



Digital Innovation Hubs & Smart Specialisation

EIT House (Brussels)
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**Guidance material
to prepare for
Workshop**

- **Region / Digital Innovation Hub**
 - East Sweden (Östergötland) Region
 - Visual Sweden DIH, Norrköping-Linköping
 - Contact: Anders Carlsson
 - anders.carlsson@visualsweden.se
 - +46-705 38 89 08
 - www.visualsweden.se

- **Smart Specialisation (S3) support system**
 - Five strength areas, one of which is visualisation
 - Supported by the East Sweden Business Region network, consisting of the major business development and innovation support actors in the region.
- **Responsible for the strategy**
 - The regional administration of Östergötland
 - Implemented through a regional network with many actors
- **Present briefly the socio economic fabric**
 - 450 000 inhabitants
 - 24% with more than 3 years university studies (age 25-64)
 - 9% unemployed
 - 15% born in another country (9% non-european)

- **How is it organised**
 - Visual Sweden is a long-term funded triple-helix innovation initiative
- **Host organisation and partners**
 - Formally a centre at Linköping University
 - Agreements with about 60 organisations in the region
- **Services provided**
 - Stimulating activities
 - Project funding
 - Project application support
 - Overall marketing and communication
- **Has it participated in S3 development?**
 - Not as Visual Sweden but some individuals have participated
- **Is it implementing the S3 or part of it?**
 - Yes, the S3 area: visualisation & simulation (including image analysis)

- **What are the main challenges and good practices:**
 - **in the interaction DIH – RIS3?**
 - Limited funding requires further focusing. It may be difficult for the DIH to cover all possible applications.
 - Good mix of demand organisations (public and private) provides for successful demand driven innovation.
 - **the organisation of the DIH?**
 - Integrated with science parks and academic innovation support, by shared employees.
 - **in providing DIH services that connect to RIS3**
 - Increased visibility of the consolidated regional resources in the field.
 - Establishment of a yearly regional event with national reach.
 - Introduction of visualisation and image analysis to new branches.
 - **Other**
 - Successful societal challenge driven innovation, inspired from H2020, but with own money.

- **How is the DIH financed?**
 - Long-term funded by the Swedish Innovation Agency, VINNOVA (10 years)
 - Co-funding in cash from the regional administration and the municipalities
 - Co-funding in kind from companies and organisations with demands
- **How does it connect to the services provided?**
 - Most obvious: Direct funding of projects, 50% co-funding required
- **How are synergies achieved?**
 - Synergies with the other S3 areas are continuously explored
 - Great potential for contribution to digitalisation by means of visualisation
 - Transfer of experiences to support organisations of the other S3 areas
- **Main issues – good practices and challenges?**
 - Initial focus successively broadening with increased funding
 - Successful communication by means of social media
 - Great media of spectacular solutions, regionally/nationally
 - Utilisation of visualisation for illustrating results, “practice what you preach”

- **Which other regions and Hubs do you collaborate with?**
 - As a hub, nationally: West Sweden and within East Central Sweden (NUTS2)
 - As a hub, internationally: yet only with Baden-Württemberg, Germany
 - Research: Co-operation with all major European universities.
- **On what are you collaborating?**
 - Nationally: Projects with industrial focus and common event planning
 - Internationally: Benchmarking and matchmaking (planned)
- **How is this being financed?**
 - Own funding and Structural funds
- **Main issues – good practices and challenges.**
 - As a new initiative you need to mobilise regionally. Collaboration requires resources and may sometimes be hard to prioritise. More funding needed.
- **On what would you like to collaborate with other regions?**
 - Exchange of best practises and success stories
 - Investigate possibilities of cross-business (matchmaking)
 - Exchange of competence and people (secondments).
 - Exchange of global analyses of new technology and markets. analyses



- **Other issues you would like to raise**
 - Funding opportunities for cross-border collaboration