

# The REKENE project Introduction

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*Knowledge dynamics in regional  
economic development*

*24-25 August, Stockholm*



**NORDREGIO**  
Nordic Centre for Spatial Development

# Outline

- REKENE aims and background
- Project design
- Research design
- Policy tools work will be presented tomorrow by Susan Brockett

## Main aim of REKENE

- To understand how knowledge is developed and the role that knowledge plays for regional development.
- To provide policy relevant knowledge and develop policy tools and recommendations.

# Background – the EURODITE project

- 6 Framework project 2005-2010
- Total budget € 4 million
- 23 research institutes in 14 countries – meet Anders Larsson!
- 4 regional development agencies – meet Karl Ritsch!
- Facilitates Nordic-European comparisons

# Collaboration between researchers and practitioners

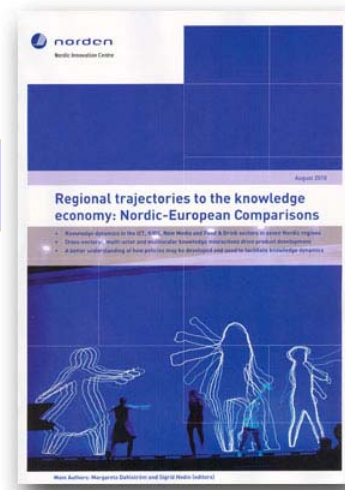
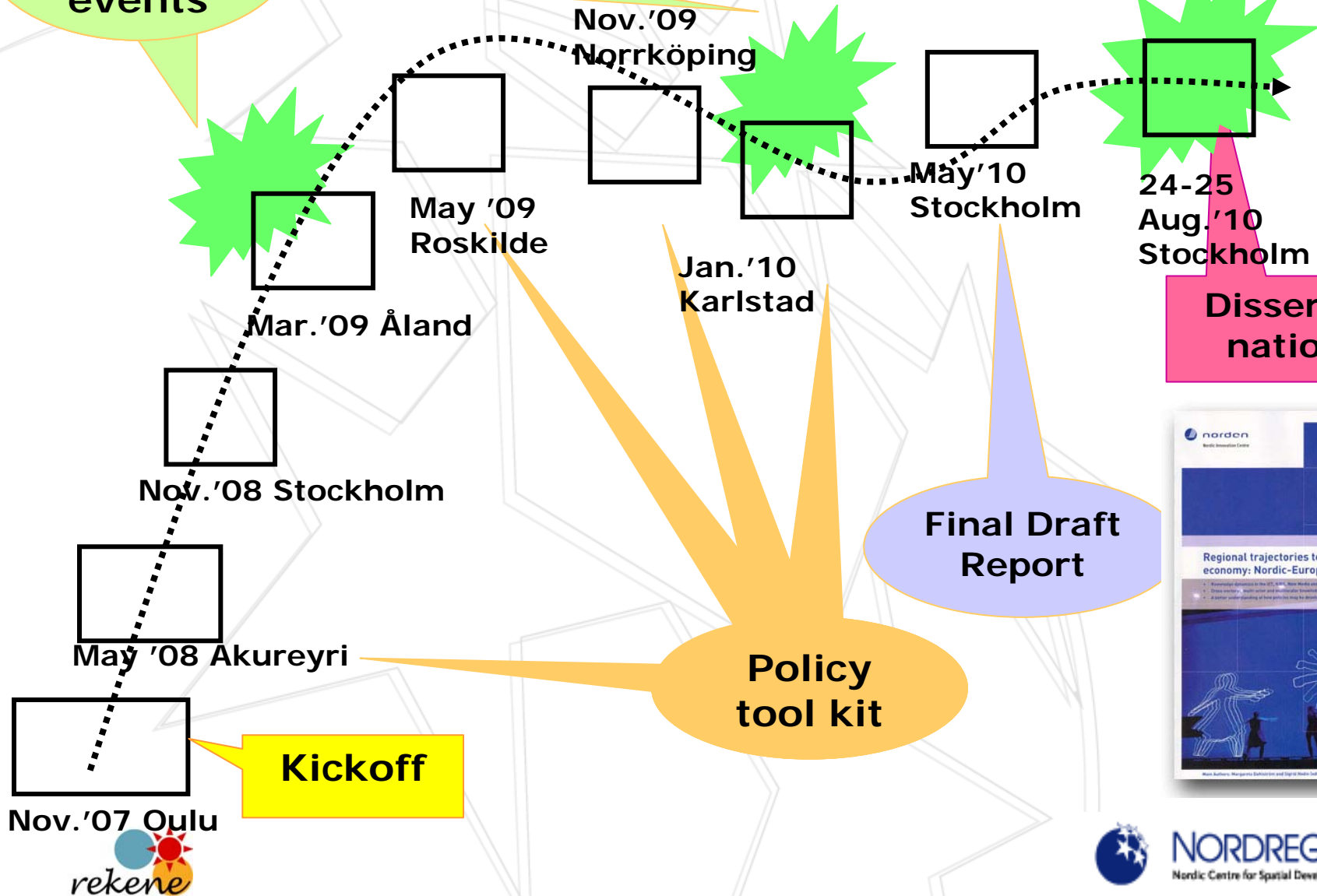
- 7 regional teams
- Working seminars with show cases in all regions – meet some later today!
- Facilitates knowledge exchange and safe guards policy relevance
- Provides input to research process
- Joint working developing policy tools and recommendations



Region Sjælland  
 Oulu South Region  
 Akureyri Region  
 East Sweden Region  
 Region Värmland  
 Stockholm Region  
 Åland

