

Regional Measures to Support Cluster Development in Region Västra Götaland

A Triple Helix Approach



**Stefan Lind, Region Västra Götaland
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On the agenda...

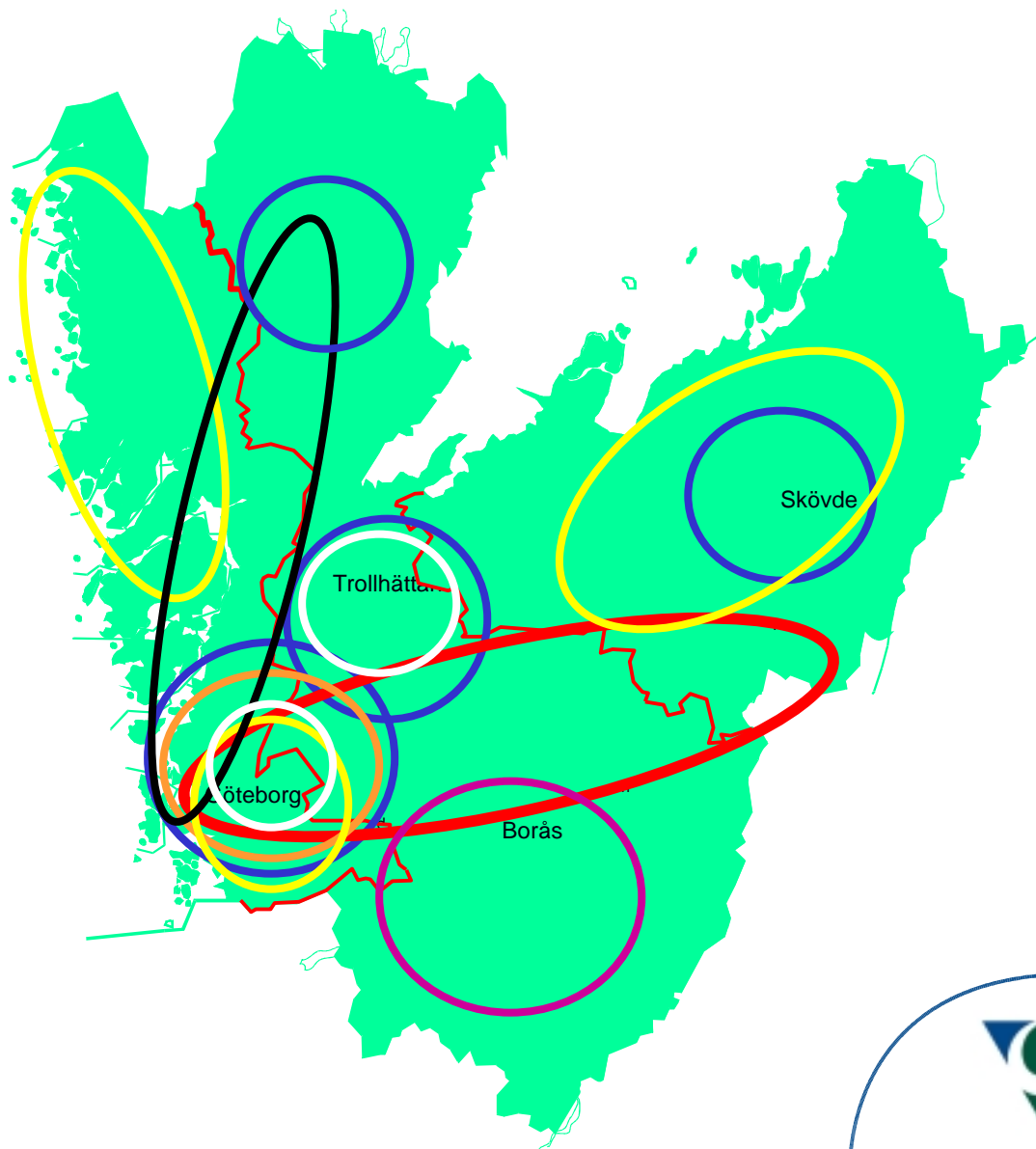
- Regional measures to support cluster development
 - The role of policy makers in a triple helix perspective
- Competitive clusters in Region Västra Götaland
 - Examples of cluster initiatives and projects
- Future issues on cluster development - discussion

Regional Growth Programme 2004 - 2007

One key goal to achieve sustainable growth:

Sustainable economic development in nine internationally competitive clusters in Region Västra Götaland.

