ABSTRACT

Title: Collaboration between university, industry and society - Halfway point experiences from the Östra Norrbotten research station.

This paper discusses the conditions for and experiences from collaboration between university and the surrounding society, with the Östra Norrbotten Research Station as the starting point. Beginning in January 2002, this multi-year development project is conducted in collaboration between Luleå University of Technology, The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Umeå, and industry and municipal leaders from four municipalities in eastern Norrbotten (Kalix, Haparanda, Överkalix and Övertorneå). The research station’s centre of operations consists of a research school with six Ph.D. candidates active within different fields that the region itself prioritised as important. Except for the usual research education and the candidates’ own research projects, activities during the first year have focused on creating, by various means, meeting places between the different categories of actors included in the project. Based on previous research knowledge concerning Triple Helix cooperation, this paper specifically discusses the interaction between academia, represented by the universities’ Ph.D. candidates, and other Triple Helix actors. With the support of what can be closely described as an interactive and action research focused effort, this article concludes with a number of lessons that can be used by other regions with similar ambitions to develop locally or regionally coupled knowledge production.