

Evaluation of the Linnaeus centers

Brief summary

The evaluation of the Linnaeus centers is now completed. The investment in 40 Linnaeus centers has been going on for over 10 years and has cost a total of SEK 2.8 Billion. It was evaluated by the following criteria by an international panel headed by Marja Makarow and Jürgen Mlynek. Three HEIs were selected as the top three in each category, and KI was included in two of these. 1. Capacity building where Umeå University, Linköping University and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences are highlighted. 2. Research performance where CERIC, KI is prominent in Medical Sciences. 3. Societal relevance (added afterwards) where CrisP, KI is mentioned as a good example.

Conclusions

- The center has had national impact.
- Obtaining funds for a long period of 10 years has been important, as has the use of the funds been flexible. "Lean management".
- The money was important in order to start up the environments and contributed to the researchers receiving other grants such as Wallenberg - snowball effect.
- The money did not go to individual PIs but was used for joint center initiatives. The main focus of KI was to strengthen translational medicine by bringing together preclinical and clinical researchers from various subjects such as hematology, dermatology and cardiovascular research.
- The money was used to build networks and create groups through seminars and retreats.
- The money was also used to create opportunities for more innovative research such as MRI and the use of artificial intelligence to test biopsies and develop infrastructure such as biobanks and MRI-based screenings from studies of large populations.

Lessons learned

- No contribution to the strategies of the universities
- The universities have not used the Linnaeus Center in their marketing
- Unclear with requirements for co-financing from universities with regard to cash / in kind
 - o Much of the co-financing was research infrastructure
- No knowledge sharing between the different Linnaeus centers

Rekommendationer

- "Sweden - do it again!"
- Open calls for all disciplines

- Already demonstrated research excellence should be a criterion
- Long time horizon in terms of research funding
- High flexibility in the use of funds
- Look at new research fields, interdisciplinarity!
- Research funding must be sufficient - perhaps fewer centers receiving more funding?
- International recruitment of young researchers is a key factor