

**The contribution of higher education Institutions to
strengthen socio-economic development of peripheral
regions in Norway and the Czech Republic/PERIF**

Czech-Norwegian Research Program CZ09

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Project consortium



Project promoter:

Centre for Higher Education Studies, Prague, CZ

Project partners:

Charles University in Prague, Faculty of Humanities, CZ
Agderforskning AS, Kristiansand, NO

Partnership based on long-term collaboration

Reasons

- similar research aims and goals
- enhancement and further strengthening of partnership
- possible joint work on various research projects
- vision to base conditions for exchange PhD students/researchers

Why is project needed?



In today's knowledge society the argument is that:

knowledge is the most important resource and learning the most important process Lundvall and Johnson (1994)

Higher education Institutions are identified as a basic pillar to the competitiveness of nations and regions through their three roles:

- a) Transmission of knowledge and skills to students (teaching)
- b) Generation of new knowledge (research)
- c) Cogeneration of knowledge with regional actors, also known as 'third mission'

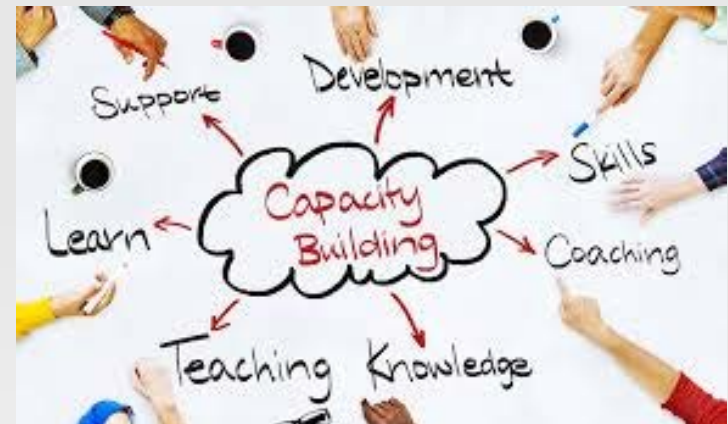
Peripheral regions often have few knowledge institutions and a lack of a robust, competitive industry

Knowledge and learning are therefore crucial for a positive regional development

Higher education institutions can play an important role in the development of peripheral regions

Project's objectives

- The basic research objective is to identify, assess and strengthen the possible ways of mutual influence and collaboration between regions and higher education institutions.
- To analyze the roles/missions of Higher Education Institutions as critical actors in the regional economic and social development of peripheral regions in the Czech Republic and Norway.



CASE REGIONS: NORWAY

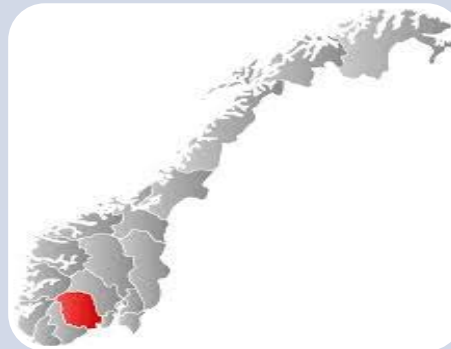


Agder

A divided region,
growth in the coast
and population
stagnation in the inner
part

16.000 km²

285.000 inhabitants



Telemark

A divided region with
world class industry in the
cost and rural challenges
in the inner part of the
region

15.000 km²

170.000 Inhabitants,



Finnmark

A big sparsely
populated region with
rich natural resources
that borders to Russia
48.000 km²

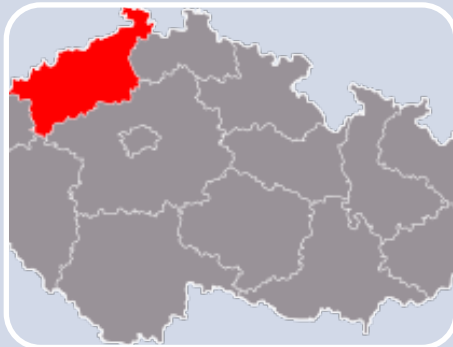
75.000 inhabitants

HEI's located in peripheral regions with complex challenges

- Aim: Contribute with well educated graduates to society
- Finnmark University College: 2.000 students
- Telemark University College 7.000 students
- Agder University: 12.000 students



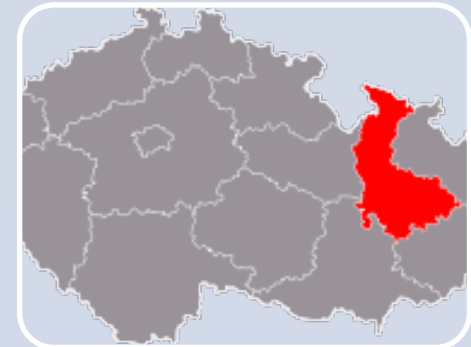
CASE REGIONS: CZECH REPUBLIC



Usti nad Labem region.
Old industrial region.
Challenge: find a way
from the industrial lock
in
5.334 km²
852.000 inhabitants



Vysočina
Slow modernization
region, rural challenges
6.795 km²
512.000 inhabitants



Olomouc region
A divided region
relatively well developed
in southern and central
parts and
underdeveloped in
northern part
5.266 km²
648.000 inhabitants

HEI's located in peripheral regions



- Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem.
 - Young university
 - 10.000 students
- College of Polytechnics Jihlava
 - Young college (non-university HEI)
 - 3.000 students
- Palacký University, Olomouc
 - The second oldest university in the Czech Republic
 - 25.000 students



What is the project expected to achieve?



- Development of complex „picture“ of peripheral regions from the point of view of public policy, gained knowledge and experience through monitoring and research focused on regional needs and possibilities to meet them.
- The mapping of structural and programmatic elements that ease/hamper the regional role of higher education institutions.
- To develop a set of novel methodological approaches in the form of a practical *Tool Kit* with pragmatic solutions and recommendations.
- Knowledge transfer, sharing of experience and best practices
- A set of joint scientific publications in international journals and books
- The development of a Czech and Norwegian network of researchers (including female and young colleagues) as a sustainable basis for further collaboration and knowledge transfer.

How are we going to address these challenges?



- Analysis of secondary documents
- Comparative analysis
- Expert opinions
- Qualitative field research in the given regions and higher education institutions (expert interviews)
- Workshops, seminars and a conferences
- Expert opinions and focus groups to test Tool Kits
- The systematic collaboration within the international research project team

Who is going to benefit from the project?



- Academic community:
 - national and international professional communities dealing with regional matters and regional development and the role of HEIs (academic publications).
- Decision making authorities,
 - public and private authorities and stakeholders at the regional and national levels (Tool Kits)
- Higher Educational Institutions
- Non-profit organizations
- Young researchers (Ph.D. students and postdocs)
- Researchers who have returned after maternity leave
- Members of the project will create research networks

Thank you very much! Tusen takk!

Speakers :

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• **Questions?**

<http://www.perifproject.eu/>