Open Innovation Arenas: The Open Arena 5 experience
Knowledge Key to Innovation: To increase the impact of university research and knowledge

Joint initiative between the higher education institutions in the counties of Skåne and Blekinge (2011–2013)

Catalyst for cooperation in the Regional Innovation System

Effectiveness and coordination of efforts

Synergistic effect in interdisciplinary cooperation

Focus

- Challenges – needs driven innovation
- Open Innovation principles & processes
“smart specialisation” - launched at EU level to emphasise the importance of **basing prioritisations in innovation strategies** and subsequent initiatives on a fundamental analysis of the requirements for future competitiveness at all political levels. Focus is also on **regional players’ participation** in strategy development.

**Open Arena 5 : Synergy with and contribution to**

- **STRATEGY 2020: An International Innovation Strategy for Skåne**
- ‘smart personal health’, ‘smart sustainable cities’, ‘smart materials’
- **Developing new innovative areas and creative environments**
- **Sub-strategy: From cluster initiatives to the development of open innovation arenas in Skåne**
Aims

- To increase the impact of university research and knowledge
- To strengthen the innovative capacity in the region through the increase of utilisation of university research
- To develop and test new methods and tools to this end
- To establish an open collaboration arena/platform in the region between academia-society-business

Thematic areas

- Smart Cities
- Food
- Environment
- Personal Health
- ICT as a catalyst

Sustainability as a horizontal thematic
Implementation:

- Project Leader: LU Open

Joint Learning and capturing of lessons learned

Pilots - interdisciplinary innovation arenas to test new methods and tools - new methodologies for collaboration models

1. Green Development - ORIGO (SLU Alnarp)
2. Food, Environment & Health - Open Innovation Arena (HKR)
3. Prototyping the Future - ICT Tools for Innovation (MAH)
4. IT and Internet-based solutions within Health & Smart Cities (BTH)
5. Bridging Academia & Knowledge (LU Innovation System)
Origo
An innovation model

Proof of concept

Proof of development

Research result

Product/service

Academic intrapreneur

Scientific researcher

SME/Public sector
Origo

one unique team

Team Leader
SME/Public sector
Business advisor
Expert
Scientific researcher
Academic intrapreneur
Origo

three lessons learned

✓ The knowledge gap
✓ Team collaborative learning
✓ The need of resilience in our innovation system
Lessons learned until now

- Who owns the IPR?
- Systems innovation is a top-to-bottom attitude for policy-makers, universities, industry, customers and users. This is the spirit of Open Innovation Arenas in theory.

Reality: It takes time and bottom-up efforts to change processes but challenge driven processes speed up impact

- Regional strategies such as “smart specialisation” priorities are successful in streamlining regional efforts between innovation players since these are based in the analysis of the cluster realities and competencies in the region.
- Open Arena 5 avoided dread-lock through a bottom-up approach that respected the needs of the actors in the innovation system and moved slowly towards new open innovation models as a first step toward integration of university efforts in the region.
- Key aspect: Intermediary function
- Issues and challenge driven open innovation processes speed up impact & results since they showcase reality and success & failure stories, contribute therefore in changing established practices.