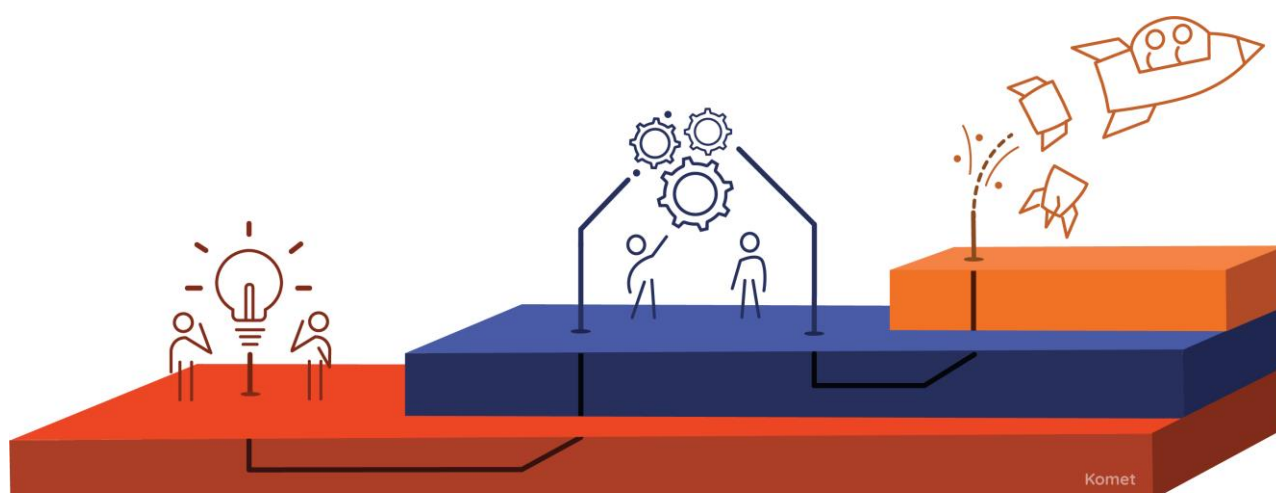# Collaborative understanding, testing and change

Accelerating technological developments challenge existing working methods. When development is rapid, and the future looks uncertain, broader and more extensive collaboration is required. By working together to understand rapid technological progress, testing in a real-world environment and gradually implementing change, the potential of technological advances can be harnessed, and risks managed.

It is a challenge for society to create favourable conditions for innovation and competitiveness while ensuring secure, safe, and socially sustainable development and dissemination of new technologies. Managing this challenge requires collaboration involving public sector actors, business, academia, civil society, and individuals. Work must be proactive and involve those who develop, use, and are affected by new solutions. By working together, we can ensure *responsible technological development*.

Komet has developed a model for understanding, testing, and changing in collaboration. The model is intended primarily for the public sector and can be useful in innovation and collaboration processes. It can also be beneficial in the business sector, academia, and civil society.

*Komet's definition of **responsible technological development** requires an ethical approach to development, use and dissemination of new technology.*

It also entails the awareness that technological development should contribute to an environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable society for strengthened competitiveness of the Swedish business sector.

Förstå
Understanding

Försöka
Testing

Förändra
Changing

Komet's collaboration model

Komet's model is based on all parties involved working together in three areas: Understanding, Testing and Changing.

Understanding – In a changing world, joint initiatives and external monitoring are needed to understand development. Differing perspectives, knowledge and insights must compete with each other. Collaboration can establish a common understanding of challenges and opportunities and identify ongoing development and potential solutions. Understanding is fundamental to ensuring responsible technological development.

Testing – When development is uncertain and the pace of change is rapid, new ways of learning are needed to determine which solutions, working methods and regulatory frameworks are effective or not. That it is why controlled testing* on a small scale with regular evaluations in a real-world environment is important. The main purpose of testing is to accelerate learning.

Changing – Changes should be implemented collaboratively by the actors involved. Changes should be made by taking many small steps – not one giant leap. In doing so, it is more likely that the final results will become a long-term solution. Those who implement a change should review their working methods so that the change can be implemented progressively, for example, by continuously evaluating effects of the change and, when necessary, adapting objectives and direction.

The public sector is a partner

The public sector is a necessary partner in development. Government agencies and other public sector actors need to be involved and create new solutions in partnership with other actors, without impeding innovative solutions that can contribute to positive and sustainable societal development.

At the same time, innovation must be balanced against ethical values, fundamental rights and freedoms, and sustainability.

The administrative policy objective and the Government Agencies Ordinance highlight innovation and collaboration

The Swedish Riksdag adopted the administrative policy objective in 2010. It states that central government administration should be innovative and collaborative. This is particularly important in relation to risks and opportunities linked to rapid social and technological change. In addition, Section 6 of the Government Agencies Ordinance (2007:515) states that an 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.

Read more in Komet informs 2020:05, which presents a model that lends support to reasoning concerning an agency's responsibility based on the three elements: legal certainty and effectiveness, collaboration and learning and sustainability and ethics.

* Does not refer to testing in the form of research involving human subjects or animals.