

USER DRIVEN INNOVATION (UDI) ON THE DANISH POLITICAL AGENDA IN THE 2000s

FROM POLICY DARLING TO PARIAH AGENDA

UDI begins to take shape as a promising approach to Danish innovation and growth policy

Political appeal: policymakers were searching for new innovation and growth policy tools. UDI quickly seen as a means to enable a wide range of Danish firms (across sectors and different levels of R&D intensity) to tap into significant, unrealized innovation potential

2004

At least three informal “coalitions” convey different approaches to UDI to policymakers

FORA(Danish Business Authority, DBA)/Mandag Morgen Anthropological Approach

Copenhagen Business School/ MIT (Eric von Hippel) User Innovation

Southern Danish University Participatory Innovation/User Centered Design

And others

A government-commissioned “think tank” on Future Growth zooms in on UDI as a key policy tool to stimulate innovation & growth

2005

An “innovation network” for Research Based UDI is established (runs for 4,5 years until 2010)

Established and funded by The Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation (MSTI) – to bring key stakeholders together and to build and share theoretical and practical knowledge about UDI in the public and private sectors

Expert panel report called for a strategic research programme on UDI

Commissioned by MSTI. Report called for immediate funding to exploit “window of opportunity”

2006

Danish Council for Strategic Research (under MSTI) granted funding for at least 5 projects in 2006-2009 for a total grant amount of 78 mio. DKK

High-level advisory council chaired by the Danish PM presents a “Danish Globalization Strategy”; PM est. a Globalization Fund with 43 bio. DKK

Programme for UDI (PUDI) established by this fund (with 400 mio. DKK in funding), as a key government initiative to stimulate R&D, innovation and growth in Danish firms

2007

Programme for UDI (PUDI) launched

Responsibility for development and implementation of PUDI given to DBA (driven by DBA/FORA approach to UDI) (see Facts and figures on the programme on the next page)

Increasing public criticisms of PUDI and the projects it funded. Political support for UDI policy waned.

2009

(Positive) interim evaluation of PUDI published PUDI programme terminated prematurely; its remaining funds were transferred to a new DBA innovation & growth policy instrument