

Here are some photos of Kristianstad,  
the city in southern Sweden where I  
work and live



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There are four important universities in Sweden:

- Lund
- Uppsala
- Gothenburg
- Linköping

Out of these Linköping, the smallest and most recently established, is said to be the most innovative.

Here are some characteristics of Linköping's university:

- Inter-disciplinary
- Cross-thematic
- Problem based learning which takes as its starting point the actual, real life issue.

In Europe there are the big and famous universities like Oxford, Cambridge, La Sorbonne and Bologna

(They all carry a heavy burden of fame and tradition. So let's rule them out when you are talking about innovative universities. It should be a small one like e.g. Linköpings university)

There is an issue which most European countries are struggling with - How to get new persons to fill the vacancies that do exist in these times of a boom.

(The persons available are mostly from foreign countries - refugees or immigrants)

In order to convince an innovative university to be able to support a city you have to make universities use the tool they have agreed to in the Bologna treaty from 2005.

If you look at the chart below you will find some interesting facts. The EU countries have agreed to having 8 levels, on one side with theoretical knowledge and on the other side manual know-how.

(Both "sides" result in a competence, with your brains or with your hands. To make it very simple. )



These competences are described in a system of 8 levels where 8 is the highest and 1 the lowest.

(E.g. 8 on the theoretical side is Doctor der Philosophie and on the other side it is Meister. That means you recognize both "sides" as equally important and that theoretical knowledge is not more important than manual skills.)

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There are smart cities which want to win the competition of getting new blood in the form of well-educated, eager-to-prove -themselves persons to fill their vacancies

(and thus get a new momentum to their economies. )

But in order to facilitate the process  
you need to get small Flexible  
universities to shoulder the innovation  
role and support those cities which want  
to be in the lead.

My recommendation for such organizations' would be: In validating the candidates for new jobs - please use the tool that you agreed on in 2005 (Bolognaprocess).

(Then you will realize that you can easily validate people maintaining good quality in an safe, flexible and speedy way.)

(Look again at the chart.)

By testing a persons skills and knowledge you will place him/ her on the right level whether with theoretical knowledge or with manual skills.

(Once you have Done that you have started the process of validation. The continuation would be as follows:)

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In this manner you can as an innovative university help cities to be smart!

Theme of the conference :  
Innovative universities for smart cities

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National qualifications frameworks in the context of innovative universities