Increasing globalisation is forcing regional agencies constantly to reconsider their competitive situation as the comparative advantage of their regional economies shift and new competitive threats or opportunities emerge. Due to deregulation, the emergence of new information and communication technologies and decreasing costs for goods and passenger transportation production is becoming more and more foot-loose. To keep/increase employment and income levels regional agencies must develop the innovative capabilities of their regions, i.e. create the best conditions possible for innovative activities within incumbent as well as new entrepreneurial firms.

The innovative capabilities of regions are based on their educational infrastructure, their R&D infrastructure, their knowledge exchange infrastructure, and their knowledge import infrastructure, or, in other words, their institutions for knowledge generation and knowledge flows. But, how should these institutions be designed and optimised to maximize the innovative capabilities of different types of regions given their economic specialisation, their supply of natural resources and man-made artefacts, their size, their type of governance and leadership, their social capital, etc.?

There are today many examples of regions pursuing simplified policies to increase their innovative capability of their regions. A new university or a science park often is seen as the solution to failing competitiveness. Such a single initiative might be the key to increased innovative capabilities in a few regions, and thus increase regional competitiveness. However, in most cases there is a need for far more integrated approaches. These approaches might range from complementing strategic parts of the existing regional innovation systems to building new regional innovation systems from scratch. Strategic aspects to consider in all regional innovation policies are the absorptive capacity of the region on both the demand and the supply side, the openness of the region in terms of idea imports: new knowledge, new products, and new firms: the knowledge producing capacity of the region and the networking strength of the region including the necessary infrastructures for meetings, interaction and co-operation, planned as well as unplanned.
Given this situation it is important to analyze the role of regional agencies in formulating and implementing policies capable of creating conductive environments in their respective regions to which potent actors would be attracted and within which these actors (existing firms, foreign firms, new start-ups and entrepreneurial initiatives etc.) would create new knowledge, commercialize knowledge (old, new and novel combinations) and innovations, create employment and wealth and improve upon the general welfare of all citizens, among others, in the region and even beyond. The lessons of successful regions seems to suggest that the above may call the “meeting of the minds” for better knowledge and information flows within the region (for coordination and harmonization of the old and new policies and regulations). The instrumental role of “knowledge workers” in the universities, R&D institutions, policy-formulating institutions, and entrepreneurial enterprises of the region can probably not be over-emphasized. Similarly, the role of the region as a whole in coordinating and cooperating with other related regions and policy agencies (that set their overall operating parameters and influence implementation) also seems to be crucial.

It is obvious that building innovative capabilities of regions to increase their competitiveness is a demanding task. Despite the fact that substantial research has been conducted on these issues in recent years there is still a significant lack of knowledge concerning many of the related aspects and relationships including on the fundamental question as to the extent to which agencies can initiate change or simply facilitate it.

The purpose of this symposium is partially to remedy this lack of knowledge. We welcome the submission of papers dealing with questions such as

- How to operationalize the concept of regional innovation systems and build a theory of regional innovation systems?
- How to measure regional innovative capabilities?
- How to assess the performance of institutions for knowledge generation and knowledge flows?
- How to identify the weaknesses of existing regional innovative systems and determine relevant policies to strengthen the existing regional innovation systems?
- How to implement improvements in existing regional innovation systems and how to implement new regional innovation systems?
- How to evaluate the efficiency and the effectiveness of regional innovation policies?
- How to determine the potential for developing new regional innovation systems and policies needed in different types of regions?
- How to create and maintain regional economic development and innovation strategies?
- How to understand the role of institutions and institutional change in regional economic development and innovation?

Around each of these questions we plan to organise paper sessions to guarantee that all aspects of the symposium theme: Institutions for knowledge generation and knowledge flows – building innovative capabilities for regions – are analysed and discussed during the symposium. Researchers that are interested in organising their own special sessions during the symposium are welcome to contact the organising committee.
Objectives

The objectives of the 10th Uddevalla Symposium 2007 are: i) to provide a unique opportunity for scholars including senior and junior researchers to discuss path-breaking concepts, ideas, frameworks and theories in plenary key-note sessions and parallel competitive paper sessions, and ii) to facilitate the development and synthesis of important contributions into cohesive and integrated collections for potential publication. Therefore, unpublished completed papers are invited for presentation and feedback from other scholars. A selected list of these papers will be subjected to review and development for publication in scholarly venues.

