

Classification of CRCs

Workshop on Monitoring and Evaluation

Oslo, 19th May 2009

Senior adviser Dag Kavlie, RCN

What do CRCs have in common?

Definition by COMPERA for Competence Research Centres

Structured, long term RTDI collaborations in strategic important areas between academia, industry and the public sector

Aim:

bridge the gap between scientific and economic innovation by providing a collective environment for academics, industry and other innovation actors and creating sufficient critical mass

Multiple activities:

pooling of knowledge, creation of new knowledge by performing different types of research, training and dissemination of knowledge, networking, ...

A close relation between the goals for a centre and monitoring and evaluation

Expected impacts:

- Research in the forefront within thematic area
- Knowledge basis relevant for industrial partners
- Training of researchers
- Internationalisation
- Increased R&D spending of business partners
- Innovations by partners
- Impact on industry and society at large

Potential Classifications

Primary characteristics as a basis for classification

- Focus on **Research** as a knowledge basis for Innovation vs **Innovation**
- **Physical centre vs Network**

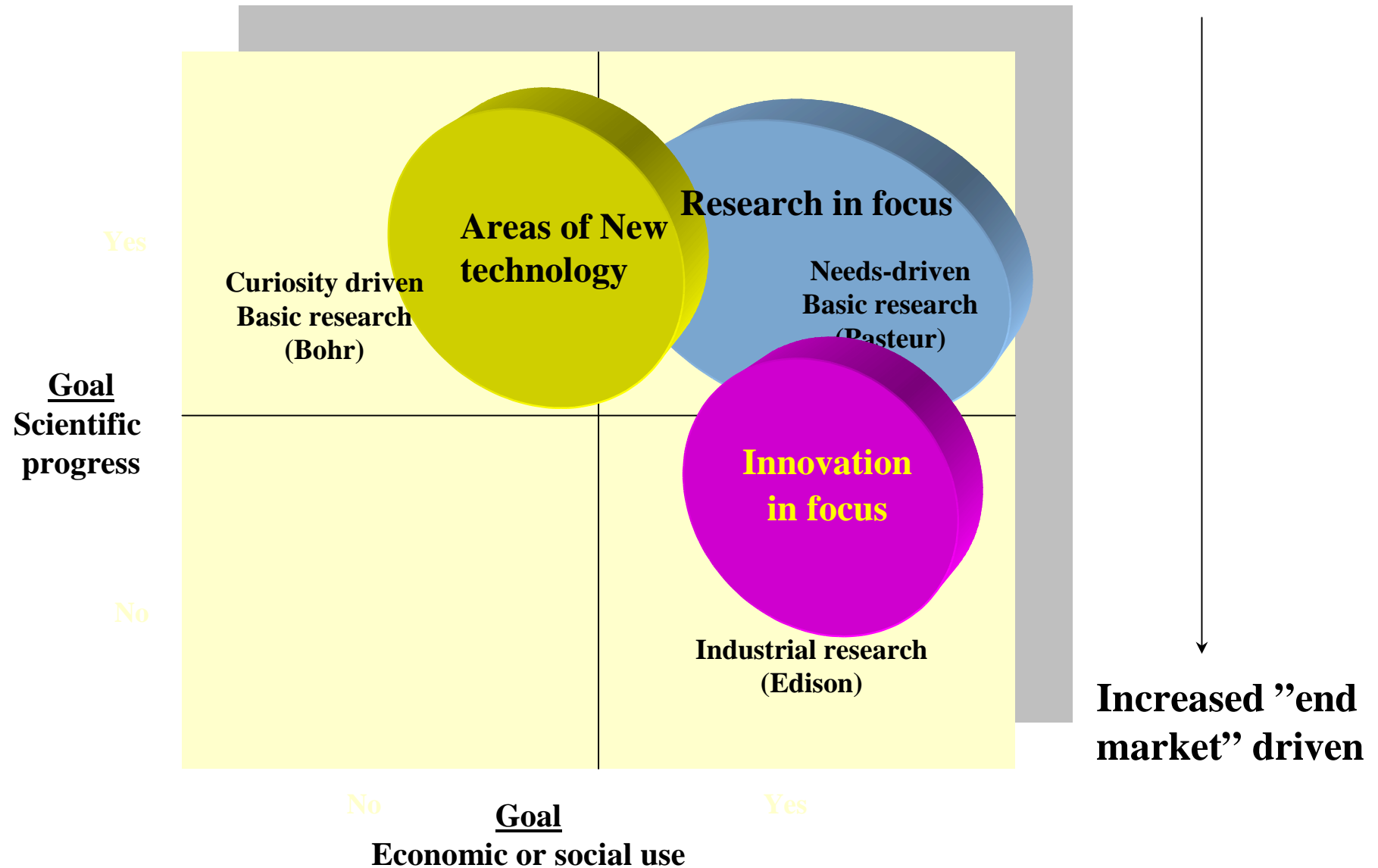
Other important features

- Separate Legal Entity vs Centre within Host institution
- Duration of funding, life after end of funding of centre
- Size of Budget and Funding profile
- Regional (national) focus vs International
- Open call vs Predefined thematic area
- Industry led vs Academic lead
- Active participation in centre activities by enterprises vs just cash contribution

Focus on Research vs Innovation

- Even if all the CRCs aims at stimulating innovation and economic value creation the main emphasis will be different
- Research-oriented CRC emphasis the creation of a knowledge basis for innovation
- The enterprise partners of research-oriented CRC are expected to use the results in their further business development
- Innovation-oriented CRCs aims at creating innovations as a direct result of centre activities
- Fundamental research (Precompetitive research) dominates for a research-oriented centre while Industrial research is most important for innovation-oriented centers

