



NORDREGIO

Nordic Centre for Spatial Development

# Regional Strategies for Smart Specialisation in the Nordic Countries

*WS 9: Implementing Smart Growth Principles in  
the Age of Austerity*

*23 November 2012*

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# From theory to policy

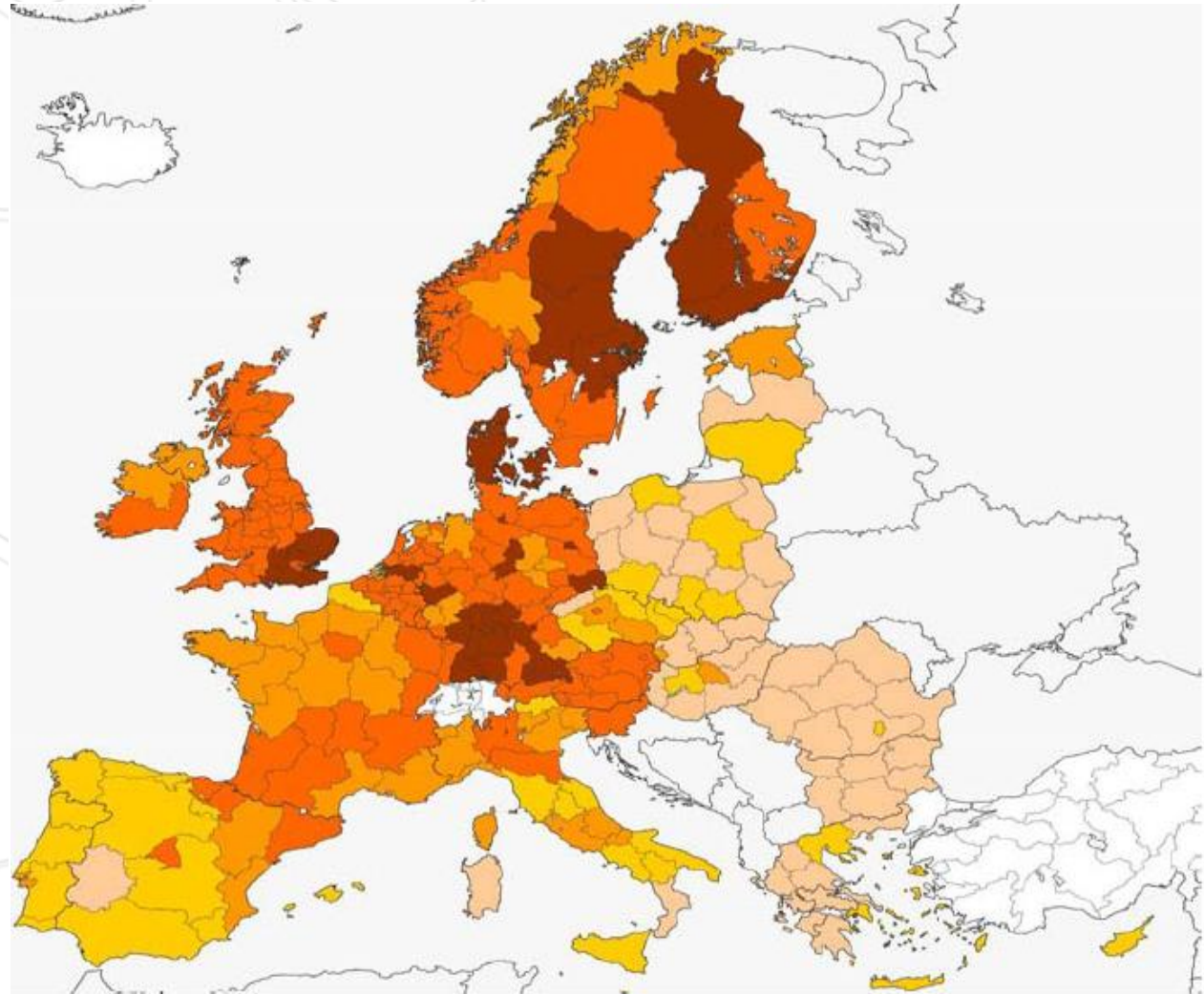
- EUs Knowledge for Growth (K4G)
  - D. Foray et al, 2009
  - P. McCann and R. Ortega-Argilés, 2011
- Europe 2020 Strategy
- Flagship Initiative Innovation Union
- DG Regio - Regional Policy Contributing to Smart Growth
- EU Cohesion Policy



