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Collaboration and innovative working methods

Technological developments change both society and people's lives. To ensure a sustainable development of society, Sweden needs to handle the rapid developments in technology; harness the opportunities offered and at the same time manage the risks.

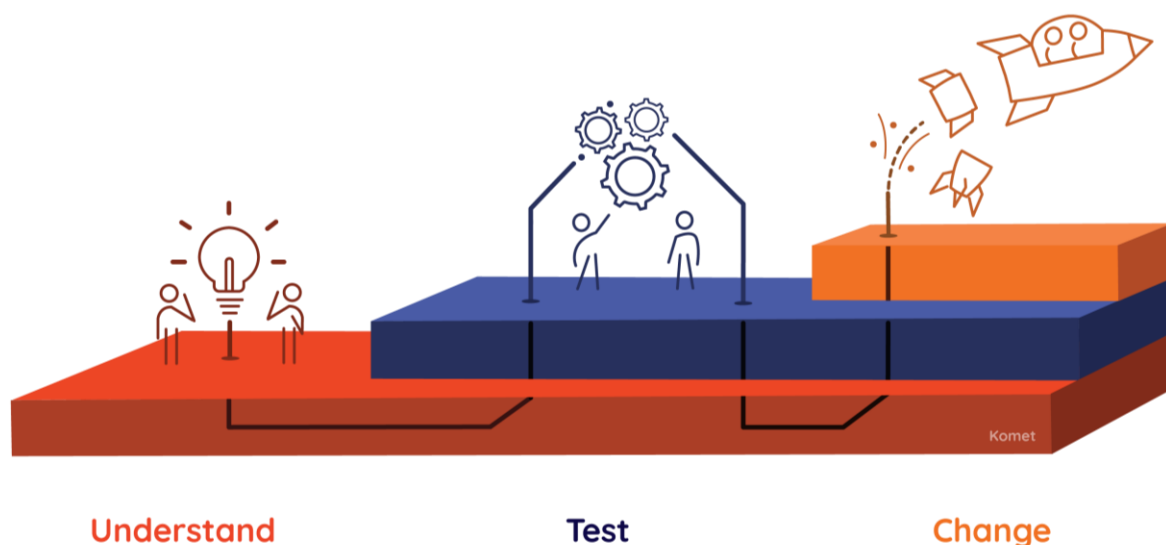
The accelerated technological developments challenge existing working methods. When developments are rapid and when the future looks uncertain, broader and more extensive cooperation is required. Regularly increasing understanding for the processes that change society and technology requires cooperation and innovative working methods, in which various actors take part.

Managing this challenge requires broad collaboration, which includes public sector actors, the business sector, academia, civil society and citizens. The work must be proactive and involve both those developing and those affected by and using new solutions. If we all work together, we can attain a responsible development.

New working methods required to achieve the goals in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

To reach the goals in the 2030 Agenda and ensure a secure development in society, Sweden needs to be more proactive in its management of the rapid technological developments, and the opportunities and challenges they entail.

Technology and innovation are described by the UN as central means for reaching the sustainable development goals.



Komet's collaboration model

Komet's collaboration model is based on all parties concerned working together within the three categories: Understand, Test and Change.

Understand – in a rapidly changing world, joint efforts are required to understand developments and we also need to monitor developments in the world around us. The objective is to create together a joint understanding of the challenges and opportunities and to identify ongoing development and possible solutions.

Test – When developments are uncertain and the pace of change is high, one needs new methods of learning what does and doesn't work. It becomes increasingly important to make controlled tests in cooperation with relevant stakeholders on a smaller scale and with appropriate evaluations. Test here means trying under real conditions a new solution and/or new regulatory framework on a limited scale. The limit could apply, for instance, to a particular time or a particular geographical area. The primary purpose of the attempts is to create a faster learning process, which in turn creates opportunities for long-term secure solutions.

Change – When changes are to be made in regulatory frameworks, applications and working methods in one or more sectors, the parties concerned need to implement this together and in several short steps. A working method is needed that makes it possible to gradually create the change and evaluate it during the course of the process and where necessary correct the aims and direction.

Innovation

Combining knowledge, ideas and resources in a new way to better and more effectively fulfil a need. An innovation can be a new product, service, method of working, process, organizational form or system change that has proved useful and created value.

The public sector is a necessary participant

It is a challenge for society to create good conditions for innovation and competitiveness while ensuring secure, safe and socially sustainable development and spread of new technology. The public sector is a necessary participant in this development. Partly so it can develop and make its own operations more efficient, and partly to enable faster and more secure developments for citizens, the business sector and civil society. Continued rapid and broad innovation is of central importance for Sweden's long-term competitiveness. This is a challenge that requires new ways of working and new attitudes, especially in public administration. Several countries see a need to instill courage in the public sector.

Governance, public administration

The public administration goal states that central government administration must be innovative and cooperative. This is particularly important in relation to risks and opportunities linked to rapid social and technological developments. In addition, Section 6 of the Government Agencies Ordinance (2007:515) states that the agency should regularly strive to develop operations and ensure all possible benefits for individuals and for the State as a whole through cooperation with government agencies and others. Individuals here refers to both natural and legal persons.