Focus on regional competences; biomedicine and health, automotive, IT, functional foods, textile, plastics/chemistry, wood/furniture and creative industries.



-  **Automotive**
-  **Telecommunications and electronics**
-  **Biomedicine and Health Care**
-  **Food and Health**
-  **Petrochemistry**
-  **Textiles**
-  **Creative Industries**



Industry

**Common
goals**

Academia

Public



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Creates business and growth

**A
common
process**

supports

supports



Industry:
Profitability



Advantages

Academia:
Competitiveness!



Society:
Improved public infrastructure!



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Triple Helix **= regional growth!**



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The role of policy makers in cluster development

In dialogue with stakeholders from industry and academia, create conditions for the development of competitive clusters.

...through

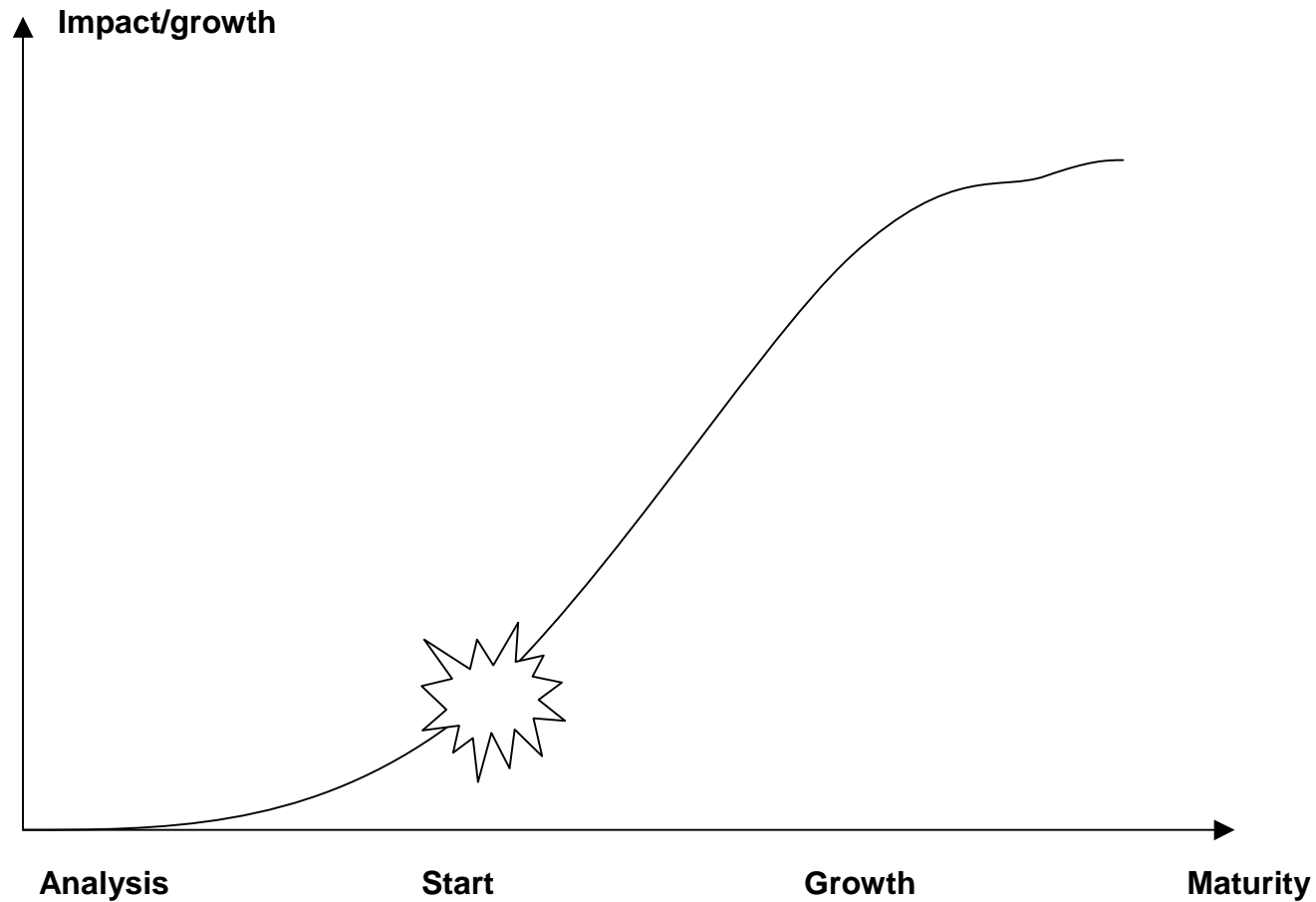
- co-financing of critical phases and prioritised efforts
- brokerage and facilitation
- international cooperation