# Level of Innovation in the EU

CP support for Innovation:

- 4% in 89'-93'
- 7% in 94'-99'
- 11% in 00'-06'
- 25% in 07'-13'



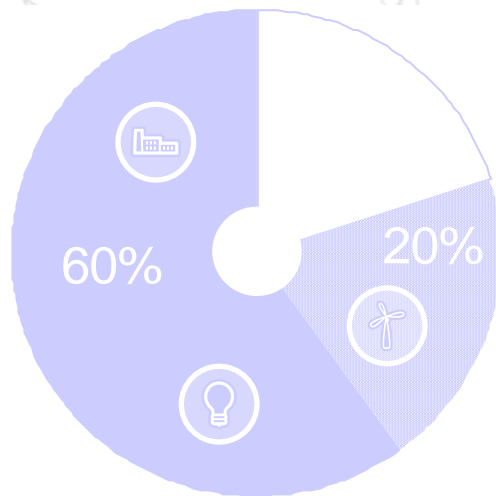
Source: DG Regio

# Concentration ERDF Investment

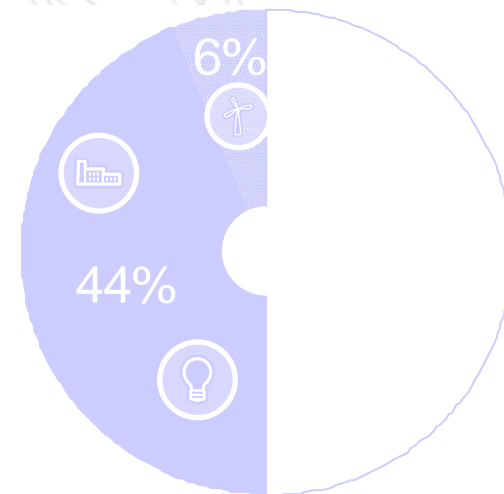
⚡ Energy efficiency and renewable energy

💡 Research and Innovation

🏢 SMEs competitiveness



Developed regions and transition regions



Less developed regions

# EU Cohesion Policy 2014-2020

- *Cohesion policy (ERDF, CF & ESF) dedicated to meeting the **Europe 2020 objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth***
- *Consistency with the national reform programmes*
- *Thematic concentration to **maximise the impact of investment: focus on research and innovation in ERDF***
- ***Conditionality** to ensure effective implementation, e.g. research and innovation strategies for smart specialisation (RIS3).*

*Common Strategic Framework of the Commission: coherence (ERDF, ESF, CF, EAFRD and EMFF); clarify synergies with Horizon 2020 etc.*

Source: European Commission, October 2011

# Smart Specialisation in the Nordic Countries

- Nordic Working Group for Third Generation Regional Policy
- Purpose: Explore the concept and its impact on regional policy in the Nordic countries
- Method
  - Desk research
  - Interviews and seminars
  - Parallell projects
  - Working paper



# Smart Specialisation is...

*“... a **dynamic strategic process** where regions and Member States **identify** their long term competitive advantages based on **local strengths**, and define those **actions** that can lead them to maintain and/or create their **competitive position**”*

Source: Innovation Union Competitiveness Report 2011

# Important Elements

- Analysis and regional embeddedness
  - Diversification and specialisation
  - Critical mass
- Collaboration and linkages (connectivity)
  - Across sectors, disciplines, clusters and industries
  - Local-region-national-global
- Broad definitions of innovation
- Top-down (strategic decision) and bottom-up (entrepreneurial dynamics)



