



**VINNOVA**

**Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems**

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**Emerging Innovation in Northern Europe**

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**Strategies for Growth i Regions**

# VINNOVAs Regional Strategy

- A. Support and develop synergies between national and regional priorities
- B. Prioritise to develop innovative clusters and strong research and innovation environments
- C. Reinforce the development of global links that strengthen innovation and the attractiveness of Sweden



# **VINNVÄXT**

## **Regional Growth through Dynamic Innovation Systems**

**Started in 2002**

National initiative to leverage on regional processes.

### **Objectives**

- Support the development of strong research and innovation environments
- Stimulate Triple Helix based regional partnerships to enhance the innovation system in Swedish functional regions to an international level within specific areas of strength
- Be a catalyst for coordination of resources

# REGIONAL GROWTH POLICY IN 2000

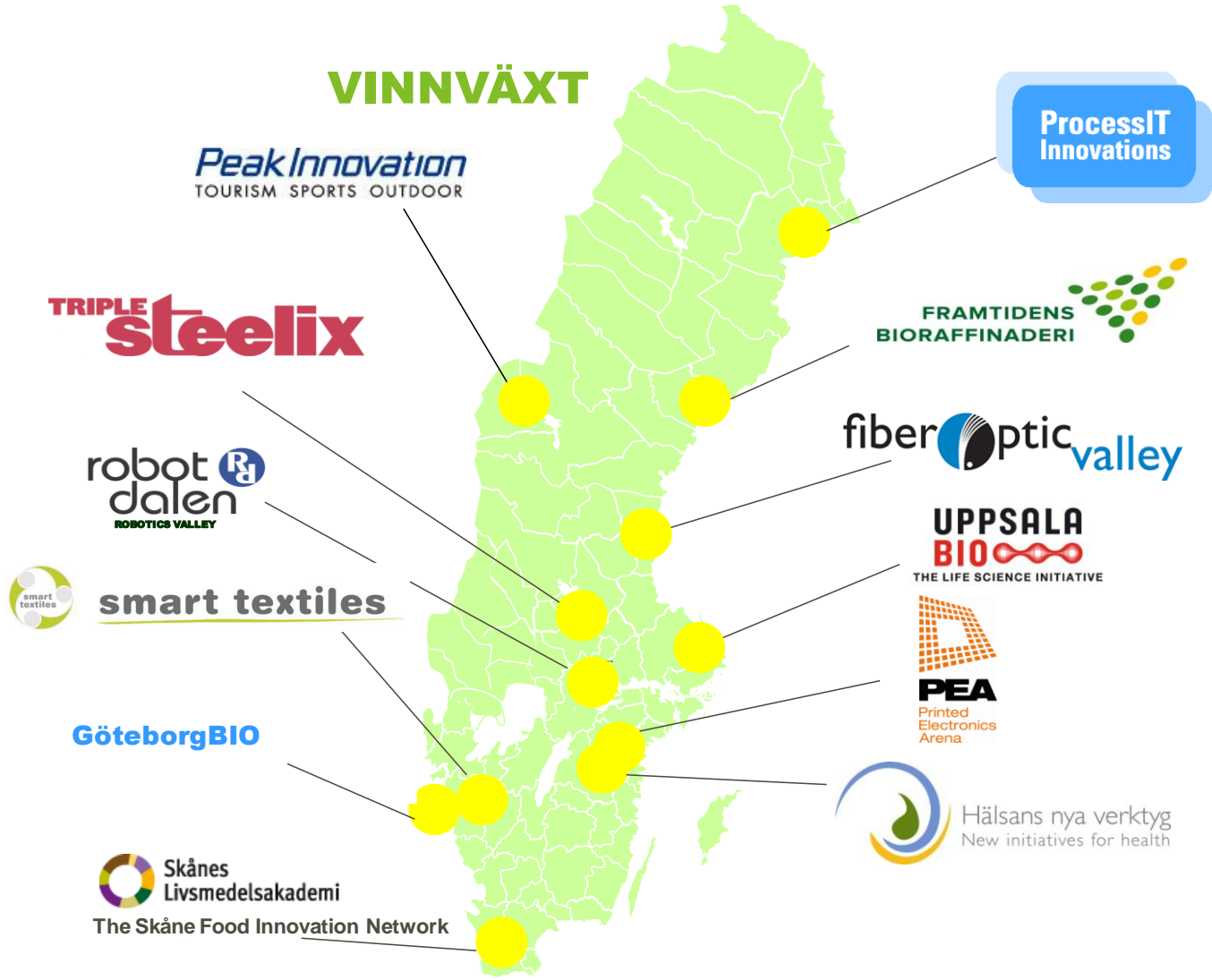
Growth vs Distribution

Regional needs vs National sectorial needs

Innovation vs Supporting existing structures

**The VINNVÄXT program was introduced in this transformative situation**

# VINNVÄXT





**PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**

- International knowledge transfer