Keynotes & the organisation of the symposium

Following the tradition established by the previous symposia, starting in 1998, this 10th Uddevalla Symposium is designed to bring together leading-edge views of senior academic scholars and mix them with the critical and creative views of post-docs and PhD students engaged in their thesis work. We welcome researchers from various fields within business administration and management, such as international business, entrepreneurship, and small business economics as well as from regional economics, regional planning, economic geography, economic history, political science, sociology, and engineering interested in the theme of the symposium.


Contributions by these keynotespeakers of the past played catalytic roles in forging fresh links among research topics, between scholars and senior and junior researchers, and pushed the frontiers forward.

Keynote speakers 2007

Associate Professor Corinne Autant-Bernard, University of Saint-Etienne, France
Professor Philip Cooke, Cardiff University, UK
Mr Alexander Eickelpasch, German Institute for Economic Research, Germany
Professor Manfred M. Fischer, Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Austria
Mr Harald Furre, Oxford Research, Norway
Professor Kingsley E. Haynes, George Mason University, USA
Professor R. Helen Lawton-Smith, Birkbeck, University of London, UK
Professor Franco Malerba, Bocconi University, Italy
Professor Paula E. Stephan, Georgia State University, USA
Professor Roger R. Stough, George Mason University, USA
Professor Bart Verspagen, Technical University of Eindhoven, Netherlands
Structure

The 10th Uddevalla Symposium 2007 will have the following structure:

**Keynote sessions:** Mornings up to lunch are set aside for 3-4 plenary keynote contributions of prominent scholars.

**Parallel paper sessions:** Afternoons are devoted to parallel paper sessions focusing on the development of emergent concepts, frameworks, and theories for better understanding of the theme of the symposium and the new challenges they pose for scholars and practitioners.

**Opening ceremony and historical review**
The 10th Uddevalla Symposium 2006 will be opened up by a Swedish Minister (TBA).

*Dr John Rees*, Department of Geography, University of Greensboro, USA and *Iréne Johansson*, University West will present an historical review over the year-period.

Publications

Leading-edge contributions from the previous symposia have appeared in special issues of prestigious journals and nine edited book volumes. This symposium will follow the same practice. In addition to the Uddevalla Symposium Proceedings, a similar effort for publication of a coordinated set of articles in book volumes and journals with high impact will be adopted for the 10th Uddevalla Symposium 2007. For a selected list of publications of past symposia, see [www.symposium.hv.se](http://www.symposium.hv.se)

**Best Paper Awards**

To stimulate high quality papers a **Best Paper Award** of € 1.000 as well as a **Best PhD Candidate Paper Award** of € 700 will be awarded. The members of the scientific committee will select the winning papers.

Scientific Committee

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Professor Roger R. Stough, George Mason University, USA, rstough@gmu.edu

Submission Information

Submission deadline for Abstracts is: **February 28nd, 2007**
Abstract - 800 words of summary- and a title page including:
1. Title of the abstract
2. Topic area of the abstract (chooses from the questions above).
3. Name(s) of the author(s).
4. Department(s) and affiliation(s).
5. Mailing address(es).
6. E-mailing address(es).
7. Corresponding author(s)
is to be sent by e-mail to: 2007uddevallasymposium@hv.se

Results of the review process will be communicated to authors by approximately **April 1st, 2007**

Submission Deadline for Completed Papers accepted for presentation (in Word 6.0): **May 10th, 2007**

For further information, please visit the symposium website www.symposium.hv.se or feel free to contact the Uddevalla Symposium co-ordinator: Ms Iréne Johansson, University West, Campus Uddevalla, Sweden, irene.johansson@hv.se

Sponsoring organisations

The following organisations are sponsoring the 2007 Uddevalla Symposium:

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VINNOVA (Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems), Stockholm, Sweden
Västra Götalandsregionen, Göteborg, Sweden & Innovatum, Trollhättan, Sweden