

Policies to improve rural areas' innovation systems by professionalising networking activities and use of innovation tools”

One relevant tool:

COMPETANCE BROKERING

Lars Hustveit – Chair of former Sogn og Fjordane VRI board
VRI; a program 2007-2016 to mobilize research within businesses

The VRI programme

A national programme with a time-frame of ten years

What is the VRI programme?

The VRI programme is a new Research Council of Norway initiative, targeted toward **research and innovation** at the regional level in Norway.

Professional and financial support

The VRI programme offers professional and financial support to long-term, research-based development processes in the regions.

Why?

- The rural areas need to modernise their economies
- Cooperation between SMEs, researchers and public authorities as part of an ongoing transition towards a knowledge based economy

One of the tools:

- Introduction of **competance brokers**



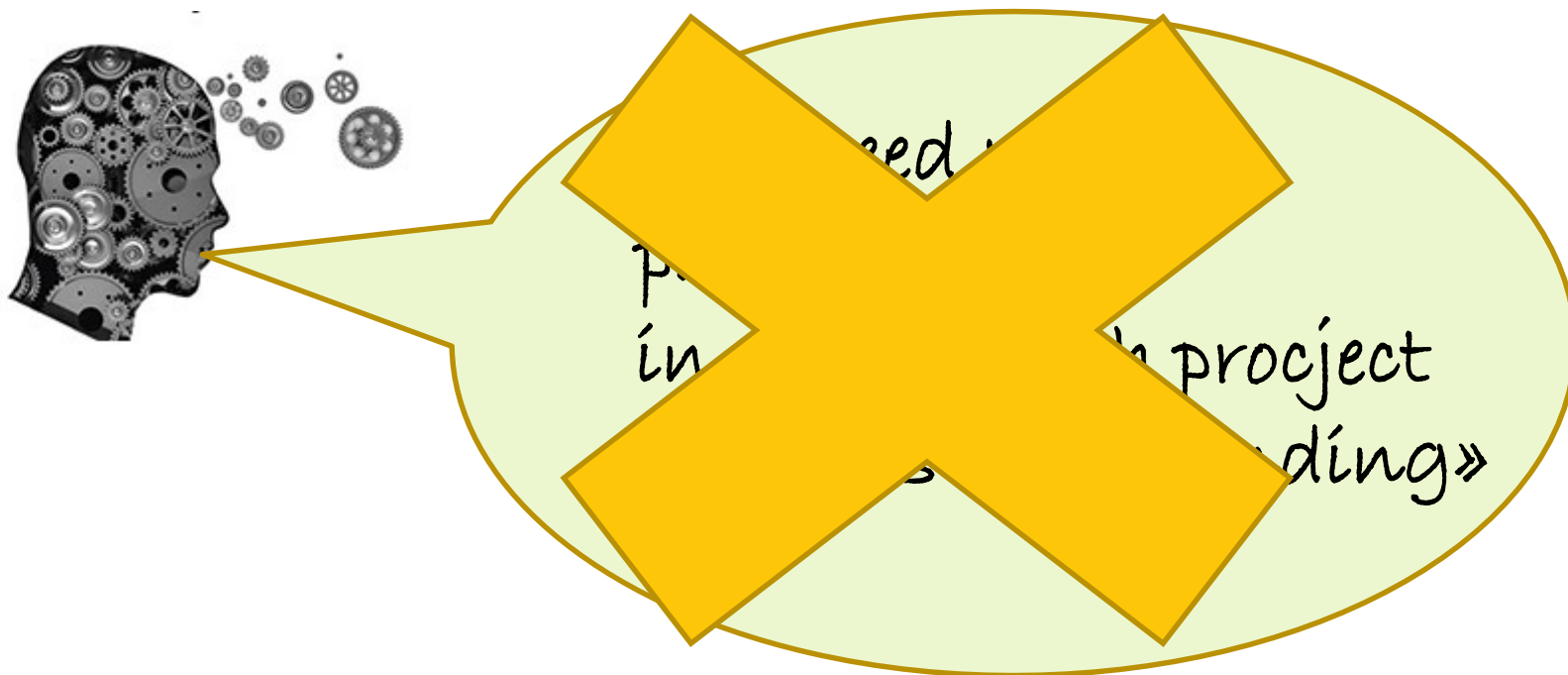


What is competence brokering

- The CB contacts a company or a group of companies
- The first step is a dialogue and a mapping to identify needs for research
- If a need for R&D is identified, the companies (one or several) are connected to a research institution and a researcher with the required knowledge.
- A CB may access «low threshold»-money to facilitate small feasibility studies
- The R&D project is implemented in cooperation between the company / companies and the researcher(s)

