

## Innovation Center Iceland

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## How can INNOVATION become an intrinsic part of skills and practice in public sector management?



- INNOVATION - what does it mean?

- Value-oriented view of innovation
- A holistic view
  - Innovation can arise from any dimension of the business model / organisation
  - Firms / organisations need to manage innovation holistically
    - Technology alone does not create value
    - An innovative technology needs an innovative business model



Petri Rouvinen ETLA – The Research Institute of the Finish Economy

## Innovation ≈ Seeking opportunities

1% spark – 99% sweat

Needs (some) money

Mostly not technical

Mostly incremental

Increasingly digital



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**Public Sector Innovation** 

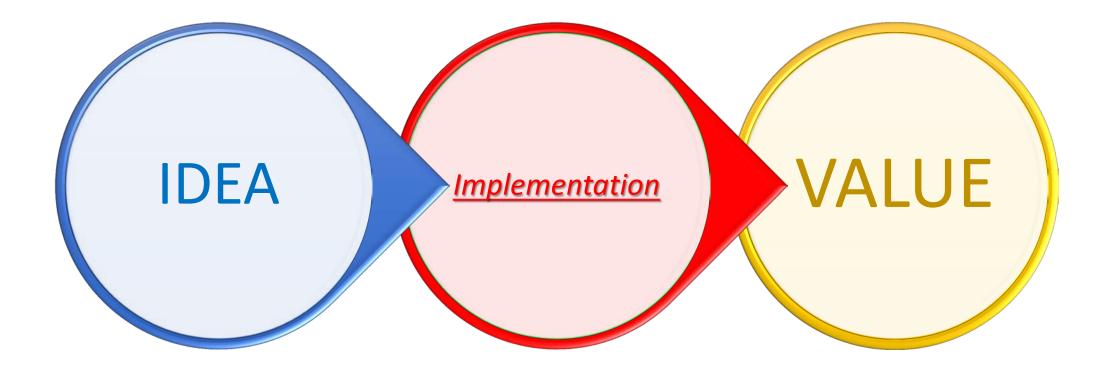
...the process of creating new ideas and turning them into value for society. It concerns how politicians, public leaders and employees make their visions of a desired new state of the world into reality...

Christian Bason 2010

Leading Public Sector Innovation



## **Public Sector Innovation**





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Wicked societal problems...

..."which are complex and open for interpretation, characterised by competing or conflicting options for solutions and which will most likely never be fully solved...

(Rittel and Webber 1973)



Wicked problems.. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges....

- The productivity imperative
- Growing citizen expectations
- Globalisation
- Media
- Innovation Center Iceland

- Technology
- Demographic change
- Lifestyle
- Shocks and sudden crises
- Climate change

## THE OPPORTUNITY

#### Strengths

- Values and visions
- A history of promoting innovation
- Empowering users and customers
- Trust, flat hierarchies and the power of employees
- Networks that succed at innovation

#### Weaknesses

- Innovation only flourishes locally
- Fragmentation Lack of coordination
- "Not-Invented-Here" syndrome
- "No-failure" culture impedes innovation
- Public institutions are rewarded for stable operations – not innovation
- Scale is lacking

#### **Opportunities**

- Enabling Technology
- Innovative public procurement and tendering
- Rewarding copycats
- Branding Nordic strengths to boost
  export

#### Threats

- High costs in Nordic countries
- A crowded marked
- Small Nordic markets global growth lies in Asia
- Actual austerity predominates instead of innovation





