MEASURING OUR IMPACT 2016 at a glance

FACTS & FIGURES ON THE INNOVATIVE FORCES SUPPORTED BY UPPSALA UNIVERSITY INNOVATION.

Innovation outcomes

At Uppsala University, innovative ideas with real business potential can crop up anytime and anywhere. Whatever their nature, working mechanisms to capture and nurture them are all in place.

FLOW OF IDEAS UP MORE THAN 40% SINCE 2012

MORE INNOVATIVE IDEAS FROM MORE INNOVATIVE MINDS

Over 120 ideas were submitted in 2016, a big increase from the 85 noted in 2012. Moreover, they span all the sectors listed above. Almost three quarters are product-based, the rest service. Over 200 individuals from students to professors are involved – also a significant increase over previous years.

AN INVESTMENT FOR THE FUTURE

PREMIERE FOR A PAN-EUROPEAN HEALTH INITIATIVE

Creating an entrepreneurial mind-set is vital for securing a future built on innovation. This topic was in focus when Uppsala University and EIT Health arranged an inaugural Innovation Day, one of six held in parallel at selected European cities. Over 100 students attended in Uppsala – and left with a common toolbox for working with innovative idea development in the European health sector.

TAKING THE RIGHT ROUTE TO MARKET

GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS

During 2016, we investigated and developed the commercial potential of over 90 projects. Two-thirds of these shared just over 5.6 MSEK funding for early verification of, for example, markets, technologies and regulatory issues – a real boost to their commercial prospects.

Commercialisation plans take many forms. One common scenario is to start a new business, another involves knowledge transfer to an established company. We support both models. During 2016, 19 new companies were formed and two projects were transferred to established companies.
Uppsala University Holding Company invests in new research-based start-ups. During 2016, it became part-owner in three ventures: EtaScale, Cadess Medical and Griff.

Furthermore, external investments of nearly 400 MSEK were made in portfolio companies, the largest being 120 MSEK in ÅEC Microtec (in connection with the company’s IPO on Nasdaq’s First North), 60 MSEK in Q-linea, and 49 MSEK in the listed company Imint.

The Mentor4Research programme has been managed for 10 years by the Swedish Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences. Now Uppsala University is the first in Sweden to run the programme in-house.

By working with an experienced business mentor, university researchers from all disciplines gain a deeper insight into commercialisation processes. Equally important, they expand their links with the business community and evaluate the commercial potential of their research.

Drivhuset Uppsala, our collaborative partner for supporting students’ ideas, received 73 business proposals from students and helped these budding entrepreneurs start 33 new companies.

We are a partner to Uppsala Innovation Centre (UiC), ranked the world’s 10th best and Europe’s 5th best business incubator with a university connection according to UBI Global 2015.

In 2016, as many as 21 projects affiliated to Uppsala University were awarded places in UiC’s sought-after business development programmes. In addition, Featherway Robotics were admitted to the European Space Agency Business Incubation Centre Sweden, the Nordic countries’ first space incubator partly run by UiC.
EARLY VERIFICATION HELPS SECURE FUNDING LATER ON

For the third year running, Uppsala University, with financial support from Vinnova, has supported the early verification of collaborations between its researchers and external organisations.

UU Innovation coordinated the 2016 call, which attracted 36 applications of which 10 were funded with a total of almost 1.7 MSEK. Examples of funded projects include:

- **ACCESS**: In 2016 we began ACCESS, a three-year project to encourage more small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to collaborate with universities. Matchmaking and multi-disciplinary activities are both on the agenda. ACCESS is run in association with Linköping and Örebro Universities.

- **EU-FUNDED PROJECT STRENGTHENS INNOVATIVE CAPACITY**: In 2016, Uppsala University established partnerships with construction company giant NCC, Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE), Uppsala municipality and Region Gotland. The increased exchange of knowledge that results will strengthen 'real-world' education and research for the benefit of all concerned. UU Innovation plays a key coordinating role in several of these partnerships.

- **EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND**: The increased exchange of knowledge that results will strengthen 'real-world' education and research for the benefit of all concerned. UU Innovation plays a key coordinating role in several of these partnerships.

- **SPEEDING UP ACADEMIC-INDUSTRY COLLABORATION**: Building collaborative relationships with businesses and organisations boosts the quality of the university’s research and education, strengthens its innovation capacity, and brings true benefits to society.
UPPSALA UNIVERSITY INNOVATION
– ACCELERATING THE IMPACT OF RESEARCH IN SOCIETY

As the university’s central support unit for innovation and collaboration, it’s our mission to enable and ensure that research, as well as ideas, is put to good use – for everyone’s benefit. We provide expertise on patents & IP, business development, funding, professional matchmaking, networking and much more. For researchers and students, we're right on your doorstep – just a phone call, e-mail or short walk away. For companies and organisations, we’re your first stop on the road to success. To discuss collaboration opportunities, simply call or e-mail us.

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TEN YEARS OF INNOVATION & COLLABORATION

The extraordinary research now conducted every day at Uppsala University has its origins going back well over five hundred years. In the same manner, the fruits of this research have for centuries found their way out into the world for the mutual benefit of everyone.

To both secure and accelerate the utilisation of this research, and the interaction with society at large, Uppsala University Innovation was established on July 1, 2007.

In the ten years that followed, we have helped academics partner with a great number of companies and organisations, boosted the spirit of innovation, and helped transform numerous bright ideas into exciting new ventures.

ONE SPECIFIC QUESTION, ONE INTENSE DAY

AIMday® lets external organisations challenge university researchers with one specific question in intense face-to-face discussions over just one day. Companies and organisations benefit from direct, highly-qualified feedback while academics gain new insights into industry. This interaction naturally leads to formalised collaborative activities. Pre-study funding is an additional tool to help kick-start cooperation after AIMday. Such studies often create a solid working platform for future development.

NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICAN BREAKTHROUGHS

In 2016, AIMday made its South American debut when we, in collaboration with Linköping University and other Swedish and Brazilian partners, arranged an AIMday in Belo Horizonte in Brazil. Themed ‘Smart Industries’, this meeting attracted both Brazilian and Swedish researchers and companies, the latter including Atlas Copco, Ericsson, Saab and Volvo.

AIMday enjoys a strong reputation among leading universities in other parts of the world. The University of Oxford, for example, arranged its first event and already plans more. Furthermore, in 2017, AIMday will make its North American debut at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada.

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