

“Higher Education Institutions and Regions - Globally Competitive, Locally Engaged ”

Valencia 20.09.2007
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20.9.2007

Globally Competitive Locally
Engaged

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“Globally Competitive, Locally Engaged” – a well defined vision but how to get there?

- Some questions to be asked
 - What does the world look like?
 - What are the means available?
 - The chicken or the egg?

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What does the world look like?

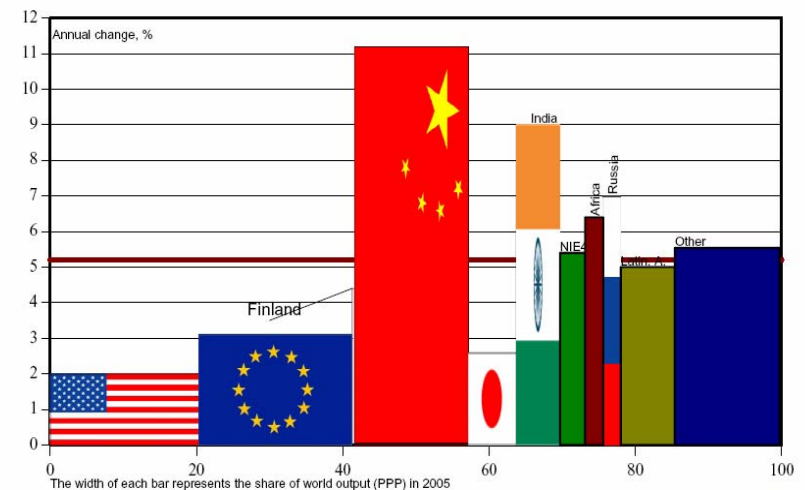
- Today?
- Tomorrow?

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Sources of GDP Growth in 2007



Source: IMF 07/2007
13.9.2007/kokn5/jka/suku

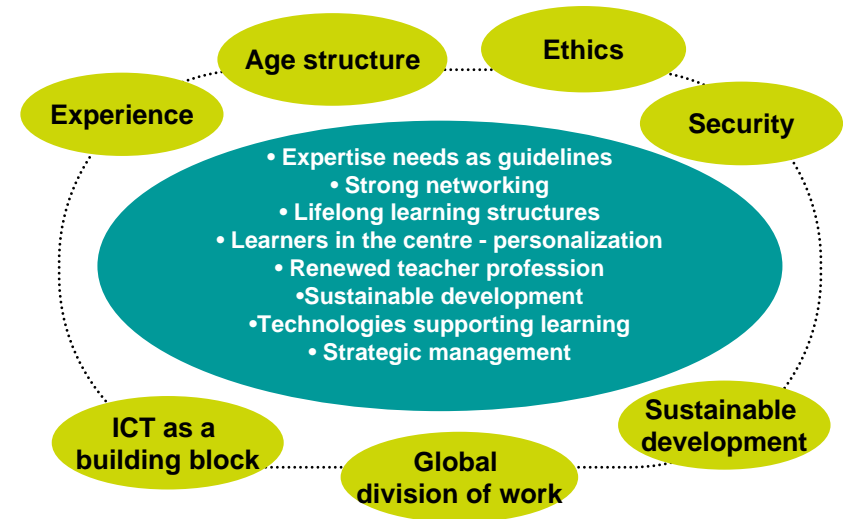
Confederation of Finnish Industries 

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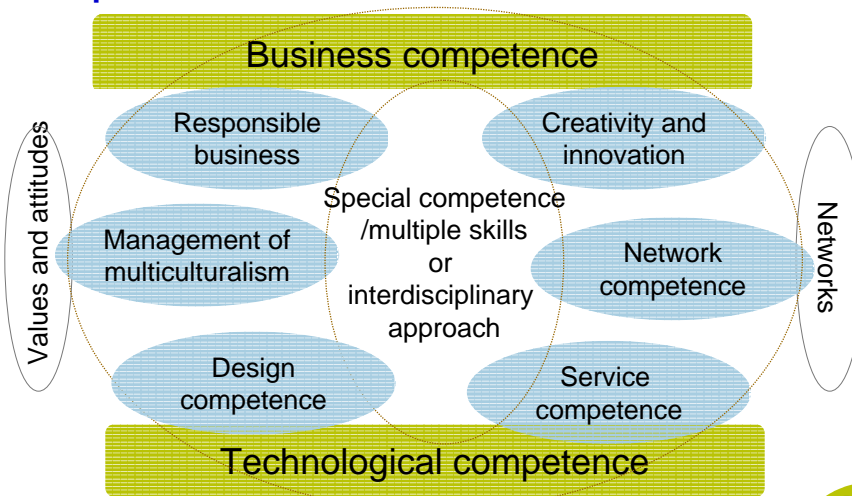
What does the world look like?

