

RIS3 of Region Gävleborg County Council in North Mid Sweden

Carina Åkerberg, Olle Wängsäter
and David Paulsson

Work Package 4

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Questions you would like peers to discuss after your presentation

- **Main achievements:**
- Bottom-up establishment of an innovation system.
- Clusters has been a part of the regional development for over 15 years.
- Close collaboration with two neighbouring regions in North Mid Sweden (Dalarna & Värmland) for over ten years.
- North Mid Sweden EC pilot for industrial transition (one of five in Europe).

- **Main bottlenecks:** Lack of regional political leadership and problems of integrating the whole innovation system.

- **Questions we would like peers to discuss after your presentation?**
 - Question 1: How can smart political leadership be mobilized to support implementation of RIS3?
 - Question 2: How to integrate and coordinate an innovation system with many intermediate actors scattered over a region?

Gävleborg and North Mid Sweden

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Short description of the Gävleborg region

- Population: 276,000 people on 20,000 km² in the most forestry dense area in Sweden (840,000 lives in North Mid Sweden).
- Major town: Gävle with approx 75,000 inhabitants – also seat of the regional government with a university and one of the largest rural municipalities in the region.
- 10 municipalities with a few small towns.
- The region is 1,5-3 hours North of Stockholm.
- 1 hour from Gävle to Swedens largest international airport (Arlanda).
- Gävleborg have 715 exporting companies with a total turnover of 3 billion Euro.

Short description of RIS3 process


- **Establishment of an innovation system with a bottom-up approach the last 15 years:** clusters, incubators, technical parks, university, R&D centers, development projects, business associations/centers and municipality business centers.
- **RIS3-like strategy development the last 10 years.**
- **The University of Gävle was an active co-partner in RIS3-process.**
- **Intermediate actors in the innovation system were central partners in the development of the new RIS3 (2017)** with their intimate knowledge of the opportunities and the problems in the region. They work on a daily basis with innovation oriented companies and knowledge institutions.
- **The RIS-process was supported by an interregional project in North Mid Sweden** (financed by EU regional structural funds).

Building the evidence base for RIS3

SWOT

- **Strengths:** Strong traditional industrial world class manufacturing e.g. in steel, paper, packaging, timber, wood technology.
- **Weaknesses:** Low formal education level leads to problems with lack of skilled labour and transition to the knowledge economy.
- **Opportunities:** Efficient use of the whole innovationsystem of intermediaries to enhance entrepreneurship and innovation with several ICT-clusters (GIS, fiber optics, process-IT in industries).
- Proximity to the Stockholm area with high growth, high innovation intensity and concentration of knowledge resources (170-400 km).
- **Threats:** Lack of regional political leadership.
- Lack of diversity in the business structure.
- Discontinuation of industries in the region.

Smart specialisation areas in Gävleborg

- Material technology and sustainable production
 - Smart sustainable cities and societies
 - Sustainable and inclusive organisation of work
 - Bio economy
 - Digital services and processes
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Main objectives of RIS3 in Gävleborg

- **Mobilisation of a common cooperative regional leadership** and taking the next step in developing a regional strategic framework for a more focused development of research and innovation in the region.
- **Developing a conceptual framework** to enhance the integration of the innovation system.
- **Increasing the regional attraction** for investment and competence. Facilitating interregional, national and international exchange and cooperation.
- **Transforming the region** from an innovation follower to an innovation leader.

Why these priorities?

- A large but scattered innovation system throughout the region.
- Lack of a cohesive regional leadership.
- A need for a more focused RIS3 strategy.
- Serious efforts are needed for the region to enter the innovative knowledge economy for sustainable growth.
- SME in the region needs to take the step from being an innovation follower to an innovation leader.
- The need to profile an anonymous Swedish region.

Implementation and budget

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- **Bottom-up establishment of the innovation system** the last 15 years that are continuously financed by the Gävleborg County Council (originally national regional development funding) and a wide variety of other financiers for example EU-funding.
- **Interregional project in North Mid Sweden supported the new RIS3 (2017)** and preparation for the implementation (2016-2018) financed by EU structural fund and Gävleborg County Council (300,000 Euro). Might continue (2018-2021).
- **Large project (The Innovation Step) 2017-2020 with 2,5 million Euro budget to implement RIS3** and integrate the innovation system (financed by EU structural funds and Gävleborg County Council).

- **Measuring and monitoring progress**
- The regional strategy (2014-2020) and business program (2014-2020) lacks an efficient monitoring system.
- The process of finding methods to measure, evaluate and monitoring progress are going to be developed by the large projects (The Innovation Step and Smart Regions).
- A Regio Star Awards winning method for effect evaluation have been developed in previous interregional project in North Mid Sweden for cluster support (SLIM 2007-2013) with complementary methods in the Smart Regions project (2015-2018).

Summary and next steps

- The implementation of the RIS3 and integrating the innovation system is being prepared in the project "The Innovation Step".
- The project "The Innovation Step" is going to initiate an on going evaluation with a strong focus on feedback and learning.
- The new RIS3 (2017) is being tested in the collected efforts mentioned.
- Further development of RIS3 in the EC pilot project for industrial transition in North Mid Sweden.
- An update of RIS3 and coordination with the new regional strategy 2020-2030 is needed.

Question 1

How can smart political leadership be mobilized to support RIS3?

- “Political leadership is the most critical ingredient in the S3 repertoire because it creates the capacity to mobilise every other ingredient”
- (EC 2016 Implementing S3 – a handbook p 40).

Question 2

How to integrate and co-ordinate an innovation system with many intermediate actors scattered over a region?

- "A holistic approach to sectorial development that goes beyond narrow concerns with science and technology or infrastructure and seeks to understand their multiple and inter-connected needs" (EC 2016 Implementing S3 – a handbook p 46).



Carina Åkerberg
Regional strategist
Region Gävleborg
Tel +4626-650223
carina.akerberg@regiongavleborg.se
www.regiongavleborg.se



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