

Session 1

Swedish Innovation System: Possibilities and problems

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This session aims to discuss what technology & innovation have to do with economic growth: The case of Swedish innovation system and public policy. Sweden is a high income, low population density country, which has succeeded globally through large firms as well as stimulating entrepreneurial start-up firms. The existing literatures stresses the importance of science, technology and innovation to the firm and economy. Innovations have to do with novelty of economic value, and important sources for innovations include science and technology. However, interesting questions remain about national differences in terms of the use and development of primarily scientific and engineering knowledge for a business context. Because innovation is a broad concept, and one needs to place the firm in relation to the industry and in relation to the open, localized and uneven nature of innovation processes across regions, nations and sectors. Firms work within society, national institutions, and industrial specifications. Various forms of new knowledge, and in particular scientific and engineering knowledge and technology, are well known to be critical factors influencing competitiveness and economic growth. They will also affect future societal welfare. Some key trends affecting innovation and R&D, such as the globalization of technology, as well as some implications of innovation-based competition within a knowledge-economy are also discussed. This presentation will place the Swedish innovation system and public policy in relation to these on-going debates.