

REKENE Press release

Developing the knowledge economy in the Nordic countries

How do Nordic regions develop their knowledge economy? So far such issues have hardly been researched, but by 2010 we will definitively know more. The reason is that this year the large research program on *Regional trajectories to the knowledge economy – Nordic-European comparisons (REKENE)* will be finalised.

Norden has seen many – public and private – initiatives to promote and stimulate innovation. However, still the region is lagging behind the targets of the EU Lisbon summit. In short that is to increase research, promote entrepreneurship and innovation, increase employment and for Europe to become the most competitive region in the world.

This is the main reason to initiate the REKENE research-project. In more detail the project will look at knowledge dynamics in the following sectors by the following regional partnerships:

Food and drink: Region Sjælland and Roskilde University (DK)

Information and communication technology: Creadis network Oulu (FI)

Knowledgeintensive business services: Akureyri Business Agency and The Research Centre of the University of Akureyri (IS)

Knowledgeintensive business services: Nordland County Council and The National Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NO)

New media: East Sweden Region and Linköping University (SE)

Information and communication technology: Region Värmland and Karlstad University (SE)

Knowledgeintensive business services: Stockholm County Council and Stockholm University(SE)

Knowledgeintensive business services: Statistics and research Åland and the Government of Åland (FI)

The overall objectives of REKENE is to understand the role and development of knowledge in the regional economies of the Nordic and European regions – in order to inform policies and policy makers – and to make recommendations for future regional innovation policy development in Norden. The project is linked with the 6th Framework project EURODITE which facilitates comparisons with 24 European regions.

The REKENE project is organised as a cooperate effort between practitioners and researchers. All together some 18 different institutions and several firms in the regions will be involved. *Nordregio*, the Nordic Centre for Spatial Development, that is involved in the EURODITE project, is the lead agency. The total budget of the research project is NOK 6,2 million. Finance is foremost provided by Nordic Innovation Centre (NOK 2 million) and the partners.

For further information see:

www.nordregio.se/Rekene and www.eurodite.bham.ac.uk

Or contact the partners:

Anders Olsson	Region Värmland	anders.olsson@regionvarmland.se
Brita Hermelin	Stockholm University	brita.hermelin@humangeo.su.se
Henrik Toft Jensen	Roskilde University	hjt@ruc.dk
Hjalti Johannesson	The Research Centre of the University of Akureyri	hjalti@unak.is
Jouko Selkälä	Creadis network	jouko.selkala@oulu.fi

Katarina Fellman	ÅSUB - Statistics and Research Åland	katarina.fellman@asub.ax
Linnea Johansson	Government of Åland	linnea.johansson@regeringen.ax
Liv Rask Sørensen	Nordland County Council	lrs@nfk.no
Magnús Þór Ásgeirsson	Akureyri Region Business Agency	magnus@afe.is
Margareta Dahlström	Nordregio (project manager)	margareta.dahlstrom@nordregio.se
Marlen Andersen	Bodø Graduate School of Business	marlen.andersen@kpb.no
Mattias Legnér	Linköping University	mattias.legner@isak.liu.se
Peter Karlsson	Östsam Regional Development Council	peter.karlsson@ostsam.se
Sara Östberg	Nordregio (project secretary)	sara.ostberg@nordregio.se
Tine Aage	Region Sjælland	taa@regionsjaelland.dk
Tom Petersson	Stockholm County Council	tom.petersson@rtk.sll.se
Åsa Rydin	Karlstad University	asa.rydin@kau.se