



## **Smart specialisation as a tool for sustainable regional development and growth**

**Smart specialisation (S3) is a tool for regional development. In 2022, Karlstad University will launch a new programme series.**

Do you have experience of working with smart specialisation and want to further your knowledge, share experiences with other people and make new contacts both in Sweden and our neighbouring countries? Or are you unfamiliar with the concept but curious to learn about the basics in order to find concrete ways to apply the method? Whether you are already familiar with smart specialisation or not, the programme offers the opportunity to develop both your theoretical knowledge and practical skills to take advantage of the potential of smart specialisation in the context of regional development.

What separates this programme from other educational initiatives within the field is our focus on sustainability as well as gender and gender equality as tools for more efficient, inclusive and long-term regional development. These themes – combined with a focus on economic resilience – creates the common thread of the programme. The idea is to view sustainability and gender aspects as prerequisites for successful regional growth and economic development.

The programme offers you the opportunity to interactively process new knowledge, learn about useful practical examples and exchange experiences of smart specialisation over a long period and together with others. The programme also aims to create structures for a more active and learning-based collaboration between the Nordic countries in connection with smart specialisation. Perspectives such as sustainability, gender equality and diversity contribute to a deeper analysis and understanding of the problem and further ensure that the regional initiatives that are created today will be relevant in the future as well. After completing the programme, we want our course participants to feel that they have gained a better understanding of the added value of smart specialisation, that they have received guidance in using their new-found knowledge and experiences, and that they have found new partners to collaborate with, both in Sweden and in the other Nordic countries.

### **Target group**

The programme is primarily aimed at new employees working in innovation offices, holding companies, incubators, science parks and clusters – all of which operate at the intersection of business, academia and the public sector. We are looking to find a mix of representatives from different areas in order to maximise the exchange of experiences between the participants. To achieve this, we have chosen to allow a maximum of four participants from the same workplace per course start.

### **General information**

The programme series will be held in Swedish, however, some presentations will be in English. Discussions are generally held in Swedish but, if necessary, participants will be divided into groups based on nationality during group discussion.

The programme series includes eight digital meetings and a full-day conference, scheduled to be held at Karlstad University.



In order for all participants to get the most out of the programme series, we allow a maximum of 30 participants and a maximum of four participants from the same workplace per course start.

Upon completing the programme series, the participants will receive a course certificate provided that they have attended seven of eight seminars and the full-day conference.

### **Dates – 2022/2023**

Seminars will be held 9:00 am-12:00 pm, more details will follow in the welcome letter that will be sent to participants via e-mail before the course starts. The letter will also include more information about the course outline and the learning platform Canvas, the video communications tool Zoom and KaulD.

- 6 September
- 20 September
- 11 October
- 15 November
- 6 December
- 24 January
- 28 February
- 28 March
- 9 May – Conference at Karlstad University in Sweden

### **Content**

The programme includes eight digital seminars and a full-day conference at the end of the programme that we hope to be able to hold at Karlstad University.

#### **Introduction 1: Smart specialisation as a tool for sustainable regional development and growth**

- Zoom café to get to know each other and discuss needs and expectations.
- Three regional cases, Värmland (Sweden), Nordland (Norway) and Kymenlaakso (Finland), talk about their S3 work and discuss challenges, problems and solutions.
- Introduction of the concept S3, how it relates to Horizon and other support projects, introduction to the Smart specialisation Platform and how S3 relates and adds value to RIS and RUS.

#### **Introduction 2: Smart specialisation as a tool for sustainable regional development and growth**

- Presentation of experiences from innovation systems within the Sami population.
- Brief introduction to EDP and the concept of S4 and Agenda 2030.
- Discussion on the concepts of smart specialisation vs. smart diversification.
- Introduction to gender and how it relates to smart specialisation.

#### **“Governance, edp, gender equality and diversity”**

- Brief introduction to the concepts of “governance” and “monitoring”.



- Discussion with representatives from “the Six City Strategy” in Finland and the project SVIS/Kau.
- The concepts of “governance” and “monitoring” are discussed in relation to, and problematised from, a gender equality perspective.
- The project “Beyond EDP” (Östergötland) present their experiences (20 min)
- EDP – who are included in the process from the perspective of gender equality and diversity? Group discussion.

## **"Regional economic and social resilience – using gender as a tool"**

- Brief introduction to the concept of resilience.
- How can gender and gender equality be used as tools to create economic and social resilience? Panel discussion with representatives from Region Värmland and Region Norrbotten.
- Group discussions and exchange of experiences based on the seminar theme.

## **"From S3 to S4 – agenda 2030"**

- Presentation of SDG and Agenda 2030, and how they relate to gender and gender equality perspectives.
- Young people involved in the project “Young people’s voices for gender equality in the Nordic countries” talk about Agenda 2030.
- Participants from different regions present in small groups how their process from S3 to S4 might look like, as well as examples of concrete steps in that direction (this will be given as “homework” before the seminar).

## **"Smart specialisation in times of pandemic"**

- Three short presentations from different Nordic countries on how Covid-19 has affected regional development, different sectors and industries, digitalisation, etc. What has proved to be successful and what has not? How can sustainable development be used as a tool to address these challenges?
- Group discussions on personal experiences, challenges and how we can move forward.

## **"Smart specialisation, digitalisation and AI"**

- Three short presentations from different Nordic countries on how digitalisation has affected work with smart specialisation.
- Group discussions on challenges and opportunities with digitalisation. How can we address and counteract the digital divide between those who benefit and those who do not?
- What does the development of AI mean? Does AI contribute to gender equality, diversity and new norms?

## **"Gender and gender equality as a tool for business development"**

- Presentation of the projects “Genusakademin”, “MångVäx” and “Gender Contact Point”.



- Group discussions on the theme of business development with a gender equality perspective.

### **"Nordic collaboration on smart specialisation" (full-day conference at Karlstad University)**

- How can we utilise existing networks and build new ones to facilitate Nordic collaboration on smart specialisation? Participants from each of the regions present what they can bring to this collaboration, areas they wish to learn more about with the help of others and ideas for a permanent structure to ensure continuous collaboration.
- Together, we agree on goals for smart specialisation up until 2030.
- What needs to be done to achieve these goals? Changed structures, concrete measures, new collaborations, etc.

### **Lecturers**

- Manuel AlMBERG Missner, lecturer in Gender Studies at Karlstad University, acts as moderator during the seminars.
- Jukka Teräs, Doctor of Technology in Production Economics and MBA
- Anders Olsson, Strategist, Region Värmland
- Paul Nemes, Deputy Managing Director, Paper province
- Margareta Dahlström, Professor of Human Geography, Karlstad University

### **Fee**

Course fee: SEK 23,500 per person, excluding VAT. The fee includes coffee/tea with snacks and lunch during the full-day conference at Karlstad University. An invoice will be sent shortly after the course starts.

### **Food, accomodation and travel**

The cost of food (apart from lunch and coffee/tea/snacks during the actual conference), accommodation and travel in connection with the full-day conference is not included in the course fee.

- More information on where to find accommodation in Karlstad: [Destination Karlstad](#)

### **Registration is open until 6 September 2022**

Registration is binding. We reserve the right to cancel the course in case of too few participants. In the event that this happens, we will contact you immediately. The programme series has room for 30 participants and the minimum number of participants is 20.

- Direct link to registration (both in English and Swedish):  
<https://axacoair.se/go?j1ie8ZZD>

### **Contact**

- [Manuel AlMBERG Missner](#), lecturer
- [Nina Sundberg](#), coordinator