



OPEN INNOVATION ARENAS ADD STRENGTH TO CLUSTER INITIATIVES

Regional Cluster Development Programme 2017–2021





CLUSTERS DRIVE GROWTH

The development of clusters has been an effective tool in business sector development in Sweden since the 1990s. Region Skåne has spent nearly ten years successfully developing and supporting cluster initiatives.

There are currently ten cluster initiatives in Skåne, with Region Skåne acting as both member and financier: **Media Evolution, Packbridge, Mobile Heights, Skåne Food Innovation Network, Resilient Regions Association, Sustainable Business Hub, IUC Syd, Medicon Valley Alliance, Swedish Maritime Technology Forum, and a tourism cluster, which is under development.**

Region Skåne's new Cluster Development Programme will help to pool resources in a new way over a period of five years. With the programme's support, the cluster initiatives will increase their mutual cooperation, as well as their internationalisation.

The cluster initiatives are important engines for growth and driving forces for sustainability and innovation. Evaluations show that the member companies in the cluster initiatives think that membership has increased their competitiveness and also enabled increased cooperation with industry colleagues and with academia, incubators and companies in other industries. The initiatives' geographic concentration in Skåne has also made cooperation with other member companies easier.

According to the OECD, the ability of the cluster initiatives to complement one another is a strength, and the combination of initiatives in the region is a great representation of Skåne's innovation strategy. The cluster initiatives help to broaden Skåne's national and international appeal, attracting investment and new companies.

“

The programme is the first in Sweden with long-term funding that provides a stable foundation for existing and future cluster initiatives.”



OVERALL OBJECTIVES

The aim for Skåne is to have even stronger and more effective cluster initiatives by 2021, which create new values for companies and organisations in the form of innovation, knowledge, growth, solutions to social problems, international work, and increased regional investment.

In order to achieve this, the cluster initiatives must use forward planning as well as effective communication and also develop engaging open methods and processes.

The purpose of the Cluster Development Programme

The programme will strengthen the development of the business sector by expanding the role of clusters as open innovation arenas for a growing number of collaborations between clusters, the business sector, academia and the wider community. The guiding principles are the three areas indicated in Skåne's innovation strategy: Smart materials, Smart sustainable cities, and Personal health.

Concrete results provide advantages

The role of the open innovation arenas is to contribute to increased cross-links between industries and growth areas. Skåne must be associated with innovation and confidence in the future in order to be able to attract companies, expertise, capital and new partners.

In order for the work on open innovation arenas to realise Skåne's goal of being the most innovative region in Europe, it is important to substantially contribute to new products, services and processes. These will lead to the development of companies and new growth areas.

Expected long-term effects of the Cluster Development Programme

- To employ cluster collaboration to create the ideal conditions for open innovation between the cluster initiatives and other relevant players in Skåne's innovation system, which can lead to the emergence of new growth areas
- To have flexible cross-industry and cross-sector cluster initiatives with the capacity to develop and evolve quickly as a way of tackling global challenges
- Increased visibility outside the region that helps to position Skåne internationally, through, for example, strategic internationalisation of the work of cluster initiatives
- The cluster initiatives focus on challenges, systems approaches and future needs in their work
- Working to influence policy and absorptive capacity in the public and private sector as regards innovations
- Focuses on learning and development in terms of how the cluster initiatives work and are evaluated.

Open innovation arenas

Open innovation is a method of sharing ideas, knowledge and experiences across organisational boundaries within trade and industry, academia and the public sector. The aim is to create new partnerships and innovative solutions to future challenges.



CLUSTER INITIATIVES IN SKÅNE

The cluster initiatives in Skåne currently represent more than 1,500 companies and organisations regionally and nationally. The cluster initiatives have close ties with both Skåne's innovation strategy and Skåne's three strategic innovation areas, which represent the societal challenges we face. Thus, the cluster initiatives are important contributors to the work being done to further develop business and innovation system actors, its ability to adapt and the region's capacity for innovation.

Media Evolution is a media and digitisation cluster with approximately 400 members. Media Evolution should not be regarded as a cohesive industry cluster, but rather as a thematic area within digital development/transformation. This cluster initiative works on everything from digital gaming and application development to film and the internet. Media Evolution enables individuals and organisations to share, learn, be innovative and adapt together as part of the digital transformation that is taking place. This cluster initiative offers, among other services, skills development and innovation processes, and identifies expertise within its network of members to suit various needs. The Media Evolution City building has close links with the cluster initiative, offering office space, conference facilities and meeting places. Members include Hövding, IKEA, Massive Entertainment, and Oatly.