- International benchmark
  - 5 Pilots
  - Process-support
- Triple Helix management training

**CALL 2003**

- Competition, € 30 million
  - 159 initial proposals
- 25 development initiatives
  - 3 winners/7 runner-ups
  - The Dahmén Institute
    - A process-support organisation
    - The national facilitators' Network
  - Triple Helix management training

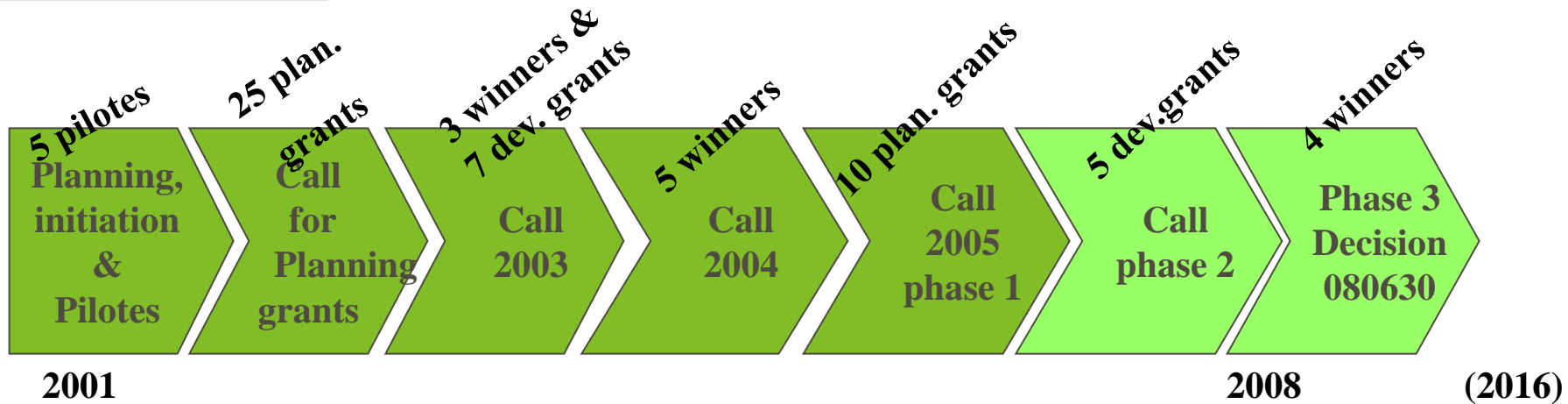
**CALL 2004**

- Competition, € 30 million
- 23 proposals
- 5 winners

**CALL 2005**

Innovation systems in early stages

- Competition, € 5 million
  - Process support for formation
    - 86 initial proposals
- 10 development initiatives, 3 months preparation
  - Triple Helix management training
    - 26 Final proposals
  - 5 potential winners 2006-8
  - 4 full-scale winners 2008



- Sustainable growth in the region is the main objective. Strong Research & Innovation environments and renewal are in focus as well as International competitiveness.
- Regional leadership where industry, research and society/politics have a shared common vision. Changed attitudes and behaviour in Regional Governance .
- 10 years of support and regulary asesments and reconsiderations of work plans.
- Mutual learning based on a trustful dialogue, system perspective, process development and follow-ups.
- Growth effects also among other initiatives.

