

UOM - Finland's Strategic Centers for Science, Technology and Innovation Example: TIVIT - Producing Innovations for the ICT Industry

TIVIT is abbreviation of the Finnish title “Information and communication industry and services” of one of the Finnish Strategic Centers for Science, Technology and Innovation. The Center is founded in February 2008 as a non-profit organization with the main goal to unify the efforts of 16 Universities, 5 Research Centers and 25 companies and public organizations (including Ericsson, Nokia and the Finnish Information Society). It aims to implement innovation policy in the ICT industry, to foster research and to ensure that the research results are used in the business more rapidly than it has been possible. International cooperation plays a key role in the center's activities. The companies and the institutions involved in the projects can enlarge and enrich their know-how, which in the same time can be transferred into new projects, to be copied and used in new market sectors. Each presented project must comply with 5 criteria, including: Prove of novelty and strategic impact of the research; Balance between industry and research at program level; International collaboration and impact.

The annual investments in the Center are around €40-60 million. Currently, six programs are underway: Future Internet, Flexible Services (electronic services in which the needs of local production are emphasized), Devices and Interoperability Ecosystems (new reality and networking intelligent devices and spaces), Cooperative Traffic (road traffic and traveling for the next generation), Cloud Software (Internet services and information security) and Next Media. Business concepts must be also created for increasing the pace of development of both products and services, to prepare the market for their arrival, as well as to receive feedback from the market. The research as a whole aims to meet the needs of Finnish industry and society within a five-to-ten-year period. The decisions in the Center are taken by a board composed of 12 members and 12 deputy members, all coming from industry.

www.tivit.fi

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths:

- Information and communication industry and services (Tivit) is one of the Finnish Strategic Centers for Science, Technology and Innovation (SHOKs), seeking to implement innovation policy in information and communication industry, combine and systematize research and at the same time ensure that the results are used in the business world more rapidly than has previously been possible;
- This Tivit is a promising paradigm (an innovative approach) of the productive “connection” of the areas of research, academia, and industry providing all necessary conditions to form ecosystems of partners within which new ideas can be created, cross-fertilised, developed, implemented and marketed;

- The range and nature of Tivit's work is determined by the strategic research areas as outlined by the established 46 companies, universities and public organisations – of various sizes - which own Tivit;
- State institutions have identified very quickly emerging new high technologies, where some Scandinavian companies and research organizations were already leading;
- Regional joint ventures were formed, giving opportunity to the new-coming members to faster gain knowledge, and at the same time the leading companies and institutions to get more support in resources and in funding;
- Public and private funding.

Weaknesses:

- There isn't information or examples for concrete projects realized by the Centre;
- Tivit is a rather new organization (since 2008) with limited experience;
- SRAs are just reviewed once per year.

Opportunities:

- According to Harvard Business Review, March 2009, at the present moment Finland is the second "hottest" hotbed of innovation. The aim of Tivit's activity is to retain and advance this status for the future;
- Opportunity to broaden TIVIT to more than 6 research areas;
- Opportunity of being additionally funded by the EU in the future.

Threats:

- The six SRAs are only defined: it is not clear which results are obtained;
- No information about the results from the BPs;
- Threat of having too many different views due to 46 different voices und thus a loss of strategic line.