



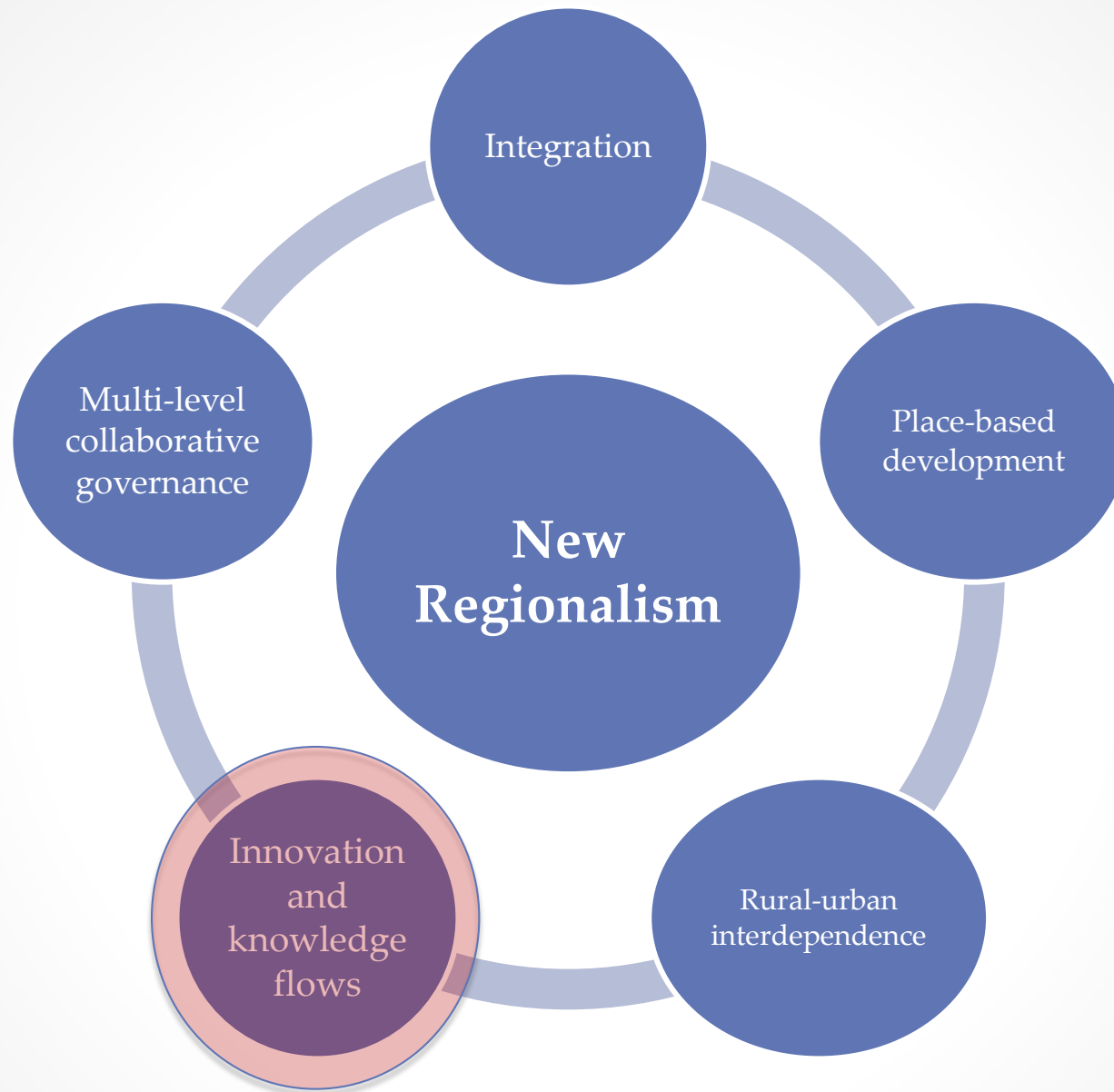
Innovation Models and Rural Regions

Policy and Research in Community
Investment

24-25 May 2012 | Ottawa

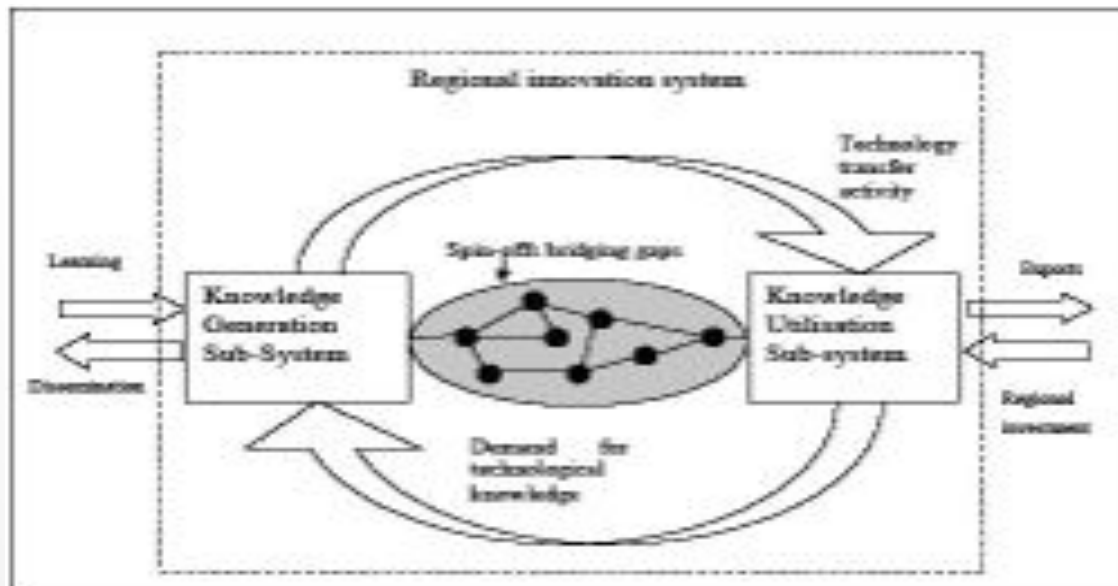
Introduction

- Three models of innovation:
 - Regional Innovation Systems
 - Triple Helix
 - Social Fields
- Case study approach on the Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland
 - 22 interviews of government, industry and community representatives
 - Previous study on Social Network Analysis
- Investment Implications



