



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

UNICREDS – Distributed collaborative research networks as a means of improving the capacity of regions for research and innovation

Prof. Sami Kurki

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University Consortium of Seinäjoki/University of Helsinki
Ruralia-institutet



Evaluating the models to create and develop the university component in the triple helix – concept in peripheral regions of Europe.

- Triple helix could be selected as a general model
- Main focus of the UNICREDS on the practical models how to create and develop university component in peripheral 'non university' regions.



Creating new forums for innovative interaction

- Triple helix –introducing university component
- Between different kind of knowledge pools (research based/business knowledge)
- Between universities and disciplines
- Creating networks to 'world class' research centers
- The question of critical mass – to what extent it is spatial/virtual phenomenon, how we measure the critical mass in the case of triple helix -concept



Regional case studies focusing on

- Practical concepts and supporting national/regional policies
- Matching interests of different actors (universities, private companies, regional development authorities) - partnership approach
- Models for funding (national, regional, private, universities)
- Creation of required regional human capital, developing networks to knowledge centers
- Development of trust and social capital in the regional triple helix -partnership



EPANET –model of South Ostrobothnia, based on new established research professorships

Intelligent Systems

Logistics Systems

Electronic Business

Development of Entrepreneurship

Consumer Behaviour

Food Development

Aluminium Technology

Competitiveness of Urban Areas

Popular Music

Virtual Technology

Health Care Information Technology

Rural Entrepreneurship

Concept Management

Food Chains and Food Safety

Polymer Matrix Composites Technology

Metal Engineering

Laboratory Medicine



EPANET after 7 years

- Research community of 100 experts
- Annual turn over of 6 mil. Euros
- Partly funded by over 100 companies, public funding mainly from the region
- Strong international networks
- Conducted research has been academically high quality
- Clearly priority in the regional development policy, also companies still happy