

# *Telling the story of Territorial Knowledge Dynamics, the role of ELME Studio in the Oulu South region*

Knowledge dynamics in regional economic development

Stockholm 24.-25.8.2010

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# Oulu South as a region in REKENE project

- Industrialised countryside with active international business life
- Entrepreneurship is notable
- Metal sector is traditionally one of the biggest economic sectors
- Adaptation of ICT to traditional business sectors has a lot of potential
- ELME Studio - a knowledge hub



# Knowledge dynamics and ELME Studio

## Multiscalar knowledge interactions

**Multiactor  
knowledge interactions**

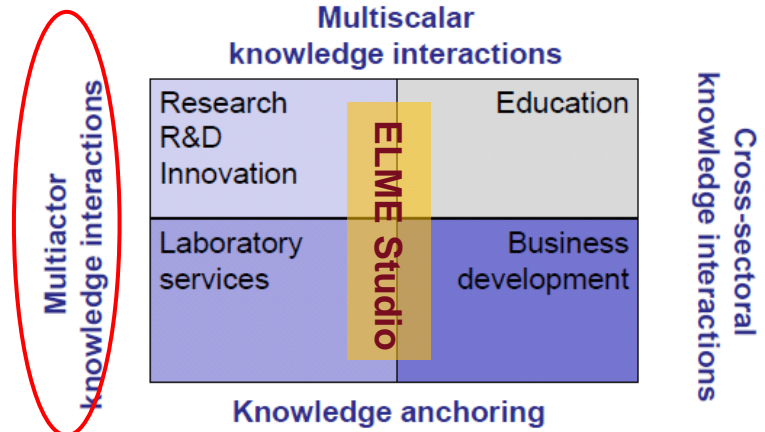
Research R&D Innovation	Education
Laboratory services	Business development

**Cross-sectoral  
knowledge interactions**

**Knowledge anchoring**

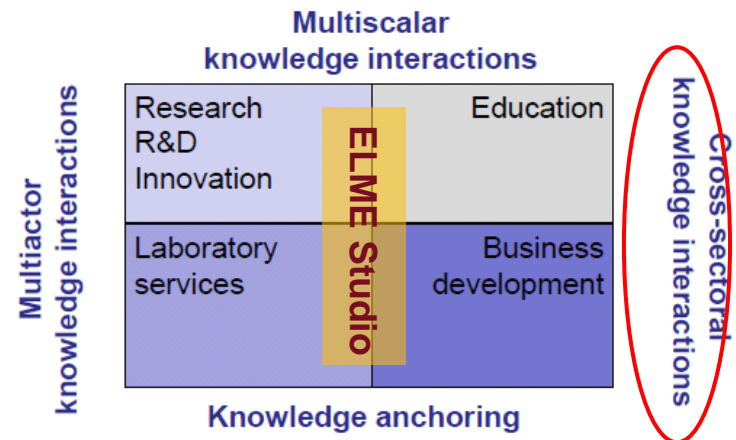
# Multiactor knowledge interactions

- Research team of the University of Oulu
- Vocational school, University of Applied Sciences
- Industrial Park, Regional business development agency
  
- Partners and customers
  - Local, regional, national, international
  - Clusters (regional, national)
  
- Public and private financing



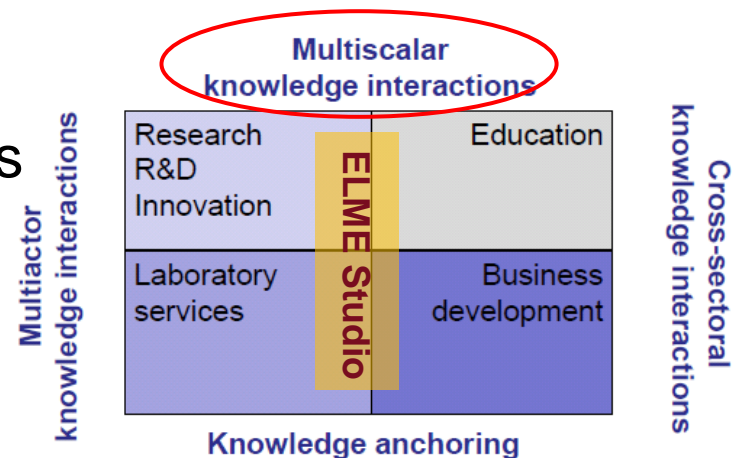
# Cross-sectoral knowledge interactions

- In the Metal branch
  - Thin sheet laser methods applied to traditional heavy metal industry (ultra high-strength steel)
- Applications, pilot testing & innovative experiments in other sectors
  - Logistics, ICT, environmental, wood, stone, plastic
- Centre of Expertise Programme
  - Maritime Competence Cluster
- Expertise in ELME Studio
  - Business advisers, researchers, laboratory engineers etc.



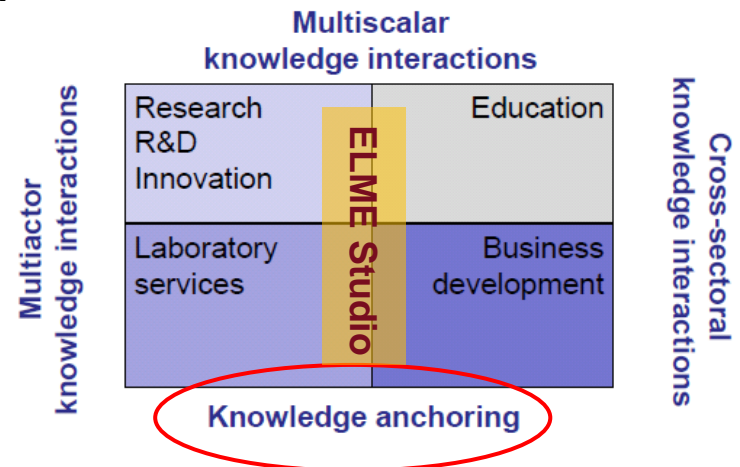
# Multiscalar knowledge interactions

- Distance and proximity
  - Local partner companies (100 m ->)
  - Nivala-Raahe-Tornio (ProMetal network, 100-200 km), Oulu area (150 km)
  - Maritime cluster (head office in Turku, 600 km)
  - Luleå, Sweden (450 km)
  - Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany (2 300 km)
  
- Size of partner companies
  - From micro companies to listed corporations
  
- Characteristic of collaboration partners
  - From vocational schools to academic institutions
  - From entrepreneurs to politicians
  - From financiers to students



# Knowledge anchoring

- Mobility of researchers, other practitioners and entrepreneurs
  - Exchange programmes, conferences
  - Foreign business partners (export, import)
  - Trained and educated workforce moving into the area
  - Joint projects
  
- Generation and use of knowledge
  - Research articles, case projects, reports
  - Workshops and seminars
  - Patents
  
- Future Challenge
  - Social media providing possibilities to take part in global buzz and to create "global ELME buzz"





# Success of ELME Studio – critical elements

- The trust and support of the region has been and will be crucial for the knowledge hub like ELME Studio
  - Multiactor – enough engaged actors for critical mass
  - Cross-sectoral – new innovation potential
  - Multiscalar – size, distance and characteristic of partners become more and more insignificant
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- ➔ Competitive edge in regional development
  - ➔ Innovative and vital business life and public institutions
  - ➔ Growing awareness of knowledge anchoring in human minds and in the organisations' ways of actions



# Contact

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