National networks for graduate education

- some different models and considerations

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Why a national education network?

- Give students access to competence outside of the home dept.

- Give students a firm basis for contacts with other students and professors.

- Increase the general quality of the education.

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Decisions

How should courses and other activities be funded?

- By rotating the teaching burdon among the member departments?

- Or should the "host department" of a course be paid by fees?

- Hybrid versions?

It takes time to build a national network (wrt UKÄ´s standards)!

-Educations at doctoral level are subject to sharp regulations.

-Any national level network should be prepared to be scruticized
 to an uncomfortable extent.

 -A course syllabus should be written for each course and established
 by at least one university.

 - Course evaluations should be conducted and documented in the network.

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National network for graduate education in Human Geography

Established in 1997 with the aims to:

- Give students access to *all* courses in Human Geography in Sweden.

- Give students access to competence outside the home dept.

- Give students a basis for contacts with other students and professors.

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National network for graduate education in Human Geography

Model:

- Steering group with one delegate from each dept.

- Yearly charge of 30,000/year/dept.

- A course gets 60,000 kr to cover for expenses. At least two depts participates in each course.

- A minimum amount of money is being transfered between depts by this model. Typically, only the dept(s) not teaching in the course will be charged.

National network for graduate education in Business administration

- Failed before they had even started (!)

- One of the participating universities had announced network courses that were not yet properly quality secured (no course syllabi existed etc).

- Linnaeus and another school pulled out from this network.

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Swedish graduate programme in Economics (SWEGPEC)

- Comprises seven universities

- Led by a steering group consisting of one representative from each university.

- Offers a full (first year) block of basic courses.

- Arranges a two-day annual workshop.

- No money is being transferred between schools (i.e. no fee).

- Was the first national network (to my knowledge) to be evaluated by UKÄ (2019-2020).

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Graduate programme in Statistics (GRADSTAT)

- Brand new: 1st course (Statistical Inference, 7.5 credits) starts now.

- Led by a steering group consisting of one representative from each university. All Swedish PhD programmes in Statistics are members (?).

- Aims at giving a base-block of courses annually.

- Funding: each dept. pays 20,000 kr yearly plus 3,000/student/course. ((under revision as for nov.2020))

- Plans to arrange a joint full-day seminar/semester for the students.

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