

# ***Regional universities and university colleges in the Nordic Countries: An overview***

*Regional universities and university colleges as  
drivers for local and regional development in the  
Nordic countries  
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## **Content**

1. Introduction
2. The Nordic countries and higher education institutions
3. Good practices, knowledge gaps and policy implications



# 1. Introduction

## Question

*How can universities and university colleges work as an instrument of regional development?*

## Background

- Lisbon Strategy 2000 => knowledge-based economy
- Higher education institutions
  - Education
  - Research
  - Cooperation with the surrounding society
- But effects hard to measure and prove

## Approach 1(2)

*Overview of higher education institutions in the Nordic countries*

- Historical development
- Education
- Research
- Cooperation with the surrounding society

## Approach 2(2)

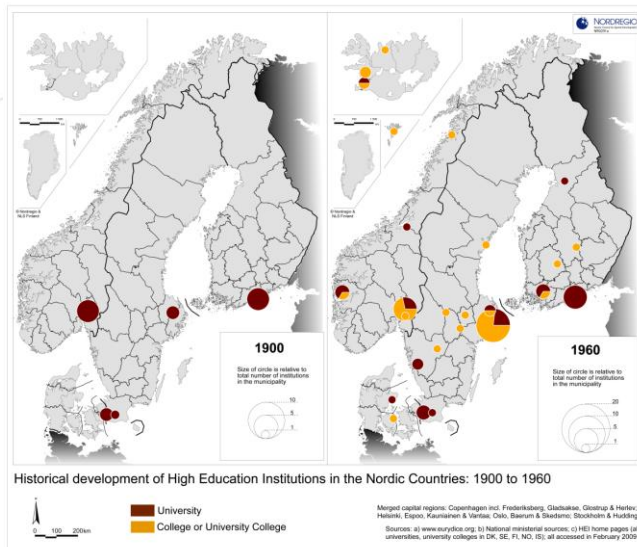
### *Case studies*

- Taking a closer look at interactions between higher education institutions and the surrounding business environment
  - DK: Aalborg University and ICT sector on Northern Jutland
  - FI: Oulu Southern Institute and ELME Studio
  - IS: School for Renewable Energy Science (RES)
  - NO: University of Agder and VRI in Agder
  - SE:
    - Dalarna University and Vinnväxt project Triple Steelix
    - Jönköping University and , Bergslagen

## 2. The Nordic countries and higher education institutions

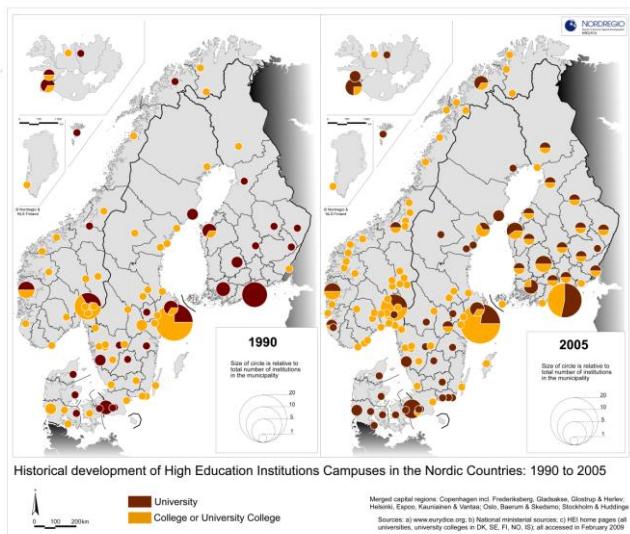
## Historical development 1 (2)

