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Title: EXPLORING THE QUADRUPLE HELIX MODEL FOR THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Keywords: civil society; innovation; quadruple helix; renewable energy tech; Sweden

Abstract: The research project focuses on the collaboration among different actors within the Quadruple Helix (QH) model. An explorative approach of a single case study in a Swedish region is followed. Data collection includes: semi-structured interviews, participant observation and document analysis. Studying the QH relations can give new impetus and allow us to gain a deeper understanding of its dimensions in (regional) innovation processes. Innovation approaches such as Mode 2 and the Triple helix, stress that knowledge is increasingly created in broader trans-disciplinary contexts. Economic and social issues are emphasized, by which users of innovations have come to play an extended role. Users are not only individual persons and customers, or users of goods, but civil society. A variety of approaches to understand this inclusionary trend have recently emerged. The QH model exemplifying is one that is not yet well established. What the model has in common with other inclusionary approaches is that four cooperative actors are involved in order to produce new knowledge, innovation and commercialization. The QH, considered to be “a pace rather than a single entity” (Arnkil et al. 2010), is a model for understanding and developing the cooperation between firms, universities, public authorities and civil society. We found that the helixes interaction is dispersed and there is no “collaborative platforms” within the fourth civil society helix. There is a dynamic among pair of helixes while others are excluded from the decision-making process. However, we do argue that the model could help to take collective decisions for the future.