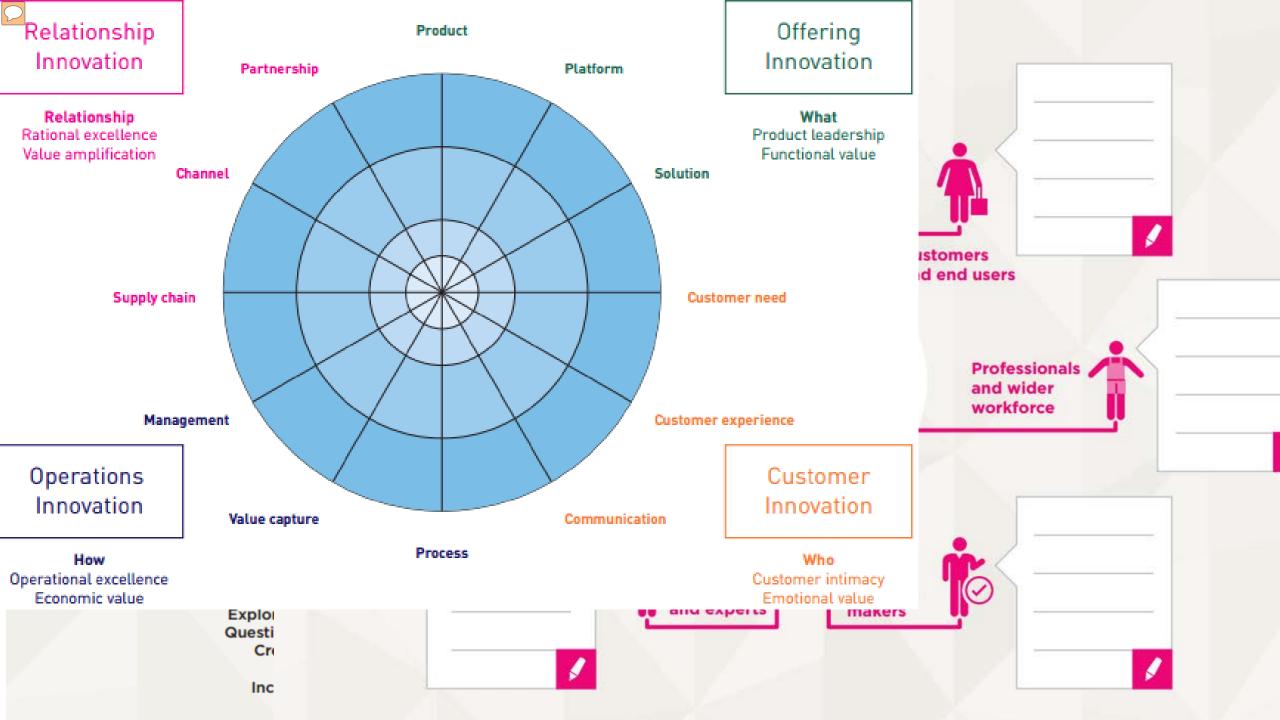
# ...is for the Nordic Region to be a leading innovation region in green growth and welfare



## Great ideas do not come from nothing...

- Everyone has had an idea...
- How can the capacity to generate GOOD ideas be generated?
- •How are good ideas implemented and realized?





## Working with Innovation

- Across imagined and existing borders
- Across disciplines and professions
- With clients and users
- Between organisations
- With public and private organisations
- Between departments and governmental hierarchy
- Across and with local and national governments
- Technology and non-technological solutions



## Managing Public Sector Innovation

- The visionary
  - Political leader; formulates the vision and sets the level of ambition
- The enabler
  - Top manager; protector and number one champion of the organisations's innovation ability
- The 360-degree innovator
  - Mid level manager; potentially the greatest barrier to fresh thinking; at best a 360-degree facilitator of innovation



## Framework conditions

- Political support and will to create conditions for innovation
- Vision
- Regulation and legislation
- Money and space to innovate
- Management will and competence
- Participatory process for change
- Connecting end-users and other stakeholders to the entire ceation process



## Imitation is Innovation!

## ...or learn from others!

- UK National Health Service's Institute for Innovation and Improvement
- Social Innovation Lab Kent (SILK)
  - http://socialinnovation.typepad.com/silk/
- London Design Council
- White House Office of Social Innovation
- MindLab Denmark
  - http://www.innovationsguiden.dk/
- Nesta UK
- IDEO global design consultancy