Positioning of CRCs is crucial to understand the type of impact and time perspective we should expect



Physical Centres vs Networks

- For a Physical centre the researchers are located in the same premises
- Virtual centres may also have research groups that are located together
- For Networks the researchers are generally located in the institutions that are partners of the network

Duration of funding

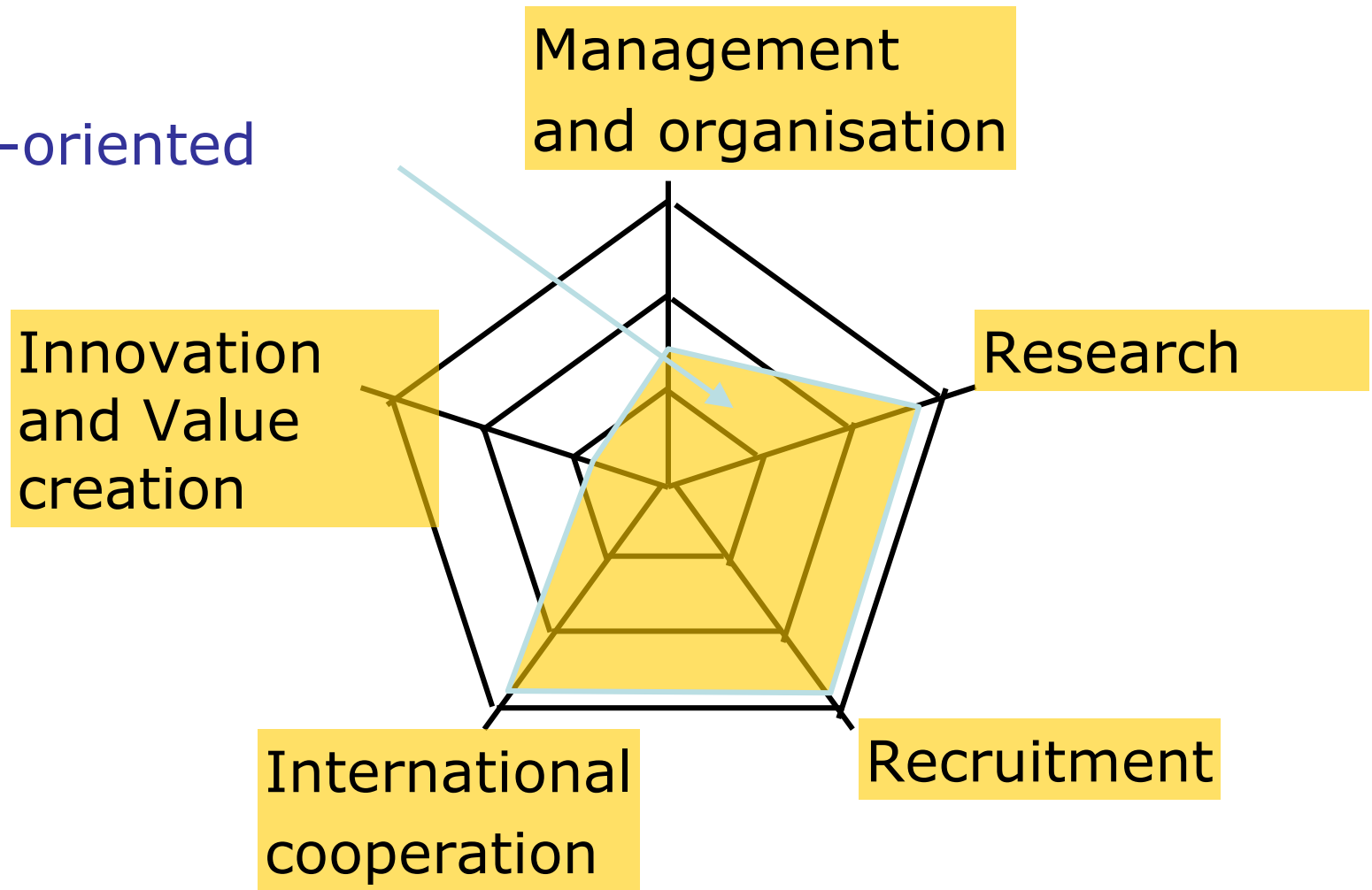
- Duration of public funding period as centre
- Strict time limit or possible extension
- Milestones, interim evaluations
- Expectations to life of centre after public funding as centre ends

Budget and funding profile

- Typical total annual budget
- Percentage of funding from Public agency
- Percentage of funding from Enterprises

” Footprint of Centre”

Example:
Research-oriented
Centre



Some important questions

- What is considered as the major characteristics to distinguish between types of centres?
- Is it appropriate to operate with several aspects?
- Are some characteristics secondary to other major characteristics?
- When do we expect a specific impact to appear?

Classification of some CRC Schemes

Centre Scheme	Funding Agency	Feature			
		Focus on Research vs Innovation	Physical centre or Network	Regional (national) Vs International focus	Type of Organisation: Legal entity or Part of host institution
COMET	FFG, Austria	Research	Physical	International	Host institution
VINN Excellence centres	VINNOVA, Sweden	Research	Physical	International	Host institution
Centres for Research-based Innovation	RCN, Norway	Research	Physical	International	Legal entity
Competence Centres	Enterprise Ireland, Ireland	Innovation	Physical	Regional	Legal entity
Kompetenz-netzwerke	VDI, Germany	Innovation	Network	Regional	Legal entity?