# Programme Characteristics

- **A competition for regional partnerships –Companies, Universities and Politicians - A Triple Helix-based approach**
- **Few winners but substantial grant - 3 calls, 12 winners, receiving up to 1 MEUR**
- **Long term commitment,10 years**
- **Regional (public and private) co-funding of at least 50%**
- **Substantial process support**
- **Investment approach – yearly follow-ups, three year evaluations**
- **Robust selection process**
- **Strategic research for industry in the region**
- **Active learning process incl. support to applicants**
- **Opportunity oriented**
- **Focus on growth but new jobs are foreseen**
- **Value creation rather than cost reduction**
- **Use the capacity of both men and women**
- **Involve politicians**
- **Investment perspective**

*Allows programme development (evolution)*

## **The fields of operation within which the Initiatives have activities:**

- Regional and national strategic processes
- Regional meeting arenas
- Communication and marketing
- Competence provision
- Financing Internationalisation
- Integration of gender perspectives
- Needs-driven research
- Newly established enterprises
- Development of existing industry and/or public sector
- Activities for individual learning, monitoring and evaluation.

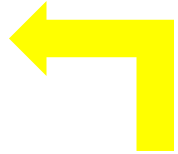




# Strong R&I Environment

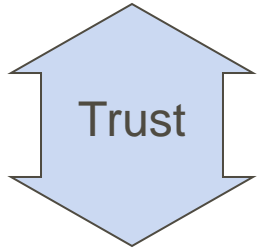
**ATTRACTIVENESS**

- People
- Companies
- Money



## Effects

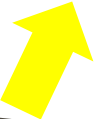
Changed attitudes and behaviour



New and growing companies, new knowledge

Strategic level

Regional Leadership



Operative level

Knowledge creation "Exploring"

Bridging activities

Commercialisation Activities "Exploiting"



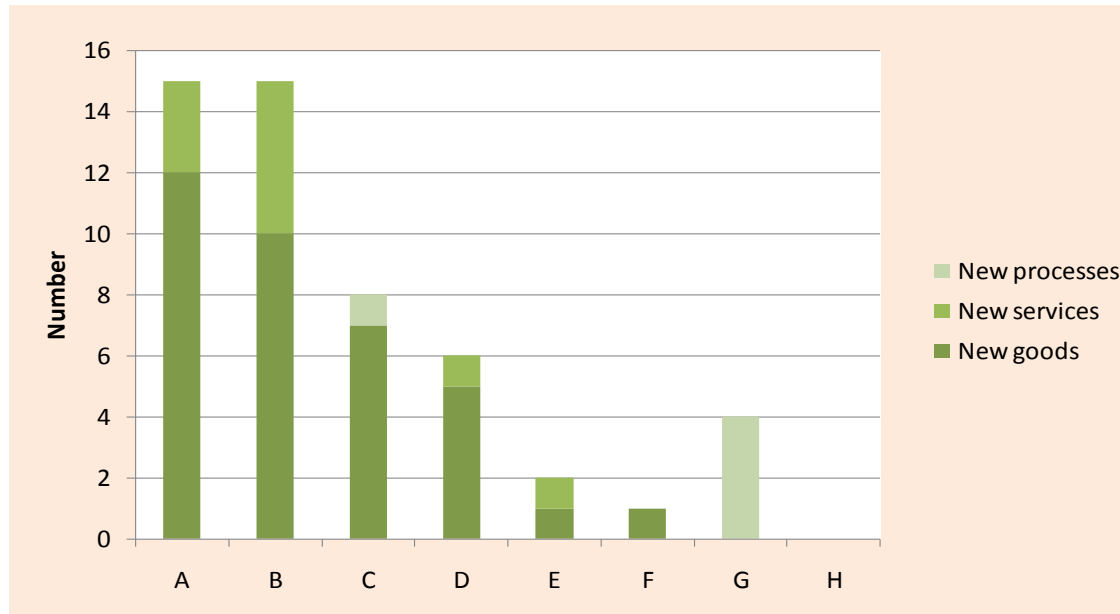
# Some "Results"

