

# Higher education for a future labour market

## Background

One of higher education institutions' most important tasks is to educate the workforce of the future. This should be made in collaboration with labour market stakeholders in order to take into account their needs. While much research on collaboration and knowledge transfer examines networks between organisations, individuals are always the key agents in such collaboration. The work package "People and Networks" of the RUNIN project focuses on this issue.

## Aim and research design

An interactive research approach (see Figure 1) through qualitative & quantitative studies will be used in this project to study:

- How universities integrate learning and development of transferable skills into higher education;
- How universities can build education so that it is valuable for both employers and the broader society.

A focus will be made on the collaboration of Science Parks and other labour market stakeholders with universities.

## Work in progress

Book chapter in collaboration with Eduardo Cadorin, Dzamila Bienkowska, Magnus Klofsten (Linköping University):

**"Universities and Science Parks:  
Engagements and Interactions in  
Developing and Attracting Talent"**

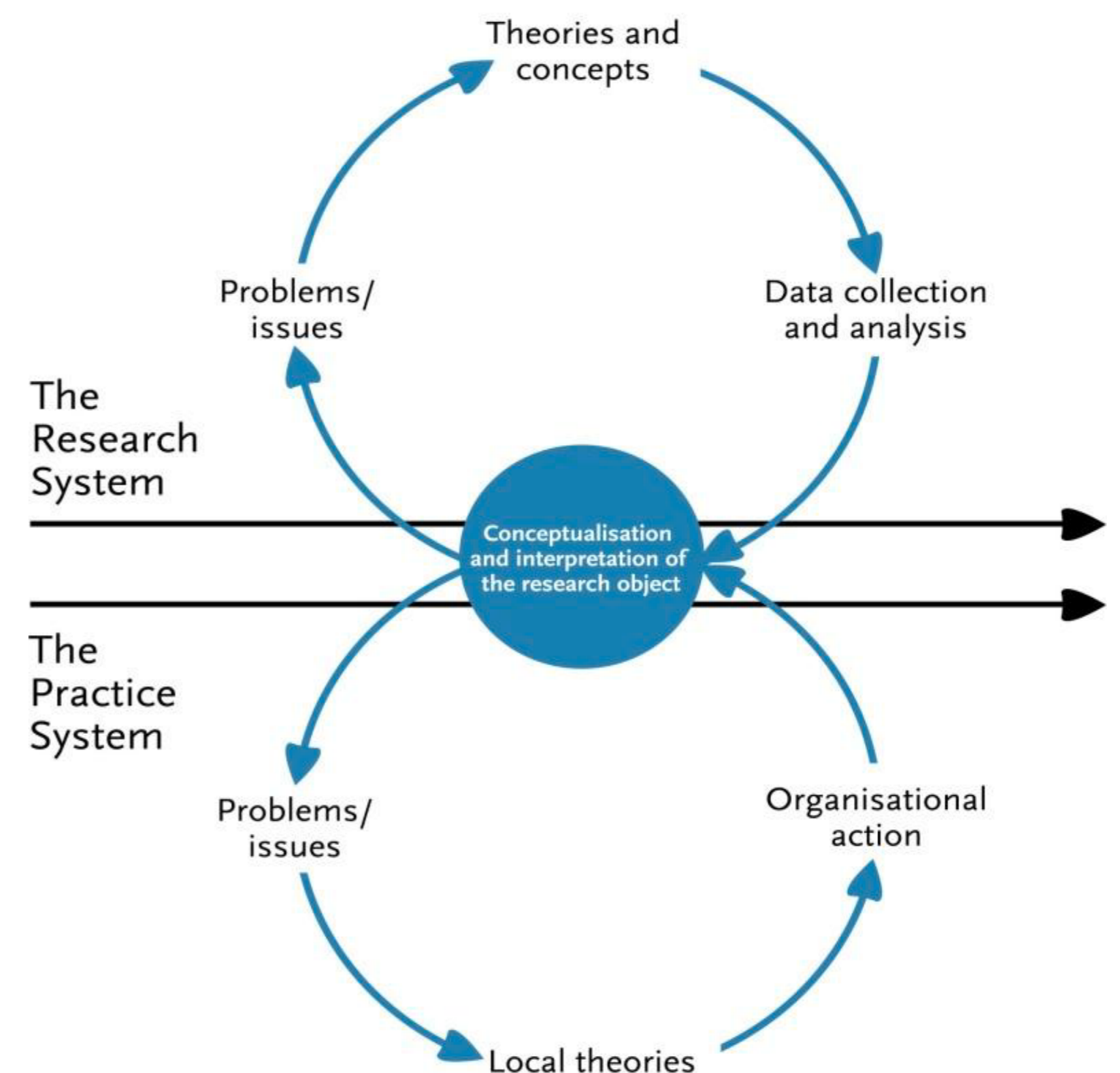
## Participating researchers

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**Figure 1:** Interactive Research as a Two-Way Flow of Problems and Knowledge (Svensson, Brulin & Ellström, 2015)

## Relevance and expected results

During the past decades there has been an increased focus on generalist competences and transferable skills, e.g. communication skills and analytical problem solving, in both undergraduate and postgraduate education.

Simultaneously, the development from elite to mass university has resulted in growing numbers of students at all levels, including PhD students.

This means that upon completion of a degree the challenge for the students is to find the right job matching their skills and interests. The university is potentially an important actor in creating the connections with labour market stakeholders.



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