Models: Regional Innovation Systems

- Emerges out of National Innovation Systems (Lundvall)
- Importance of region based on:
 - Tacit knowledge
 - Social capital
 - Right scale for innovation policy

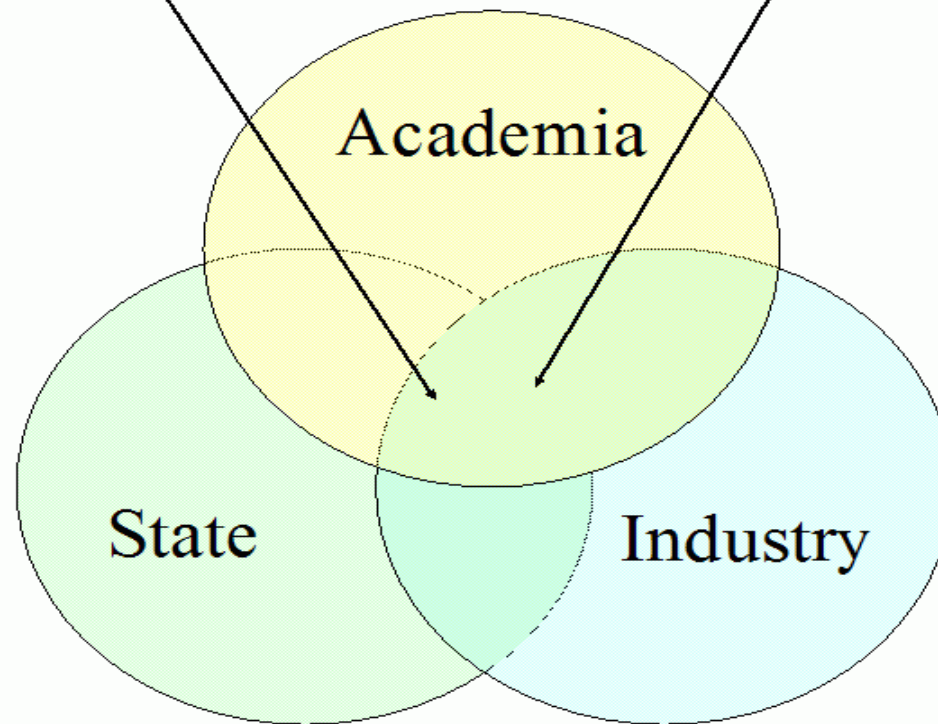


- Source: Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies 2012

Models: Triple Helix

- Neo-corporatist compatible with neo-liberalism
- Political, scientific and economic (power, truth and money)
- Interaction of knowledge, market forces and the state