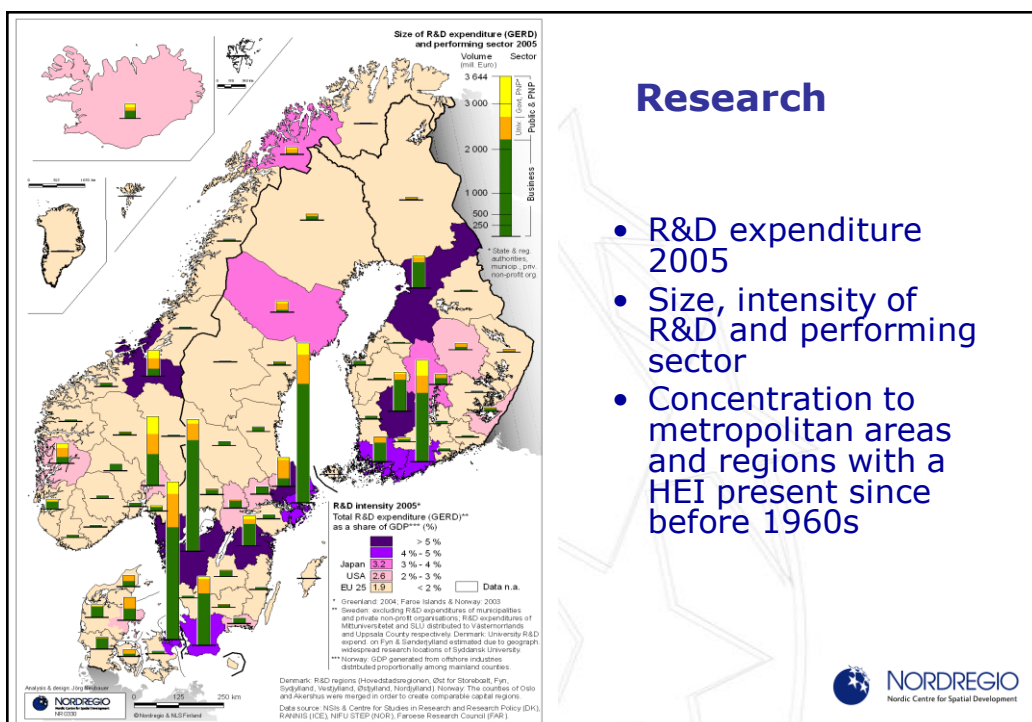
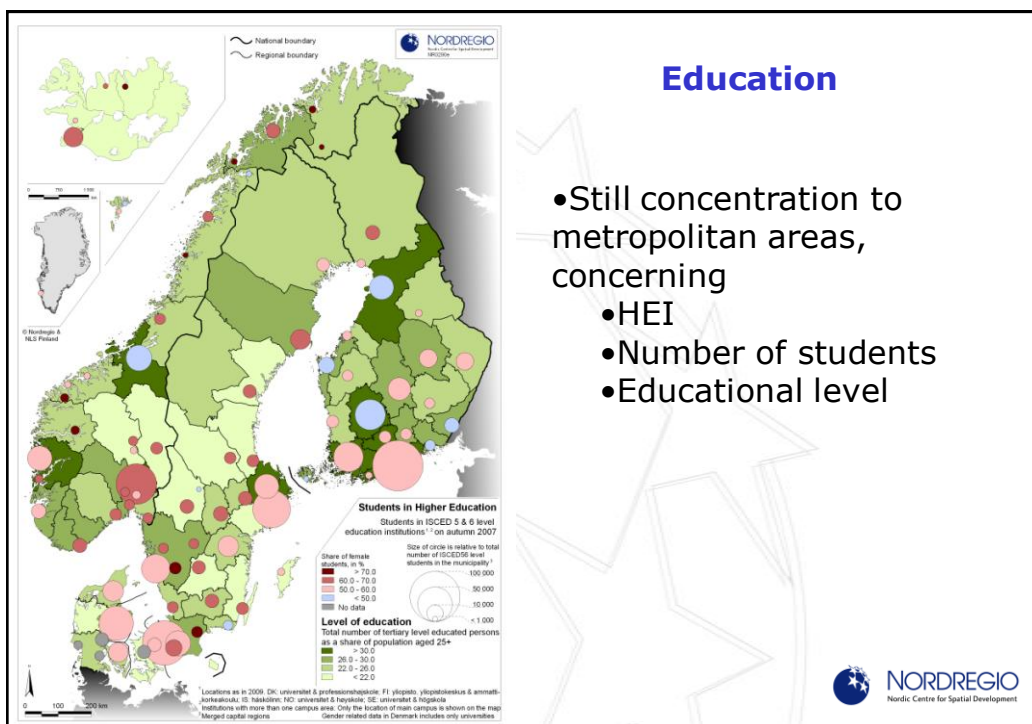
- Evolving definition
- Geographical diffusion of HEI starting from 1960s

