Knowledge gives growth...
The VINNVÄXT Programme
Regional Growth through Dynamic Innovation Systems
Cecilia Johansson, Programme Manager,
VINNOVA, SWEDEN
VINNOVA’s challenge

Long-term economic growth in Sweden is weak, despite large investments in R&D. Increasing returns on Swedish R&D investments is one of VINNOVA’s challenges.
VINNOVA

A Government Agency under the Ministry of Industry, with

- 150 employees
- Annual budget approximately Euro 120 million

Mission:
To promote sustainable growth through
- Financing problem oriented research
- Development of effective innovation systems
Efficient innovation systems

Sustainable growth requires interaction between business, research, and policy/the public sector – Triple Helix. The interaction results in new products, services, and processes.

Interaction between
• Business
• Research
• Policy/Public Sector
Tools for research and innovation

- R&D programmes in growth areas
- VINN Excellence Center
- Research Institutes
- SBIR
- Business Incubator programme
- VINN NU Pre-seed programme
- SMINT Stimulation of SME participation in international R&D projects
- VINNVÄXT
VINNVÄXT

• VINNVÄXT is a competition that gets Sweden going!
• Generates growth through regional mobilisation
• Develops internationally competitive R&D environments
• Invests Euro 65 million x 2 in a 10 year period
• Long-term perspective – in learning, research, networks and processes
What is the money used for?

• At least 50 percent to R&D
• Development organisation and process management
• Mobilisation
• Competence supply
• Brand creation
• Strategic work
• Follow-up
VINNVÄXT WINNERS

• VINNVÄXT is a competition – the best ones win!
• Strong, common strategic idea
• Clear regional leadership
• Growth areas: biotechnology, IT, food/health and process industries
• Two competitions so far – eight winners!
Uppsala BIO – Uppsala

- Tradition in biotechnology research
- Internationally renowned brands + Nobel prize winners
- Creates renewal and cross-disciplinary collaboration
- Two universities + broad business base + active municipality in collaboration

Madeleine Neil
Rhiannon Sanders
Jonas Åström
Competence diversity
Food Innovation at Interfaces – Skåne

- Spearhead competence in agribusiness
- Creates food with high added value
- Border-crossing research on companies terms
- Strong political backing in the region
- Creates an innovative climate

Magnus Lagnevik
Kjell Olsson
Robot Valley – Mälardalen

• Specialises in industrial robots, field robotics and robotics for medical and health care
• Robot Valley has what is needed - qualified education, strong support from industry, innovative research environments and a strong brand
• Strongly industry-driven
even more winners...
VINNVÄXT – what does it take to win?

- Good growth potential
- Common strategic idea
- Regional strength and leadership
- Strong R&D environment
- Renewal in focus
- All parties must contribute – Triple Helix
VINNVÄXT – effects

• Helps regions to go from words to action
• Competition format forces regions to prioritise
• Strategic research on companies’ terms
• Clear coordination effect
• Strong role for regional politicians
• Growth in focus
• Gives credibility
• Builds brands
New nominations – VVINNVAÄXT 2005

• Growth initiatives in early stages have priority
• Common strategic ideas/visions are rewarded
• Resource allocation Euro 550 000 /year 2006 and 2007
• A 10-year perspective
Knowledge gives growth...
Three concepts:

**Sustainable growth:**
Long-term economic growth which is also socially and ecologically sustainable

**Innovation systems:**
Actors in business, research and politics who generate and use new technology and new knowledge in collaboration, for sustainable growth

**Triple Helix:**
Collaboration and coordination between business, researchers and politicians/society