- The Triple Helix Management "training" helped market the program, improve applications and contributed to "new mindset" for regional actors. 600 persons participated.
- High trust between programme management and process leaders – The Mid term evaluation looked at the processes AND programme management
- The second and third call resulted in better applications AND more action on less money.
- In the last call, competing initiatives wanted common and open dialogue with VINNOVA
- Robotic Valley - two recent activities: Mobilizing national researcher network and Mobilizing regionally to keep key competence. VINNOVA responding.
- Recent study indicates that our initiatives are attracting money from the EU Structural funds (75 MSEK so far)

# Some results

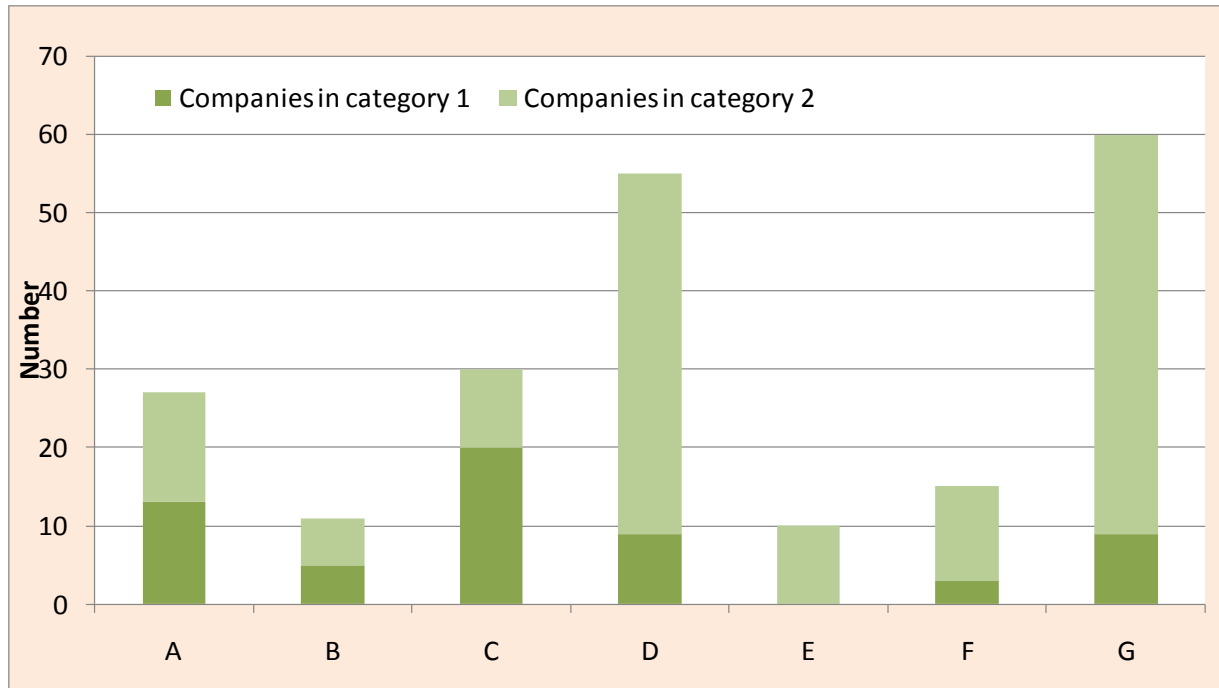
- Initiatives builds and develops functions in RIS (f.x. "Testbeds" and Incubators)
- Cooperating not competing with other players
- Most resources to R&D-projects (with emphasis on Development)
- Some Regional Lock In tendencies
- The importance of a "neutral" regional arena
- Competence supply an important task (from Kindergarten to PhD:s)
- Attract national and international funding (FP7 – seven application three granted) (ESF – 7,5 MEUR)
- Internationalisation still a challenge – the role of an initiative?
- Gender perspective work with right incentives( competence supply)
- During 2008 at least 144 PhD:s and 66 Doctoral students participated in projects (the 8 old initiatives)

