

The university and regional development...

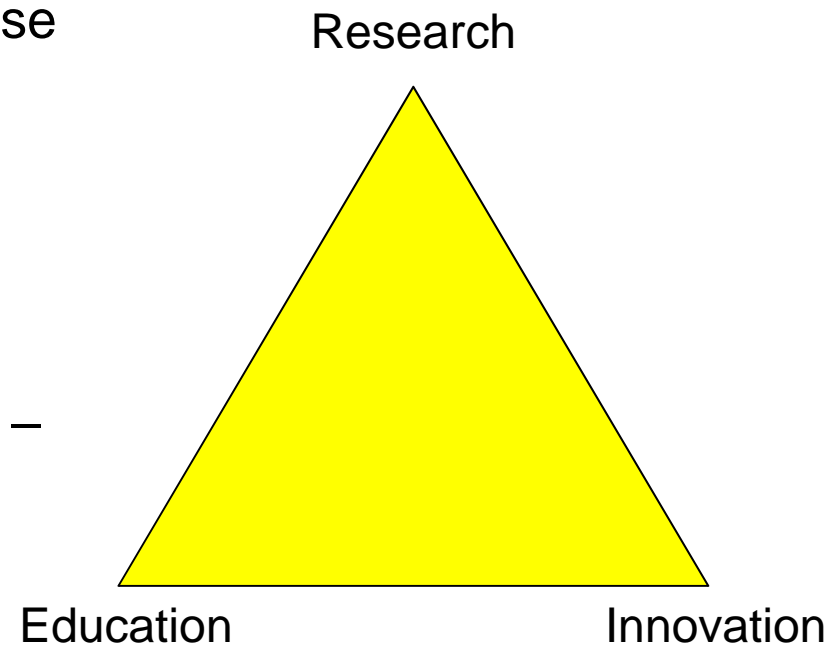
Prof. Christer Fröjdh

Vice rector for research and Innovation.



The role of the university

- Education – on a scientific base
- Research – develop new knowledge
- Collaboration with the society – improve knowledge and competence, contribute to innovation



The knowledge triangle

The role of the university

- Regional, national and international perspectives
 - The university operates in a regional context – the results should be of benefit for the region.
 - Activities should be coordinated on the national level – efficient use of resources
 - Science is international:
 - Quality measures
 - Collaborative efforts
 - Pick up results for the benefit of the local community
- An example of international collaboration for the benefit of the region
 - Work in collaboration with CERN will lead to applications
 - Analysis of coated paper
 - Detection of heavy metals in waste

Policy making

- Regional development strategies
 - Each region makes its Regional Development Strategy
 - The strategy involves several independent organisations – implementation is not always well coordinated.
 - Mid Sweden University is active in all regional committees – mainly focusing on research and higher education.
 - ***The profile areas of the university matches quite well with the strategies of the region***
- National policies
 - The government keeps several networks for policy discussions
 - Mid Sweden University is active in RND Fol – a network for discussions on regional development.
 - The network, among other things, put focus on academy – industry collaborations in ERDF
- EU-policies
 - Main activities through Europaforum and through the national representatives in Horizon 2020

Research funding

- The basic research funding for universities is typically less than 50% of the total research budget
 - 20% of the budget is currently based on publication, citation and external funding.
- The rest of the budget comes from external projects
 - A major part of the basic funding goes to co-financing of external projects
 - Much time spent on writing proposals (the overall success rate is going down)
 - Funding agencies control the research strategies
- ***Only regional project funding will focus on regional issues***

Funding for education

- This is totally based on the number of active students and their results
 - Difficult to run programs with few students even if they are strategically important
 - The performance of the students is essential for the economy of the university

ERDF

- Last period
 - A total of more than 60 project with total funding of 312 MSEK
 - Most projects in collaboration with regional industry
 - Due to funding rules the industrial participation is not visible.
- This period
 - Internal process for quality control – only projects that pass the threshold may be submitted
 - Scientific quality
 - Strategic impact for the university
 - Potential impact...

Collaborative projects

- Collaboration between organisations with different competence and different driving forces can be very successful provided that:
- The participants understand the different conditions and objectives
 - The university should produce new knowledge
 - The industry should produce and market new products or services – and earn money
 - The public sector should provide efficient and high quality services
- All participants should gain from the project.

Thank you for your attention!