Requires dialogue, analysis and ability to learn!

Critical criteria

- Company-driven
- Close interaction with Research Institutions
- Growth potential, internationally competitive
- Focus on innovation

Phases in a cluster initiative



Prioritised efforts in cluster processes - examples

Based on analysis of the clusters' inherent strengths and weaknesses...

- Process management
- Development of Strategic Competence (Competence Centers, Technical Projects)
- Export initiatives
- Arenas and platforms for cooperation

Assessment and feed-back

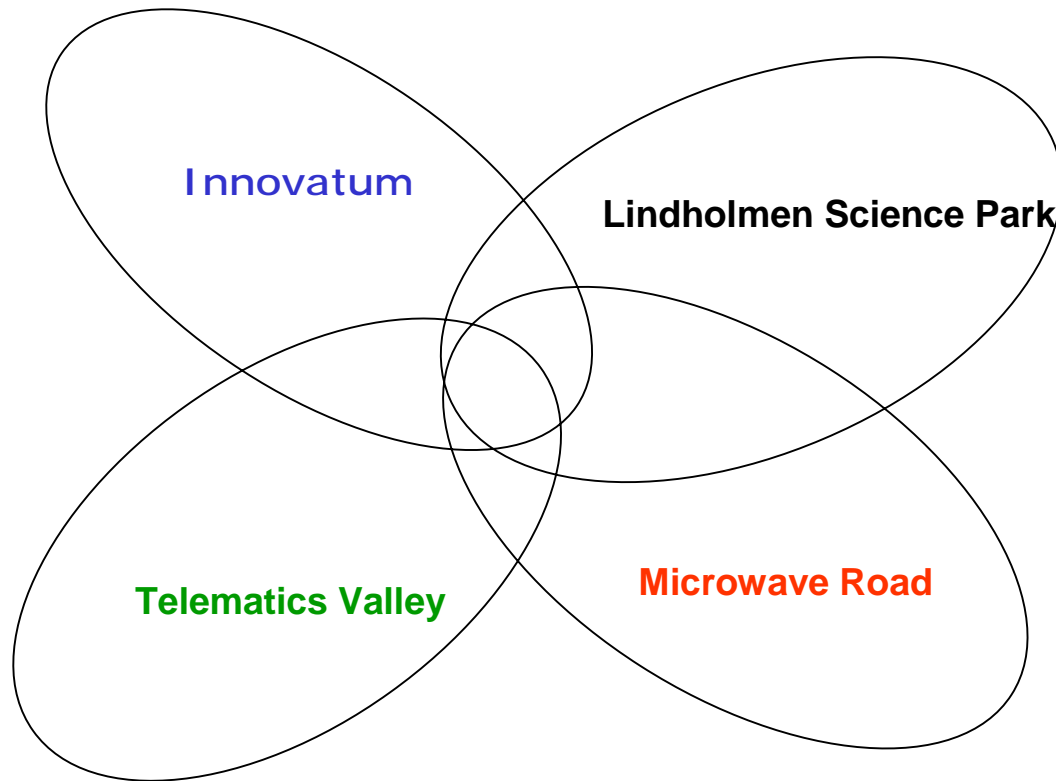
- Exit strategies
- Qualitative and Quantitative data - innovation index
- Reflexive Monitoring of Innovation processes
 - social scientific research launched in parallell with innovation system activity