# Some results



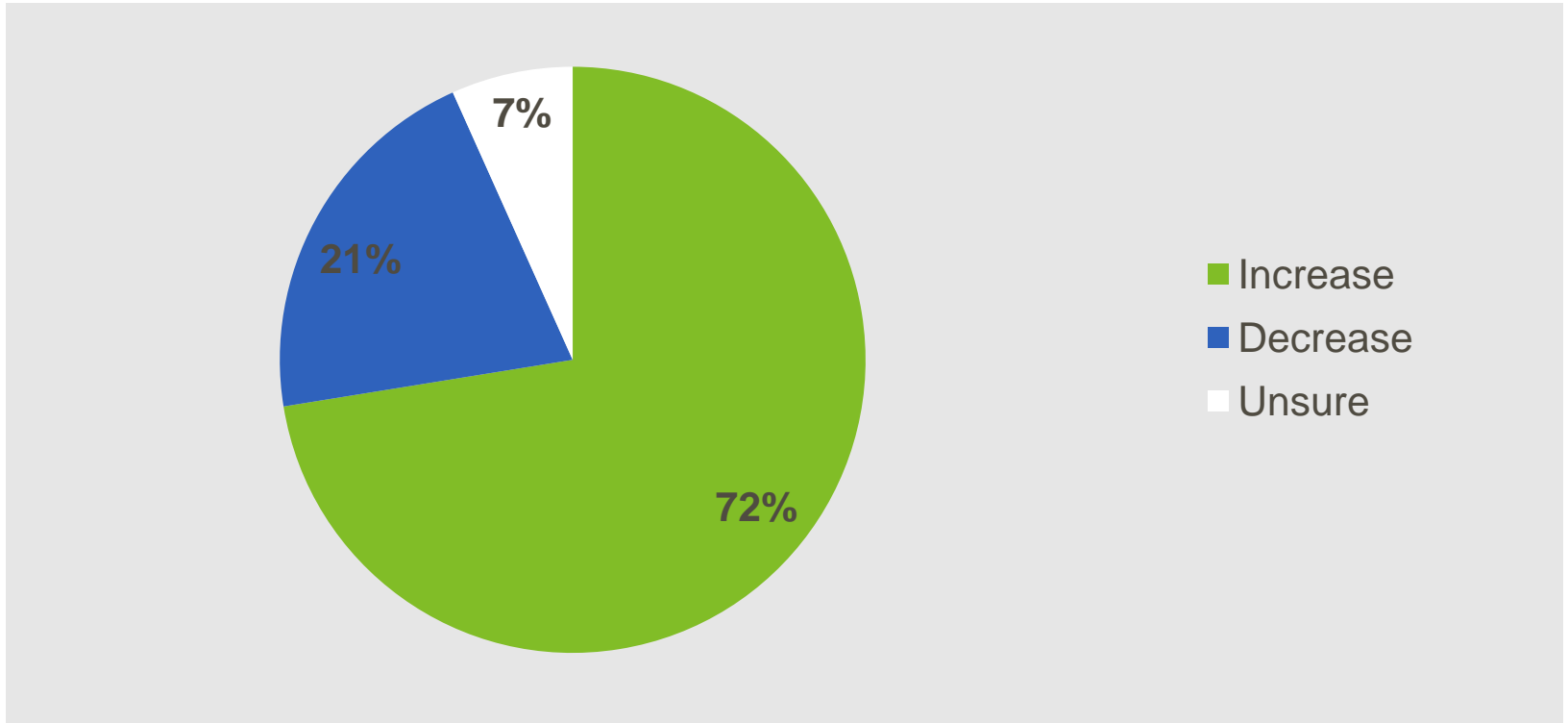
**During 2008, under the auspices of the first eight VINNVÄXT initiatives, 56 new goods, 10 new services and 60 processes were developed**

