NORWEGIAN MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Evaluation of the Implementation of the European Union Structural Funds 2007 - 2013

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Per M. Koch

Head of the Science Policy Project

PERSONAL VIEWS AND ASSESMENTS!

Plus side

- An advanced systemic view of research and innovation among policy makers
  - As in all countries: Hard to reconcile this with policy planning and organization
- Education policies are at least partly integrated into the research and innovation policies
- The role of the public sector is considered
- The universities have been encouraged to university-university collaboration.
- There is more interaction between companies and universities.
- Infrastructure has been upgraded, also as an effect of SF.

Selected challenges

- Low productivity in industry
- Low R&D intensity in industry
- Weak mirroring between industrial structure and research system, incl. strong high tech orientation of policies
- Policies do not always reflect the interaction in the innovation system
- Difficulties in attracting foreign experts
- Policy coordination on ministerial level
- Coordination on instrument level

How to make industry more knowledge intensive

- Understanding the historical trajectories. This is about culture, not only a rational implementation of policy instruments.
  - Estonia inherited the Soviet system. No consideration for the needs of Estonian industries.
  - Sweden: Corporative state-industry relationship gives high tech slant
  - Norway: Ad hoc development of applied research institutions for existing industries gives low tech orientation
    - Students as policy makers
    - The role of research institutes

New challenges in innovation policies

- Innovation polices encompassing
  - the dominant service sector
  - public sector innovation
  - non-technological disciplines like the social sciences, the humanities and the arts

    (But not only as alternatives to manufacturing. Look at the interplay between these areas and manufacturing)

  - innovation culture (cp. The Nordic Model)
  - the role of education and absorptive capacity
  - policy learning

The innovation policy capacity of industry

- The innovation policy studies of TEKNA.
- The need for strong industry branch organizations that can
  - stimulate member companies
  - become a policy partner for ministries
  - establish research units for their own industry

There is no learning hierarchy