Tri-lateral networks and hybrid organizations



Source: www.leydesdorff.net

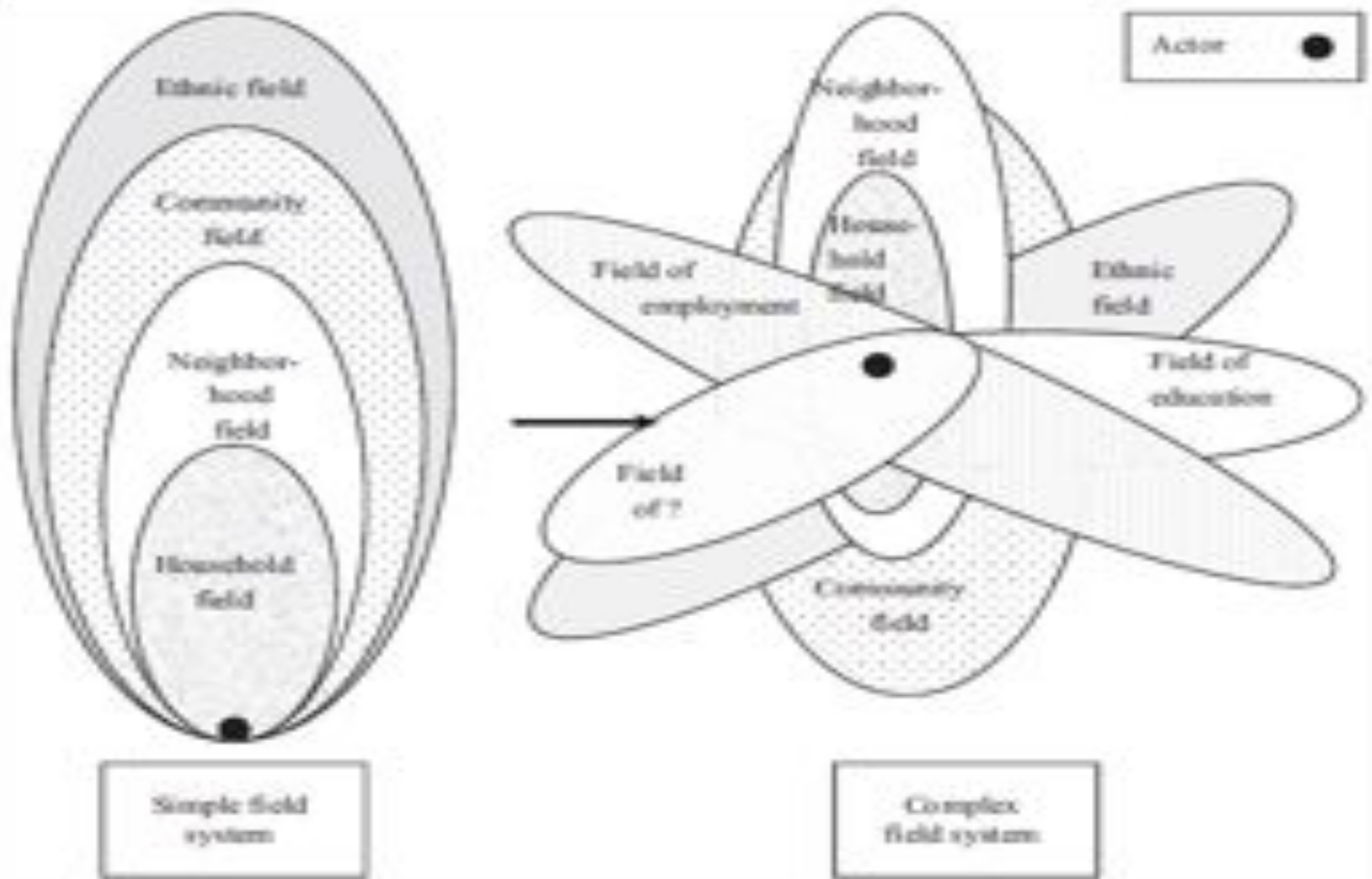
Methodology

- 22 in-depth semi-structured interviews
- Government, College, NGO's and businesses
- Action Research approach



Models: Social Fields

- Innovation as a relational phenomena
- Networks of actors, knowledge flows and interconnectivity
- Need for context sensitive models
- Social Fields highlights innovation in cultural, social and territorial contexts



Source: Floy sand and Jakobsen 2010

Key Criteria	Triple Helix	Social Fields	Regional Innovation Systems
Relationships	Neo-corporatist	Multi-field Social relations	Dualistic System
Key Players	1.Government 2. Industry 3. University	Context driven Social Field specific	Knowledge Support System; Production system
Spatial Scale	Non-spatial: Cluster/Sector Regional/National	Relational Turn local and global	Regional Focus Global Pipelines
Investments/ Points of Intervention	Knowledge generation upsets equilibrium Fix system mismatches	Social Field or network building focus at multiple scales	Invest in KP related to local production Alignment