# Some results



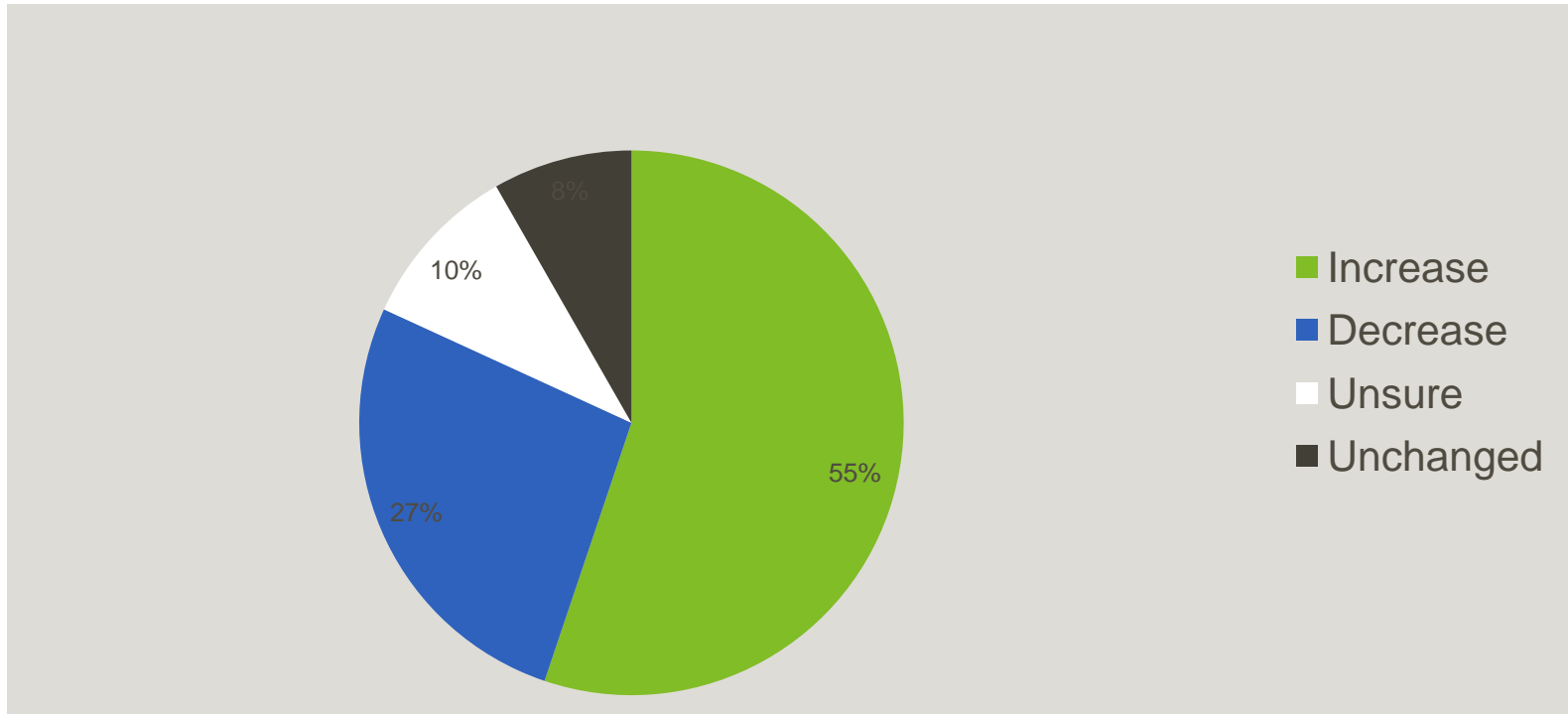
The initiatives show 59 organisations, primarily companies, as belonging to their inner core. These companies have pledged to contribute resources in the long term/permanently (companies in category 1). An additional 149 companies have pledged some resources and were actively involved in some of the projects or activities funded by the initiatives (companies in category 2). The figure above shows how the number of participating companies varies between different initiatives.

# Change in turnover, 2005/2008



Increase	Decrease	Unsure
313	90	29

# Change in number of employees, 2005/2008



Increase	Decrease	Unsure	Unchanged
240	116	43	36

# VINNVÄXT – implications

- Stronger emphasis on **international presence** – linking, alliances and export
- Stronger emphasis on the initiatives capturing knowledge, innovation and competencies from **other clusters**
- Accelerate **funding shift** from national to local public funding plus private
- Accelerate **governance shift** from public sector to private sector
- Accelerate shift from individual company support to support for **groups of firms** (including academia)
- Install effective **project management system** and monitoring of the initiatives (metrics, milestones, performance indicators)





# **The Strategy for Regions – From VINNVÄXT to a growing portfolio of Programmes/Activities**

VINNVÄXT – Developed  
into:

## **National**

- RegLab
- Peer Review in Skåne
- Regional Dialogue

## **International**

- BSR – Inno Net
- BSR – Stars
- TACTICS

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