# Applying a RIS3 framework

Step 1 – Analysis of regional context/ potential

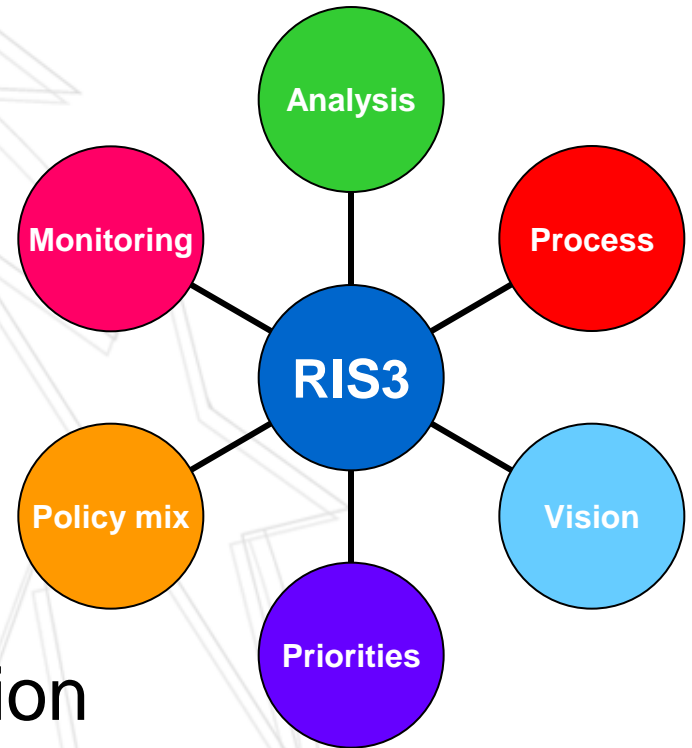
Step 2 – Governance process

Step 3 – Vision for the future

Step 4 – Selection of priorities

Step 5 – Policy mix

Step 6 – Monitoring and evaluation



# Impact on Nordic Policy

- Influence from EU Structural Funds
- Regional concentration in Finland (Innovative Cities)
- Focus on Smart Growth in Sweden
- Some hesitation in Denmark (IQ Net)
- More activity in Finnish and Swedish regions (S3 platform, Reglab seminar, OECD:s TIP project)
- Increasing interest in Iceland and Norway

# Analysis Capacity

- Tradition of SWOT-analysis within regional contexts
- Analysis in collaboration between regions (e.g. Reglab Denmark and Sweden)
- National analysis support, e.g.
  - Sector and cluster analysis/evaluation
  - Sfinno – innovation database
  - rAps – regional analysis and prognosis system

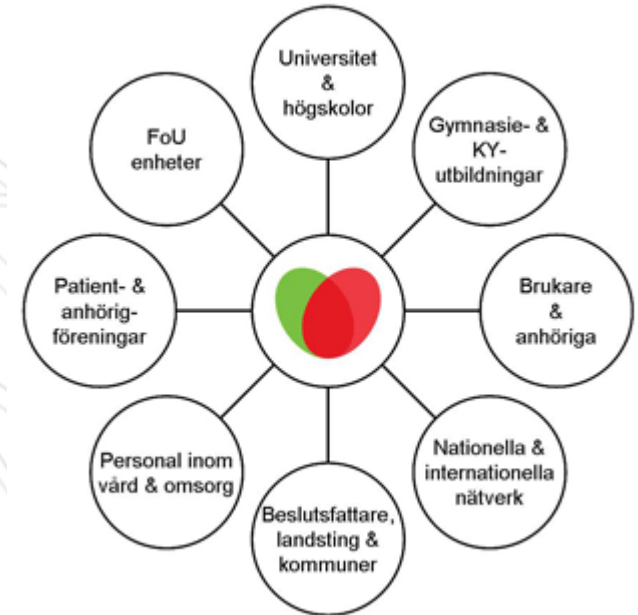


# Tradition of TH collaboration

- Regional collaboration and partnerships
  - Regional Development Plans and Strategies
  - ERDF-partnership
  - Regional Growth Fora
  - Councils for Cooperation with Business Communities
- Innovation Strategies
  - Regional Innovation Strategies
  - Regional Research Funds
- Cluster, program and project boards