- Today?
- Tomorrow?
- **What are the drivers of change?**
- **Which are the competence needs in the future?**

Change drivers and the educational system



Competences contributing to corporate competitiveness



Competence needs as guidelines



- **Content meets current and anticipated skills and competences needs**
- **New learning applications and environments support the development of skills and competences**
 - Values, attitudes, culture and atmosphere
 - Learning communities
 - Working methods
 - Technology
- **Phenomenon-based learning: lowering of barriers between different subjects and disciplines**



What does the world look like?

- Today?
- Tomorrow?
- What are the drivers of change
- Which are the competence needs in the future?
- **And....**

...what should never be forgotten

**Education is the most
efficient way to change the
world!**

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- **I am a strong believer in the importance of a high, in fact an ever growing, general level of education!**
- **Especially for a small country – and for a region! – it is of utmost importance to educate all and everyone!**
- **Only if the base is strong, is it possible to build a high tower – to reach the top**

Education is the most efficient way to change the world! (cont)

- **Thus it is in the interest of the Higher Education Institutions that the basic education is on a high level – for all!**

The link between Education Institutions and Regions is like the “chicken and the egg”. Valid questions for HEIs and regions:

- What are we best at?
- “In what respect do we want to be the best in the world”?
- Do we find the force driving regional change in the educational sector - or in business and the industry?

The link between Education Institutions and Regions is like the “chicken and the egg” (cont)

- If research and teaching in HEIs are on a high level, they will influence the regional (and national) development as well. I do not like the definition of a separate “third task”
- The experiences from Finland proves, however, the OECD-study’s view on the important role of especially the non-university sector in the regional development

The link between Education Institutions and Regions is like the “chicken and the egg” (cont)

- The authorities should not get too much involved in the cooperation between HEIs and regions/industry, but be active in creating a well functioning framework
- In Finland the cluster philosophy has proved to be reasonably successful

Establishing clusters is also a regional opportunity

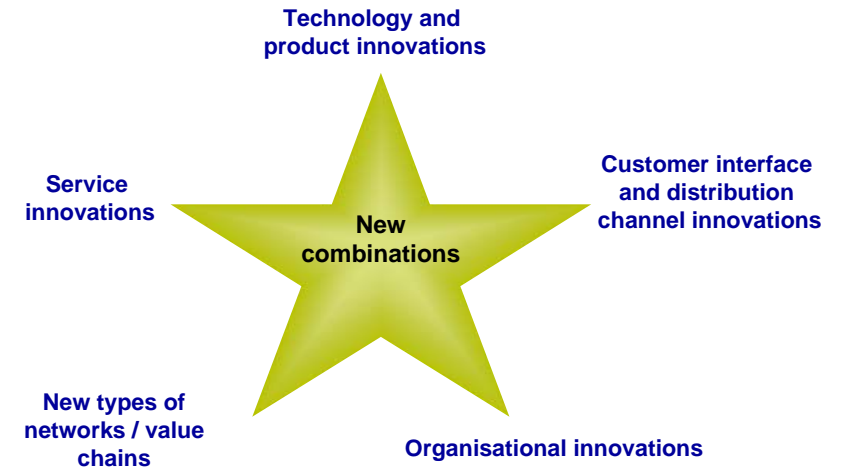
- “Foreign observers of the Icelandic research and development community have unanimously pointed to the need to establish strong clusters of research, technical development and innovation.

Such clusters tend to be interdisciplinary, they focus on a theme, [such as for example geothermal energy.] But in the practical work it is necessary to combine different technical skills, [earth] sciences, social insights, to form commercially viable systems.”

IcelandScience and Technology Policy Council 2003 – 2006
External Evaluation Report 2007

A growing challenge is to strengthen innovation not only by new inventions and strong innovation systems, but by finding new ways to combine different know how and skills

Nature of innovation



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