**MEDIA
EVOLUTION**

Mobile Heights focuses on, among other areas, Internet of Things (IoT), wireless communication and mobile services. The starting point for this cluster initiative is Skåne's high concentration of internationally competitive IT and telecom companies. The objective for this cluster initiative is to be a world-leader in research, innovation and entrepreneurship. Mobile Heights has approx. 100 members, including Assa Abloy, Siemens, Ericsson, and Huawei.



Packbridge is a cluster initiative operating predominantly in the packaging and logistics industry. This cluster initiative provides the packaging industry with a network that wants to develop the next generation of packaging and logistics solutions. The basis for this cluster initiative is the well-established packaging industry in Malmö and Lund, where a long list of internationally recognisable packaging, logistics, food and pharmaceutical companies operate. Packbridge was formed in 2010 and now has over 200 member companies, which include BASF, Billerud-Korsnäs, Festo, and Konica Minolta.



Skåne Food Innovation Network (Livsmedelsakademin)

is a cluster initiative that is aiming to make Skåne and Sweden a leading centre for food in Europe. Skåne Food Innovation Network was formed in 1994 on the initiative of the local business community and creates conditions for innovation and entrepreneurship within the food industry. This cluster initiative brings together businesses and organisations who want to develop the food, drink and meals of the future. Within Skåne Food Innovation Network companies, the public sector and academia are all working side by side to develop a complete industry. Its members include Fazer Food Services, Findus, Nordic Sugar, and PWC.



Sustainable Business Hub is a cluster initiative and network for energy and cleantech companies working to promote business opportunities for companies and increase competitiveness on both the Swedish market and export markets. One further aim is to establish better contact with academia. In order to strengthen companies, this cluster initiative offers to find sources of funding and partners for member companies and provides coaching on development initiatives. International players are offered information about and contact with the Swedish cleantech market. This cluster initiative has approximately 120 members, including Alfa Laval, Eon, Orbital Systems, and Skanska Sweden.



Resilient Regions Association is a neutral platform where the business sector, academia, municipalities and government agencies meet to resolve regional challenges. Together they build more resilient regions with robust functions and flows in a society with the ability to quickly overcome and recover from societal pressures. The aim is to work together to develop and promote resilient, attractive, smart, sustainable cities and regions that function whatever challenges and stresses come their way. Resilient Regions Association believe that the functionality of a city and region depends on a system of flows. RRA have identified six urban flows: goods, services, people, money, energy and information. To social functionality, regardless of events, these urban flows has to work. This cluster initiative was started in 2010. Resilient Regions Association currently has around 30 members, including the fire and rescue service Räddningstjänsten Syd, If Insurance, Siemens and Lloyds Register.



Medicon Valley Alliance, which was formed in 1997, is a Danish-Swedish Life Science cluster. This cluster initiative has adopted a regional triple-helix perspective. Members include universities, hospitals, life science companies, regional authorities and service providers. This cluster initiative has approximately 210 members, including European Spallation Source (ESS), BioInvent International, LEO Pharma, and Novo Nordisk.

medicon valley alliance

Creating Opportunities

Swedish Maritime Technology Forum

represents the maritime industry and aims to demonstrate just how important this industry is to economic activity in Sweden. This cluster initiative was formed in 2007 when the industry identified a need to bring together the Swedish maritime cluster. Swedish Maritime Technology Forum is a publicly financed cluster and collaborative organisation. Swedish Maritime Technology Forum strives for increased cooperation between companies, universities and public representatives within the maritime cluster. This cluster initiative has approximately 100 members, including Volvo Penta, Lloyd's Register, Öresund Dry Docks, and Rolls-Royce.



Svenskt Marintekniskt Forum

IUC Syd is a cluster for industrial development, growth and cooperation. IUC Syd is a member organisation for industrial companies in Skåne. It provides meeting places for informative exchanges between companies, research institutes, trade associations and public organisations. IUC Syd has shaped the organisation with help from a core group of initiators from academia, research, trade and industry and the public sector. IUC Syd has approximately 130 members, including Aimpoint, Uniti Sweden, ÅF, and SVP Engineering.