# Innovation in Health Care



## Företagsamma människor inom vård och omsorg

Välkommen till Högskolan i Gävle Hus 96 (tentahuset) torsdag den 11/10 mellan kl. 9-16

En temadag om drivkrafter och möjligheter för dig som är student, elev, lärare, forskare, politiker eller arbetar inom välfärdssektorn

9-16 programmet:  
 9-14 (utställning)  
 10-12 Föreläsning om svenska välfärdssystemet  
 12-13 Lunch  
 13-14 Nära välfärdsvård  
 14-16 Diskutera med oss!

Frågor och mer info: [ulian@hig.se](mailto:ulian@hig.se)  
 Vidgörelse på [www.hig.se](http://www.hig.se)

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# Exemples of Policy Tools

- Clusters
- SME Innovation Environments
- Research infra-structures & science parks
- Universities & HEI
- Digital Agenda EU
- Key Enabling Technologies (KET)
- Financial instruments
- Culture and creative industry
- Internationalization
- Innovative public procurement
- Green growth
- Social innovation

# Monitoring and Evaluation

- “Följeforskning” and on-going evaluation
- External experts, peer reviews and OECD Territorial Reviews
- National quality assessment of research and education

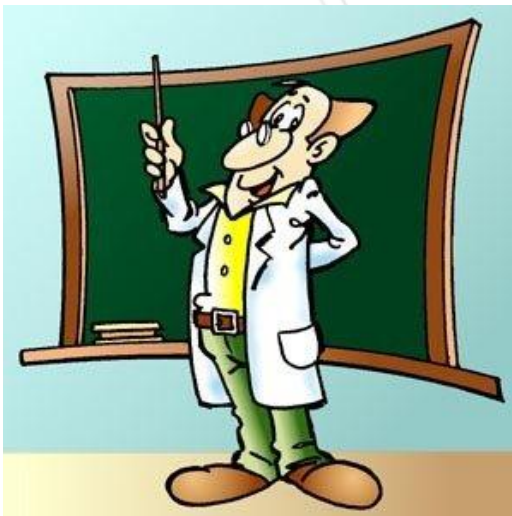


# Strengths of Nordic Regions

- *Cooperative governance* – strong tradition of triple helix collaboration, e.g. RIS, RDP, ERDF
- *A broadly defined concept of innovation* – e.g. user driven innovations, public sector innovation and green innovation
- *Regional analysis and evaluation* – established methods for analysis within regional contexts, e.g. SWOT
- National support for *prioritisation*, e.g. clusters, SRA, global challenges
- *Avoiding lock-in effects* – cross sector, cross regional and cross disciplinary collaboration



# Smart Strategies in Värmland



Den nationella  
innovationsstrategin



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# Nordic Challenges

- Identify potentials in relation to *other* regions – nationally and internationally
- Incentives for *Quadruple Helix* Collaboration
- Involving *non-traditional sectors*
- Dialogues *between levels* - local-regional-national-international
- *RIS3* – at what level?
- Participation in *global value chains and EU research programs* (Horizon 2020)
- Securing *long term processes!*



# Foray et al, 2011

*“Smart specialisation is a policy concept that has enjoyed a short but very existing life! Elaborated by a group of academic “experts” in 2008, it very quickly made a significant impact on the policy audience, particularly in Europe. Such a success story in such a short period of time is a perfect example of **‘policy running ahead of theory’.**”*

Source: Foray et al (2011) Smart Specialisation. From academic idea to political instrument, the surprising career of a concept and the difficulties in its implementation, MTEI WP 2011-001