Findings – New Ideas

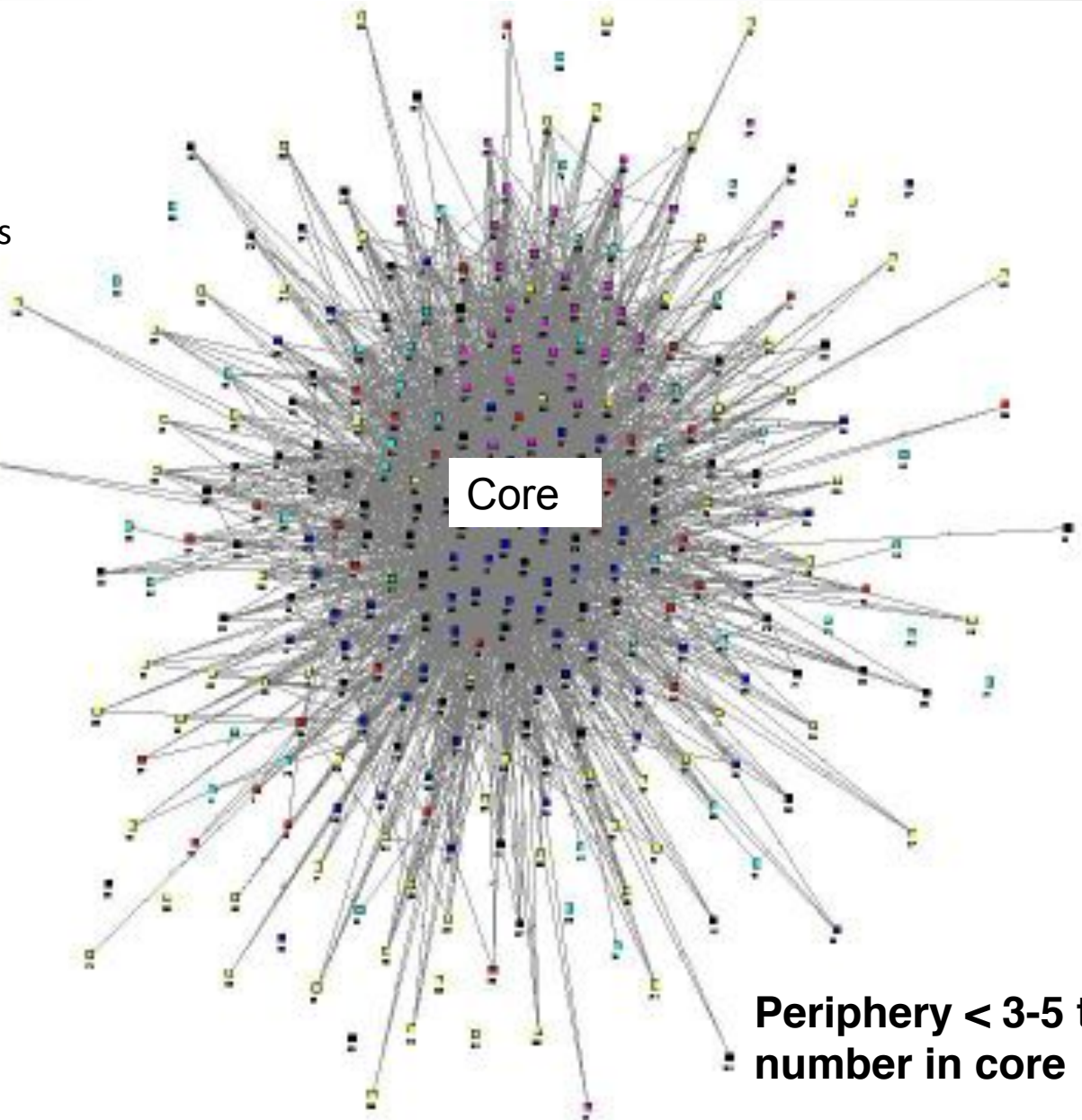
- Where do ideas come from?
 - Over reliance on local ideas
 - But some connections externally
- Exposure to new ideas seen as critical
 - Connections to marketplace – (e.g. tourism operators understand world class sites through travel; fisheries connection to Japanese markets)
- Mixed in terms of connections to knowledge support infrastructure

Our Network – where we look for ideas

Legend

- Eddies Cove East to Castors River South
- Eddies Cove West to River of Ponds
- Goose Cove East to North Boat Harbour
- External
- Main Brook to Englee
- Other/No Response

