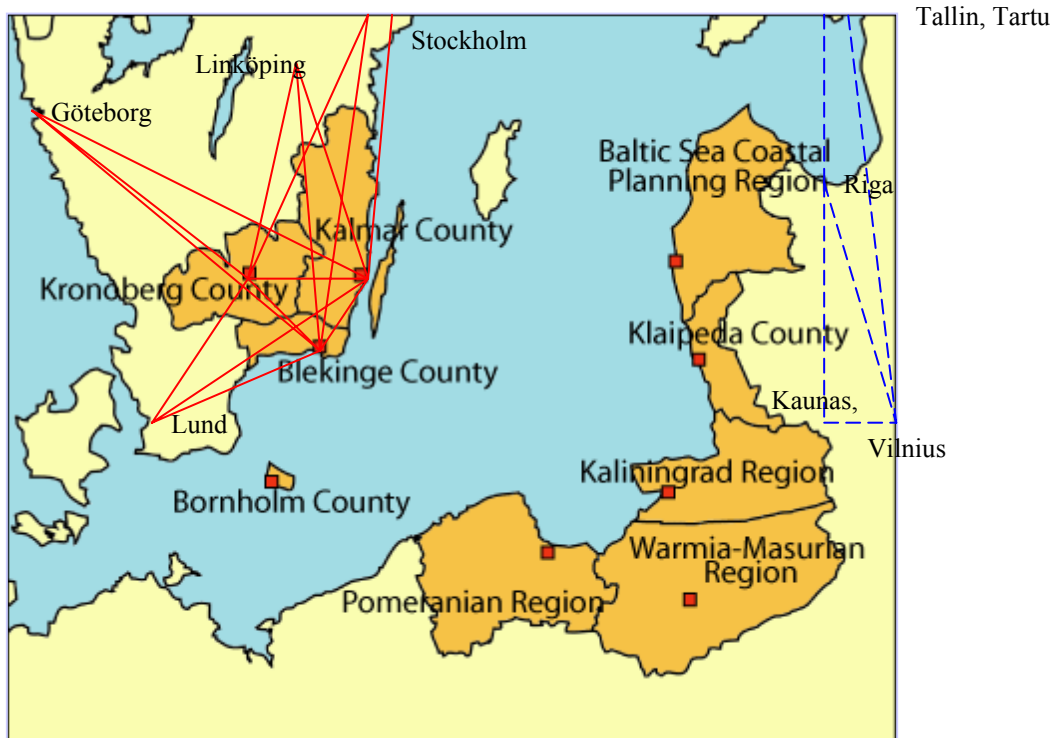


Fig 1 National and International Associations for technical and science parks.

— Swedepark - - - BASTIC

The science parks own networking.

The Developing Center in Västervik and the Business Development Center in Oskarshamn have close contacts with the University of Kalmar, and the University of Linköping. The Business Center in Oskarshamn has additional contact with University of Trollhättan / Uddevalla, University of Växjö and the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.



The park in Kalmar is networking with Soft Center International, Medicon Valley Academy, and Sustainable Sweden Southeast.

Soft Center is a member of Soft Center International which has members in Duluth, Texas.

Telecom City has special agreements with Telcom Valley in France and Telecom Corridor in Dallas, Texas.

Netport is a rather new park and works together with Soft Center and Telecom City.

Vidéum is involved in several EU-projects, including an environment with Kaliningrad.

Erverbhuset in Nexö is more of a business-house than a technical park, but it works together with most of the countries around the Baltic Sea in different EU-project.

In Lithuania, there are a number of technical parks situated in Kaunas and Villnius. In the inquire region, Klaipeda has just started up a science and technical park at Klaipeda University. They now have contacts with the parks in Lithuania, Turku, Blekinge, Denmark and Kaliningrad. Additionally they are communicating with Klaipeda Sea Port, the Association of Lithuanian Stevedoring Companies, and other industrial companies in Lithuania.

The Pomerian Technology Park in Gdynia is just recently started, and already has contacts with different parks around the Baltic Sea where the University of Gdynia has previous agreements.

In Elblag, a Science Park has started, in close contact with Soft Center Ronneby.

In Liepaja, two science / technical parks are planned to be built within the next two to five years. Already today, there is a small “ business-hotel” for IT-companies.

In Ventspiels, there are plans for an incubator and an innovation center together with Ventspiels Augstscool.