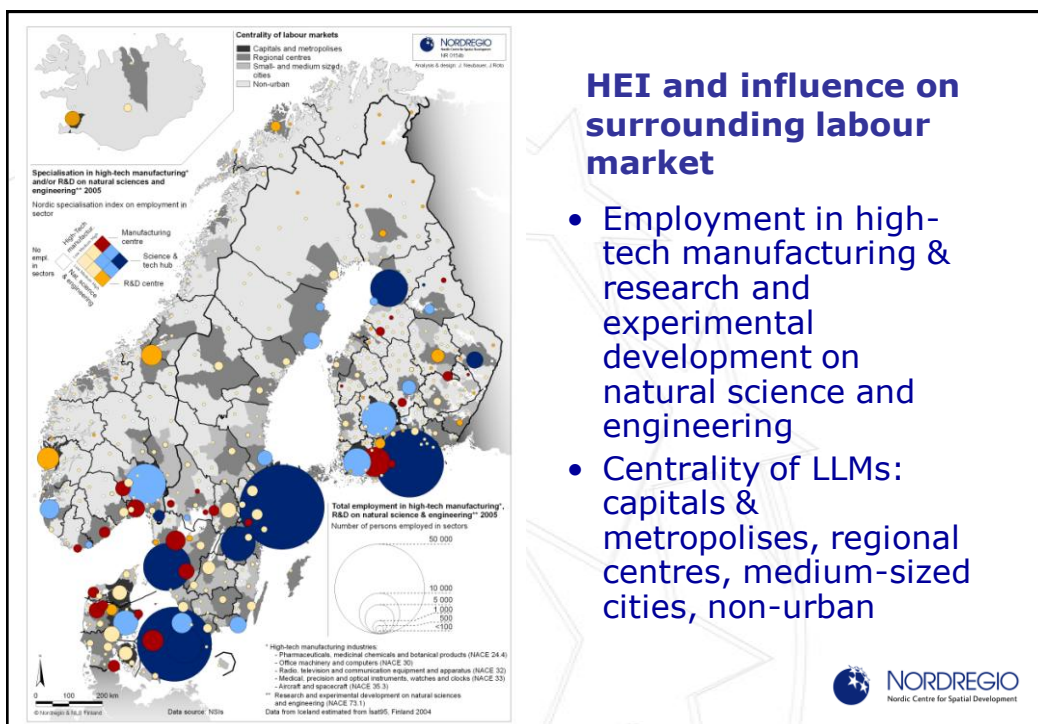


## Historical development 2 (2)

- But still concentration to metropolitan areas
- Consolidation







## Interactions between HEI and the surrounding business environment

### Knowledge-bridges (Reglab 2006)

- *Education and life-long learning*
  - RES, Iceland
  - Dalarna University and Triple Steelix
  - Aalborg University and ICT sector
- *Business formation and entrepreneurship activities*
  - Jönköping University and Science Park Jönköping
  - Aalborg University and ICT sector
- *Research and development collaboration*
  - Dalarna University and Triple Steelix
  - University of Agder and VRI Agder
  - Oulu Southern Institute and ELME Studio
  - Aalborg University and ICT sector



## Case study findings – comparisons 1(2)

- *Temporal aspects*
  - 1960s -
  - Previous cooperation
- *Focus*
  - Research:
    - Technology development
    - SMEs
  - Education:
    - workforce

## Case study findings – comparisons 2(2)

- *Actors*
  - Triple helix
  - Networks
- *Policy*
  - financing



### 3. Good practices, knowledge gaps and policy implications

#### Case study findings – Good practices 1(3)

- *Education*
  - Match workforce demand in the region
  - Project and problem based / outplacement
  - Entrepreneurship programmes
  - Up skilling and life-long learning

## Case study findings – Good practices 2(3)

- *Research*
  - Applied and need / user driven research
  - Inclusions of region aspects in research strategies
  - Establishment of facilities, i.e. laboratories
  - Industrial PhD

## Case study findings – Good practices 3(3)

- *Collaboration with the surrounding society*
  - Science parks
  - Gate opener and broker to other HEI
  - Platform for networks
  - Facilitator / hub
  - Regional representation on the board of the HEI

## Knowledge gaps

- Education
  - Distance education
  - Towards a 2-tier system?
- Research
  - From technology development => social, service and organisational development
- Cooperation with the surrounding society
  - More knowledge concerning effects

## Policy implications – HEI as instrument of regional development

- Definition of the task, collaboration with the surrounding society
- New incentive structures
- Robust and long-term structures
- More knowledge needed

## **Questions to consider during the seminar**

- If universities and university colleges are to serve as regional drivers what pre-conditions must be met?
- What is the future of HEI concerning function and organisation in order to contribute to regional development?