Innovation network

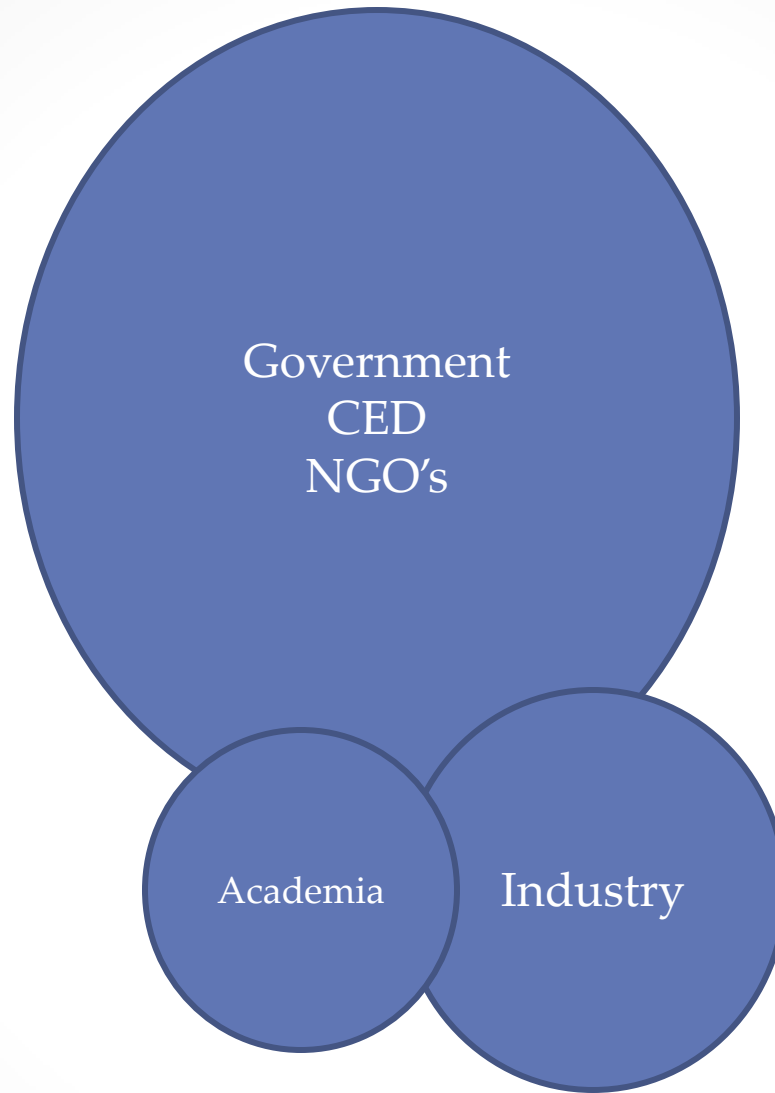


Findings: What is needed to foster innovation?

- Reach out to external knowledge support
- Attract educated young people with new ideas
- Define innovation as new to the region
- Improved regulatory environment
- Access to private capital
- Better collaboration and networking (coffee shops, meeting places)
- Stronger municipal government
- Better transportation networks
- Better alignment of programs and research to community/business needs

Findings: Collaboration

- Generally perceived as good
- However “collaboration of facilitators and not doers”
- Models: Right players not at the table together
 - Post-secondary, industry and government



Skogseid and Strand (2011)

Knowledge Flows and Learning

- Most self describe as learning organizations
- However not much in training budgets except in government
- Often informal learning from experience
- Survival mode limits formal evaluation
- Evaluation is a centralized function in governments

Findings: Investments

- Broadband and cell coverage
- Financing: private capital
- Training and skills development
- Research into new products
- Building better points of intersection and networks

Models and the Periphery (1)

- Social fields offers promise for understanding periphery
 - Takes relationships seriously (e.g. family, community and external dimensions)
- RIS and triple helix: heuristics for empirical research
 - But weaker on the social dimensions
 - Systems approach misses agency
 - Both stress that the importance of networks

Models and the Periphery (2)

- Research in the region is very limited
- Looking for more knowledge infusion
- External connections beyond the region are critical
- Learning and knowledge flows often neglected

Some Next steps

- Incent government, industry and university/college to form trilateral networks
- Fisheries, forestry and tourism collaboratives
 - Starting point: discussion groups and events
 - Social Network Analysis and network weaving
- Reach out to knowledge support infrastructure external to the region

Contact Information

Ken Carter

klcarter@gov.nl.ca

Director of Research and
Analysis, Rural Secretariat
Government NL

Kelly Vodden

kvodden@mun.ca

Department of
Geography,
Memorial University