The networking between science and technical parks is not yet completely developed. Even inside the technical parks there are still some problems to be resolved. In many cases the network is depending on people in the organisation. To build strong networks, you need to find a win-win situation for the companies involved, especially when creating networking between different parks. The companies must have possibilities to find business and / or competence if they are interested. These situations can be difficult to create, because they require strong mutual confidence in each other. The contacts often depend on personal or company interest and knowledge.

Today there are no organised form or models for cooperation. Tools to create communication do not exist. The existing networks are mostly dependent on the university student-, teacher-, research-project.

Most of the co-operations are e.g. EU-projects. These co-operations often end when the project is finished, and thus become just another paper in the bookcase.



Fig 2 The Science Parks own Networking

Clusters in the ERB region

<i>Name</i>	<i>Area</i>
Aluminium Cluster	South East of Sweden
Automotive Cluster	South East of Sweden
Plastic and Polymer Cluster	East of Sweden
Contact Center Cluster	Blekinge County
Tool Cluster	Blekinge County
Tourism Cluster	Blekinge County
Edutainment Cluster	Blekinge County
Water-jet cutting Cluster	Ronneby region
Software Cluster	Ronneby region
Telecom Cluster	Karlskrona region
Logistic Cluster	Karlshamn and Kronoberg region
Glas and Ceramic Cluster	Kalmar and Kronoberg County
Design Cluster	Kalmar County
Food Cluster	Kalmar County
Wood Cluster	Kalmar and Kronoberg County
Music and Attraction Cluster	Kalmar County
Contact Center Cluster	Kalmar County
Nuclear waste and Energy Cluster	Oskarshamn region

Many clusters are situated in the Southeast of Sweden. Most of them are still under construction. To build a cluster requires nearly the same process as to build a network between technical parks. First of all, they have to build their own organisation before they



could build a network with another cluster or organisation in other regions. As of right now, none of the Swedish clusters is ready to start networking yet.

The Swedish organisation VINNOVA in recently started a program called “Vinn-Väx”. The purpose was to stimulate regions to become stronger. Many of the ideas the program has created are around clusters. VINNOVA has focused mainly around the Triple Helix concept. This concept contains elements from three sectors, the public, the university, and the business sector. All of these three sectors will help construct technical parks, incubators, and clusters in order to grow much faster if they can efficiently work together.

Incubators in the ERB region (- indicate:s not known by author)

<i>Name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Start</i>
Karlskrona Innovation Center	Karlskrona	2003
Netport Incubator	Karlshamn	2003
Videum Innovation	Växjö	-
Kalmar University	-	-
Kaunas Technology Center	Kaunas	1998
Business Incubator of Vilnija	Vilnius	-
Business Incubator of Telsias	Telsias -	-

Pre-incubators in the Southeast of Sweden

Entreprenörstorget	Blekinge Institute of Technology
Drivhuset	Kalmar University
Drivhuset	Videum Science Park
Connect Southeast	Karlskrona and Växjö

Incubators networking

The Swedish incubators and pre-incubators work together in an unofficial organisation called “Motpolen” and the official “Swedspin” and “Drivhuset”, where they learn from each other.

The Latvian Business Incubators are members of the organisation LTICA - Latvian Association of Technological Parks, Centers and Business Incubators.

Business Incubator of Telsias works together with Latvian Technological Center in Riga and KTU Regional Business Incubator in Kaunas in the Leonardo da Vinci project ”Training Network of Lithuanian Business Incubators”.

KTU Regional Business Incubator in Kaunas, LEBIC in Kaunas and Latvian Technological Center work together in a Framework 5 project.