A tourism cluster is in the process of being launched since there are currently no meeting places, either digital or physical, for research, the tourism industry and the public sector. The purpose of this cluster initiative is to lay the foundation for a competitive tourism industry that interacts with and benefits from advances made in Skåne within research and innovation and which works on innovative service production that is also internationally attractive. The starting point is thematic and work has begun linked to nature and food experiences.

FUNDING 2017–2021

The cluster initiatives in Skåne will be funded in two parts over a period of five years.

1. Basic funding

Region Skåne, together with the other cluster members, funds a basic organisation and member service.

The basic funding from Region Skåne will gradually be reduced to SEK 1 million per cluster initiative by 2021.

The business sector and the other members are expected to contribute a larger share of the basic funding.

2. Funding of open innovation arenas

An investment that is linked to the cluster initiatives' overall work on open innovation in cooperation with other actors in the innovation system in Skåne. This investment will gradually increase from SEK 3 million per year in 2019 to SEK 7 million per year in 2021. This increase will largely cover the reduction in basic funding. Cluster collaboration is being funded in 2017 and 2018 from the existing budget for cluster development in Region Skåne.

The long-term aim is for the cluster initiatives to have a robust and broad core operation funded by the business sector by 2021. Region Skåne's continued investments can then be directed towards open innovation and cluster collaboration.

OBJECTIVES FOR THE CLUSTER INITIATIVES IN SKÅNE

The objective is for the cluster initiatives in Skåne to have achieved the following by the time the Cluster Development Programme ends in 2021:

- All the cluster initiatives are certified in accordance with the European Cluster Excellence Initiative (ECEI). A minimum of 5 cluster initiatives in Skåne to have achieved the "Gold Label", and the remaining cluster initiatives to have achieved the "Silver Label".
- All the initiatives are to be registered in the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP).
- All cluster initiatives are to have a clear communication plan and be actively engaged in communication.
- The clusters are able to report increased and improved cooperation with one another and players in the innovation system.
- The cluster initiatives have contributed to a minimum of 1–3 new growth areas.
- All the initiatives have a clear focus on sustainable production, as well as innovative, resource-efficient and eco-friendly goods and services.
- All have improved diversity and equality in terms of their senior management structure and among employees, as well as increased knowledge of environmental and climate matters.
- Each cluster initiative has at least 50 member companies and organisations with excellent distribution in the region, nationally and internationally.
- The leadership and skills development of the cluster initiatives has evolved, with a clear focus on diversity and equality.



FOCUS FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR 2021

In order for Skåne to become one of Europe's most innovative regions and to achieve the overall objectives for 2021, efforts are needed that increase knowledge about leading and developing open innovation processes – both within each cluster initiative and between all the cluster initiatives. Bridges must be built and knowledge about the various cluster initiatives must be improved by means of greater mobility and transparency. By frequently making new and open innovation processes available across organisational boundaries, a constant flow of increased learning is established. This also provides an increased capacity to take on and foster new knowledge – knowledge that is then rapidly put to good use in new products and services.

Open innovation builds trust

A mainstay for working on open innovation is to provide the professionals and partners from the various cluster initiatives who will be doing the work with a platform that enables them to get to know one another, develop mutual trust and gain access to the group's full resources. When this happens, it creates conditions for developing solutions that are bigger than they would have been if people would have worked alone within their own company or organisation. A key element in this work is to understand what sort of role the cluster initiative can/wants to have and how important it is. The purpose of the Cluster Development Programme is to generate this understanding, while also testing suitable methods for open innovation in collaboration between cluster initiatives.

By focusing on open innovation arenas, the regional cluster initiatives put themselves in an even better position to act as growth engines in Skåne. Innovativeness with a great ability to create and package solutions, processes, products and services that attract companies and public organisations. Innovativeness that creates increased demand and makes purchasing and procurement processes easier.

Quite simply, increased growth for Skåne!

Cluster initiatives are important growth engines and driving forces for sustainable growth and innovation. Region Skåne has spent nearly ten years successfully developing and supporting cluster initiatives. Region Skåne's new Cluster Development Programme will help to pool resources in a new way over a period of five years, providing a stable foundation for existing and future cluster initiatives.

Region Skåne's task is to promote health, sustainability and growth in Skåne. Our role in terms of regional development is to create the ideal conditions for solving society's challenges around employment, the environment and people's health. By focusing on the social and physical factors that affect growth, the climate and the health of the people of Skåne, we are creating an attractive and innovative region. In so doing, we are making a difference to Skåne and the future of its residents every single day.

skane.com/en