The methode

The cooperation SHALL be based on the needs of a company or the group of companies



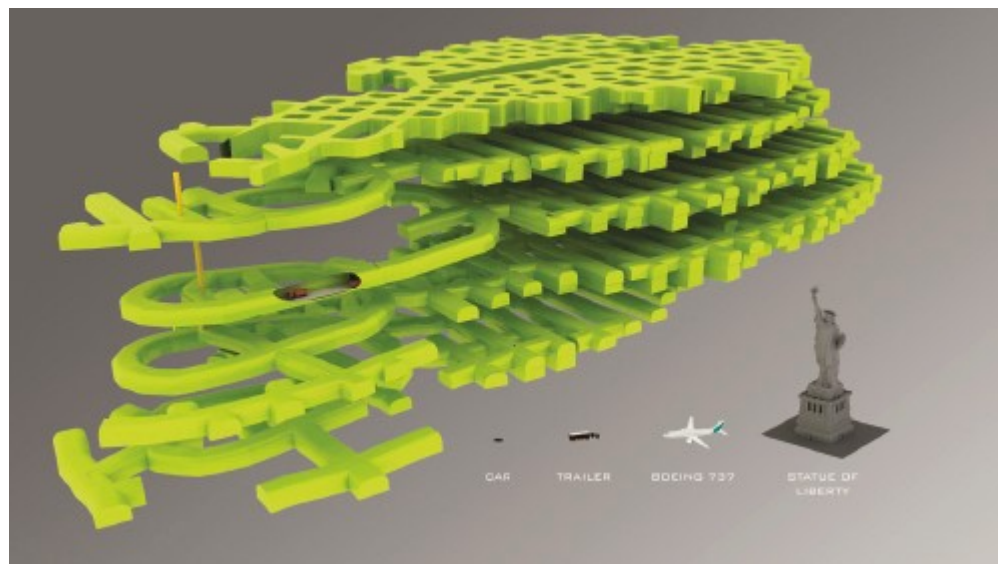
The skills of a competence broker

- Skills to link business – research
 - Know how to communicate both with researchers and businesses
 - Understand both sectors
- Be proactive towards businesses not having experience in using R&D
- Be able to identify R&D needs through dialogue
- Know where to find the best researchers based upon the identified needs
- Know how to develop and organise a R&D project
- Be able to guide the business in the «jungle» of public programmes

Results – one example

Our competence brokers had an initial role in what later have become Lefdal Mine Datacenter.

“Lefdal Mine Datacenter will officially open on the 10th of May. Together with our technology partners Rittal and IBM, we have developed a unique data center design.”



- Old mines; 120.000 m²
- Lefdal Mine Datacenter offers Europe's greenest data center solution and one of the most cost effective.
- Lefdal Mine Datacenter offer an ideal location using cold water from the fjord for cooling.

Further cooperation between the RCN and the regions

3 pillars:

1. Continue mobilising activities
 - i. A pilot to recruit companies for R&D (to be presented)
2. Strengthen regional research capacities
 - i. Technology research (ongoing planning)
3. Mutual and systematic learning
 - i. To be launched

A pilot project 2017-2019 - To recruit companies for R&D

Arne M tek over

Rett på dette:

2	Rekruttering (pilot)
Prosessleiing	Innovasjonsprosessleiar
Trinn 1	Kartlegging & problem
Trinn 2	Idéutvikling
Trinn 3	Konseptutvikling
Trinn 4	FoU-prosjektorganisering

Vi var samde om at du går rett på “nederste ringen”



P-IRIS

Interreg Europe



SOGN OG FJORDANE
FYLKESKOMMUNE



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

Any questions?