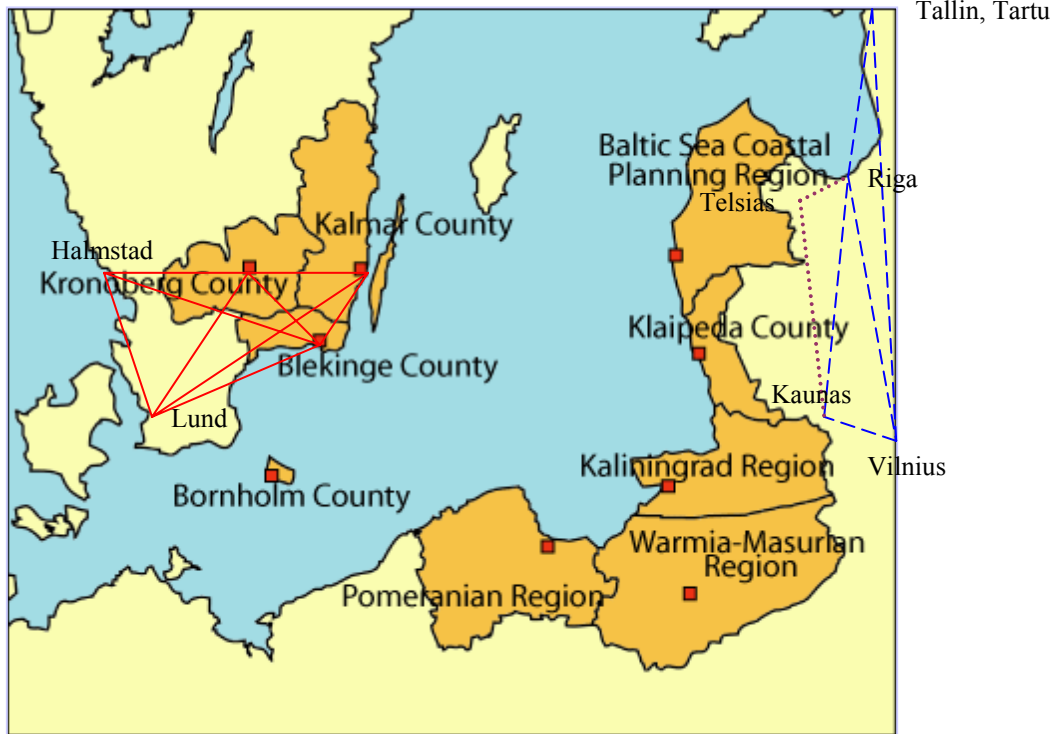


Fig 3 Incubators Networking

— Motpolen - - - BASTIC Telsias incubator net

Conclusion and ideas for strong networking in the ERB region

Efficiently building technical parks is very dependent of working with the Triple Helix concept, the same is applicable for building clusters. A strong co-operation between this triple helix will help to build up the organisation fast and strong. Good knowledge around that concept is necessary if it should be a fast growing process. During the next seminar in the Interreg-project we must try and create a foundation for this concept and its processes. To explain and help to introduce this concept to everyone who is unfamiliar with it is absolutely necessary. To build strong relations between technical parks and clusters in the ERB region would strengthen and benefit all parts involved.

Another difficulty is to co-ordinate companies with the universities, nationally but even more importantly on the international level. The first step is to let students do their final projects inside companies, both in their own country but much more so in a different country. That will help to ease the cultural problems and misunderstandings between countries around the Baltic Sea. Today there is a problem how the supervision at the different universities is done when the student is studying abroad. Recently however, a solution to the problem was developed called the SuperPro System. It has been financed by Leonardo da Vinci and developed by the Royal Technical University and Blekinge Institute of Technology. SuperPro is a tool that aims to assist institution and company supervisors in maintaining the level of academic quality for students undertaking placement / project work abroad or at a distance. It is a system that could be introduced in the ERB region.



To learn about each others cultures and differences is extremely important. One of the main issues is to let companies within the different parks learn from and have knowledge about each other. But what is the best way to create something of that size and importance? Only a few personal contacts are not nearly enough, we need to create deep contacts between major firms, universities as well as other organisations around the Baltic Sea area.

In Blekinge, we have taken a small step when we created a website between Blekinge and Sophia Antipolis called Bizznet. It will be the first attempt to try and communicate between two different technical parks, companies and students. Bizznet might be showed at our next seminar.

Even Soft Center has ideas how to create deep contacts between parks and a good description of the idea can be found in the Bit-Net project.

There are many examples when different individuals have created connections between parks or other organisations, and when that person leaves, the connection will die. So it is necessary to have a wide representation from all partners, all three sectors in the Triple Helix, when we will build a strong network between the ERB regions.

Our next step will be to let the different organisations present their ongoing examples and have workshops to create ideas about the development, who will be involved and what tools we need. Let this Interreg-project as well as new comparable projects create ideas through reports. Because it is our goal to create a strong region together, we are running these Interreg-3 projects.

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Arturas Razinkovas	Klaipeda University
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Latvian Technology Park	Riga	www.rtu.lv/WWW_LTP/LTP.HTM
Business Innovation Centre	Riga	www.lebic.lv
Pomerian Special Economic Zone	Tri-City	www.strefa.gda.pl
Klaipeda Free Economic Zone	Klaipeda	www.fe.z.lt

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Swedepark	www.swedepark.se
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Drivhuset	www.drivhuset.se
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IRC, Innovation Relay Centres	http://irc.cordis.lu



Clusters

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Universities

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