# Series of working seminars

Out reach events



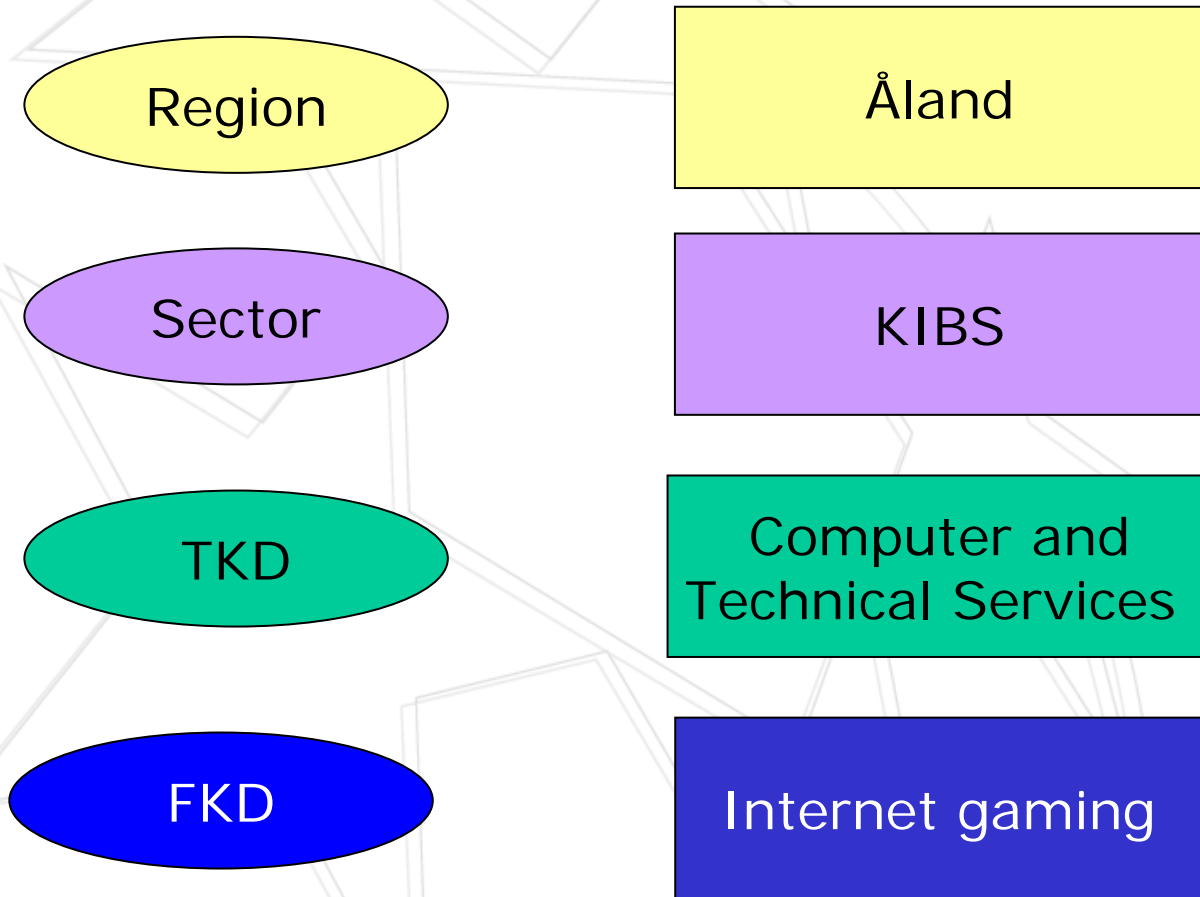


# REKENE's overarching research question and methods

- How is knowledge created, developed and transferred within and between firms, organisations and their regional contexts?
- In depth qualitative case studies in a firm/organisation in one sector in every region.



# Structure of empirical research



# Regions and sectors as categories

- Regions are not contained within administrative borders
- But administrative regions are important from a policy perspective
- Sectors as a way in to the research
- Cross-sectoral or platform activities increasingly relevant

# Territorial knowledge dynamics

- Knowledge exchange, networks and interactions between different actors from a spatial perspective
- Fabric of networks
- Not restricted to the region, but multi scalar
- Example from Oulu South presented by Eija-Riitta Niinikoski & Harri Jokela

# Firm level knowledge dynamics

- How knowledge is developed and transferred at a micro level
- Based on knowledge biography tracing knowledge interactions leading to an innovation
- Not restricted to the region, but multi scalar
- Example from Stockholm presented by Lukas Smas



# REKENE case studies

|                                |  |                  |   |                                      |                                 |   |  |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Region                         | Oulu South, Finland                              | Värmland, Sweden | Akureyri, Iceland                                       | Stockholm, Sweden                    | Åland, Finland                  | East Sweden, Sweden                     | Zealand, Denmark                             |
| Sector                         | ICT  | ICT              | KIBS  | KIBS                                 | KIBS                            | New Media                               | Food and Drink                               |
| Territorial Knowledge Dynamics | ICT based on innovation in traditional machinery | ICT in SERVtech  | Geothermal energy harnessing for electricity production | Computer on ICT services and medtech | Computer and technical services | Development of visualisation technology | Specialised food and drink production        |
| Firm-level Knowledge Dynamics  | PC-free control system of forest harvester       | Matglädje        | Iceland Drilling  | Zenitor ECG                          | Internet gaming                 | New Media Meeting                       | Beer and experiences from Holbaek Brew House |

# Project results

- Meet researchers and practitioners by their tables and posters!
- Key findings from the project will be presented by Sigrid Hedin
- Joint report: research, policy implications and policy tool kit
- Case studies published in the regions



Read more and download the final report  
at the project home page  
[www.nordregio.se/Rekene/](http://www.nordregio.se/Rekene/)



The Shaidon Effect & Dom Dugliga at the festival New Media Meeting

Photo: Johan Furuholm