

Higher Education and Competitiveness: Is there a linear connection?

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Some initial thoughts

- Higher education is good
- Or is it always?
- What is good higher education?
- What is competitiveness?

Good higher education?

Regional Rank	Institution*	World Rank	Country	National Rank
1	Univ Cambridge	4	UK	1
2	Univ Oxford	10	UK	2
3	Imperial Coll London	23	UK	3
4	Univ Coll London	25	UK	4
5	Swiss Fed Inst Tech - Zurich	27	Switzerland	1
6	Univ Paris 06	39	France	1
7	Univ Utrecht	42	Netherlands	1
8	Univ Copenhagen	46	Denmark	1
9	Univ Manchester	48	UK	5
10	Univ Paris 11	52	France	2

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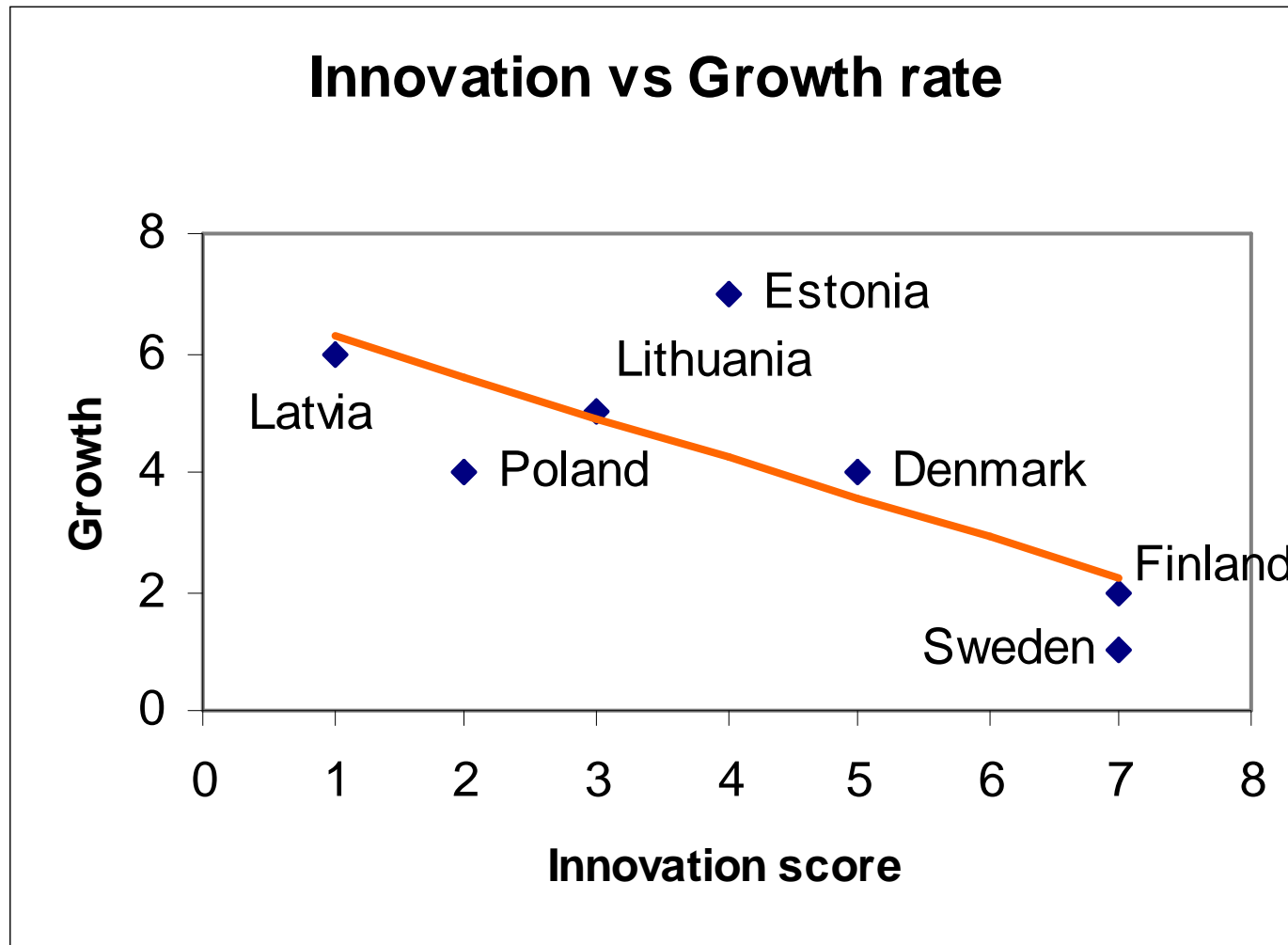
Competitiveness?

Global competitiveness index 2006

Switzerland	1
Finland	2
Sweden	3
Denmark	4
Singapore	5
United States	6
Japan	7
Germany	8
Netherlands	9
United Kingdom	10

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A paradox?



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What kind of education?

- Matching labour market needs?
 - Who is to decide?
- Science and engineering?
 - No guarantee that this translates to innovation
- Quality and flexibility
 - On the job training

What can be done at the regional level?

- Higher education highly fragmented across the region
- Conservative higher education systems
- Exchanges tend to be to outside the region
- A Baltic higher education space?