Innovative cluster processes and stakeholders in Region Västra Götaland - examples

- Open Arena Lindholmen
- Innovatum
- Microwave Road
- Telematics Valley
- Biomedicine in Western Sweden
- Plastics for a Sustainable Society
- Functional foods in Western Sweden
- Textile and design
- Maritime cluster
- "Kitchen Kingdom"
- Sustainable indoor air quality - SIAQ

Inter-cluster cooperation - example

AutoCom Region



Future issues in cluster development

- Assessment - what, how and at what cost?
- Cross-border cluster cooperation
- The role of policy makers - learning and improving

The people who live here



foto: Bo Niklasson

- 1.5 million inhabitants
- 1/5 of Sweden's population
- 130 nationalities
- 50% in Greater Göteborg
- 300 km long - 250 km wide

Trade and Industry



- Scandinavia's strongest industrial and transport region
- Automotive, pharmaceuticals, textiles and petrochemicals are important sectors
- 1/4 of Sweden's food industry and 2/3 of fish processing industries

Training and skills development



- 42 000 full-time undergraduate students at 3 Universities & 4 University Colleges
- 25% have higher education
- R&D at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Chalmers University of Technology and Göteborg University contribute to innovative businesses

Regional Development Strategy - 10 objectives

1. Sustainable growth
2. A prominent region in know-how development and expertise
3. IT-region in a leading European position
4. SEK 50 billion for traffic infrastructure
5. To lead the way in developing and utilising resource-saving and environmentally friendly technology in Europe
6. A leading cultural region
7. Scandinavia's most visited tourist region
8. Internationally active
9. Pioneering region in equal opportunities
10. A model in the process of increased integration

Governance and responsibilities

- January 1st, 1999, responsibilities for development issues in the county were passed to the Västra Götaland Region (VGR)
- Self governing region with directly elected representatives
- Close partnership with regional partnerships and state authorities
- Regional Development Strategy - Regional Growth Programme
- development and implementation

Cluster definition

“...a geographically bounded concentration of similar, related or complementary businesses, with active channels for business transactions, communications and dialogue, that share specialized infrastructure, labor markets and services, and that are faced with common opportunities and threats.”

A Governor's guide to Cluster-Based Economic Development

Innovation Systems

“..actors from science, business and politics, which interact to develop, exchange and apply new technologies and new knowledge in order to promote sustainable growth by means of new products, services and processes.”

Definition by VINNOVA

Klusterinitiativ

“Cluster initiatives (CIs) are organised efforts to increase growth and competitiveness of clusters within a region, involving cluster firms, government and the research community”

The Cluster Initiative Greenbook, 2003
Sölvell, Lindqvist, Ketels

Företagen:

Ökad lönsamhet

- Närhet till specialiserade konsulter, leverantörer & samarbetspartners
- Positiv image som attraherar kvalificerad kompetens
- Möjlighet att påverka utbildnings- och forskningsinriktningar



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- Enklare driva studentprojekt tillsammans med företag

- Närhet till kvalificerade forskningspartners

- Enklare attrahera Högskola/universitet:

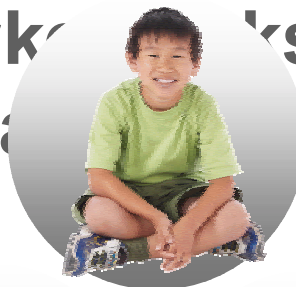
**Ökad
konkurrens-
kraft!**



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Ej
yrke
ma



Privat
service



Offentlig
service



"Var sjätte
person

- Tillväxt
- Ökat skatteunderlag
- Ny image

Samhället
**Stärkt
intäktsbas!**