Reykjavik

June 4 – 7 2008

Rector Göran Bexell, Lund University
1. Lund University´s prioritised networks
2. How can networks be used?
3. Stronger by networking?!
Lund University prioritized networks

• Øresund University

• LERU

• Universitas 21
Øresund University

- 12 institutions of higher education in the Øresund Region
- 14 000 Researchers
- 150 000 Students
- 6 500 Postgraduate students
- Regional authorities
- Companies 2 500
Øresund Science Region

Cross border collaboration for Economic growth, Regional integration, establishing state-of-the-art networks and clusters & stimulate new knowledge
EU Star Region 2008

- EU Commission award prizes to the most innovative regional projects supporting sustainable development and knowledge based regional economies

- Øresund Science Region won the prestigious 1st price in the category “Supporting clusters and business networks” 2008
What is *LERU*?

- Association of 21 European research-intensive universities committed to the values of high quality teaching within an environment of internationally competitive research.
- Founded in 2002
21 Members of the League

Universiteit van Amsterdam
University of Cambridge
University of Edinburgh
Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
Université de Genève
Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg
Helsingin yliopisto (University of Helsinki)
Universiteit Leiden
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
University College London
Lunds universitet
Università degli Studi di Milano
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
University of Oxford
Université Paris-Sud 11
Université Pierre et Marie Curie
Karolinska Institutet
Université Louis Pasteur Strasbourg
Universiteit Utrecht
Universität Zürich
Leru´s Goals

• Advocacy
• Collaboration
Underlying values

• Education through an awareness of the frontiers of human understanding;
• Fostering the creation of new knowledge through basic research as the ultimate source of innovation in society;
• Promoting research across a broad front, which creates a unique capacity to respond to new opportunities and problems
Mission

- To advocate these values
- To influence policy in Europe and
- To develop best practice through mutual exchange of experience
Advocacy

• To bring about radical changes in the management and funding of basic research in Europe

• ★ To convince Europe to:
  – invest more in basic research
  – develop competitive funding processes for basic research
  – support the interaction between basic research and education in research universities
Position papers

• What are universities for? (May 2008)
• Universities and Innovation: The Challenge for Europe (November 2006)
• Competitiveness, research and the concept of a European Institute of Technology (November 2005)
• Growth, research-intensive universities and the European Research Council (March 2005)
• Research Intensive Universities as Engines for the “Europe of Knowledge” (May 2003)

The European Higher Education and Research Areas and the Role of Research Intensive Universities (August 2002)
Collaborative projects & Committees

• Research Policy Committee
• Membership Committee
• Doctoral Studies Working Group
• Research Career Development Working Group
“BRIGHT” Student Conference

- Organised by students at a LERU host university and supported by LERU
- Karolinska 2007
- Helsinki 2008

www.bright-europe.org
The Rectors of the LERU member institutions meet twice a year at the Rectors’ Assembly. This is LEURS’s highest decision-making body and was hosted by Lund University May 17 – 18, 2008.
UNIVERSITAS

The Network for International Higher Education
What is Universitas 21

• Network of 21 leading research-intensive comprehensive universities in 13 countries from around the world.

• Founded in 1997
Overarching Goals

• To be the leading international higher education network
• To make a significant impact with co-badged collaborative research of global relevance and significance
• Innovation and creating multilateral opportunities for members
• Multilateral mobility & collaboration beyond bilateral alliances
Goals – more pinned down

• Recognise the interlinked nature of research, teaching and knowledge transfer
• Educational development
• Transfer & exchange of information, expertise & good practice,
• Quality assurance framework
Underlying Values

- Involving all groups: Students, Doctoral candidates, Teachers & professors, Administrators
- Global focus & relevance (sustainability)
- Multi-disciplinary
- Excellence
- Added value
- Clear outcomes
Lund University Strategic Plan

- Students & Doctoral candidates - opportunity to study abroad
- Teachers - opportunities of working periods abroad
- Encouragement of collaborative projects, e.g. joint programmes
Collaborative Groups

Colleagues across the network form groups to collaborate with their counterparts working in similar fields to exchange ideas and work together on issues of mutual interest.
Collaborative Groups

• Health Sciences
• Deans and Directors of Graduate Studies
• Deans of Education
• Records & Archives
• Heads of Administration
• Directors of International Offices
• Information Services.
Water Futures for Sustainable Cities

- Water sustainability of cities
- Interdisciplinary, collaborative, multi-lateral research project
- Independent international forum for government, industry and the community to address complex issues of water sustainability
- Relevant to the UN Millennium Development Goals & EU environmental regulations
- Influencing policy and practice - strategic priorities of Universitas 21.

www.universitas21.com/water.html
For staff

• Exchanges and workplace visits
• Develop & utilise e-technology for administrative processes
• Fellowships - largely sponsored by individual members
Professors & Teachers!

- Work with counterparts on issues of mutual interest - exchange experiences and good example
- Attract students to do their thesis/examination work at your department
- Find departments where your doctoral candidates can get experience from a university abroad
- Attract postdocs to do research at your department
Conferences and symposia

- E-learning (2005 & 2006)
  Teaching and learning (2008)
  Diversity and Diaspora (2006 & 2008)
- Annual Presidential symposium now in its third year
U21 Summer School

• Undergraduate students from all disciplines come together to study and share ideas

• A chance to participate in a two week course on a certain theme like Sustainability

• Teachers also participating
U21 Summer School

• Launched in 2003
• 2007 at the University of Virginia with the theme “Global leadership”.
• 2008 at the University of Birmingham 30 June - 12 July 2008, Theme: Embracing diversity through culture, creativity & innovation

www.universitas21.com/summer.html
U21 Summer School 2005

• At Lund University
• Theme: Sustainable development of Global Society
U21 Undergraduate Research Conference

- Students present their research to a diverse audience from around the globe
- Launched in 2005 -
- 2008 at the National University of Singapore.

Students’ papers are published in a special edition of the University of Virginia’s journal *The Oculus.*
Global Issues Programme

- Multidisciplinary joint programme
- Co-operation between seven members
- Curriculum of globally significant issues
- Mobility integrated in curriculum
- Utilising e-learning techniques

U21 Postgraduate Research Conference

- University of Birmingham, July 2008
- Interdisciplinary Water research
- Linking with Water research project

**THEMES**
- Water resource management and climate change
- Health, cleanliness and society
- Controlling and harnessing water power
- Politics and economics of water
- Aesthetics, art and culture
Doctoral Candidates

• Identify a department to do your PhD, or parts of your PhD programme
• Initiate courses, seminars, conferences, summer activities or other activities together with counterparts at other institutions
• Develop and utilise e-learning techniques in joint courses, programmes or modules
Challenges for future

• How to identify and support joint collaborations, in particular in research area
• How to raise profile internally and externally
• How to manage expectations, while at the same time raising them
• How to make a difference
You get out in proportion to what you put in.