

Why globelics?

Rio

November 2003

B.-A. Lundvall

Aalborg University, Denmark

Globelics — cf for Luc/Bal as Asterix/Obelix

 **G**lobal network on the

 **e**conomics of

 **l**earning,

 **i**nnovation and

 **C**ompetence building

 **S**ystems

‘Globelics’ signals the ‘Rio-approach’

Work hard

Try to understand

Act accordingly

but always remember also to

Have fun!!

Objectives at different levels

- ❧ Basic objective is to strengthen research on innovation and competence-building world-wide by exploiting the potential of global interaction
- ❧ Secondary objective is to strengthen the knowledge base for innovation and knowledge policy at the local, national and global level.
- ❧ To LUC: I do not see Globelics as an NGO but as an organisation that promotes the knowledge on the basis of which NGOs may act.

The system's approach

- ❧ The idea of the national innovation system was developed in the beginning of the eighties – see the Freeman-paper from 1982 – and it has been further developed by many of those who attend this conference.
- ❧ NSI is a tool – a focusing device - but there are other related tools such as technological, regional and sectoral systems as well as industrial clusters, milieux innovateurs (and perhaps even Triple helix).
- ❧ The aim of this network is **not** to propagate the use of the NSI-focusing device **to the exclusion** of other approaches that apply a systemic perspective. Pragmatism in the use of tools is recommended!

Understanding regional and national technological learning

- **Linking local dynamics to competence building at the national level**
 - **Local learning as the basis for national competence building – studying local systems and localised industrial clusters**
 - **Taking the helicopter view of the national system to look for missing links and embryonic local or nation-wide clusters**
 - **Taking into account the macro conditions and their impact on local innovation.**
 - **Studying local action and its macro impact.**

Understanding international technological learning

- ❧ International technological learning (technology transfer is a misleading concept) is important and we need to understand the mechanisms at work.
 - Import of process technology
 - Reverse engineering
 - Licenses and patenting
 - Movement of people across borders
- ❧ But: Technological de-learning and too strict and imbalanced IPR-regimes may be major problems – Cf Brazil and other Latin American countries.
- ❧ And: International technological learning presupposes internal competence base

Understanding international institutional learning

- Understanding the internal dynamics of your own national system
- Learning by comparing systems
- Look for good (not best-) practices and for the conditions to learn from them across systems
- Be aware that good practice does not remain the same over time and space

Understanding knowledge and learning – a basic task for Globelics.

- ✿ What kinds of knowledge matter most for the economy in the current era?
- ✿ How are different kinds of knowledge learnt?
- ✿ How can different kinds of learning be promoted?
- ✿ How to measure what has been learnt?
- ✿ Understanding also the importance of **sectoral** differences in knowledge and learning avoiding a manufacturing bias (on the importance of agro-industry and services).

What Globelics can/will do

- A global meeting place for scholars and students
 - Regional Asian conference in Bangkok April 2004
 - Copenhagen/DRUID in June 2004
 - The next annual conference in Beijing/Tsing Hua University in November 2004.
 - 2005 conference in South Africa
- Research training of Ph.D. – Lisbon in May 2004.
- Publishing books, special issues of journals and a Globelics-working paper series.
- Stimulating the formation of regional networks: Asia-lics, LatinA-lics and Afro-lics
- Incubator house for research projects in fields where global collaboration is especially helpful.

Incubator house for global research projects – four possible examples

- Agro-industrial innovation systems (Immerkurd Pataparong).
- Local production/innovation systems and industrial clusters (Helena Lastres)
- Developing adequate indicators for innovation - competence building -development(Daniele Archibugi).
- Global rules of the game and economic development – do current intellectual property right regimes give fair chances for development and catching up (Birgitte Andersen)?

A conference *and* a meeting place

- A Conference with important academic contributions and discussions ahead!
- But also a forum to form new scientific collaboration networks – Asia, Africa and Latin America have a lot of common interests which are not well reflected neither in the academic discourse nor in the global rules of the game. Use Globelics to build new scientific collaboration!
- Different cultural background and perspectives will give room for misunderstandings and clashes - but also to extend who is ‘the significant other’.
- Therefore: Be critical - but patient and friendly!
- And last but not least: *Dance the Samba and Have Fun!*

