TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR TODAY’S AND TOMORROW’S INDUSTRIES
TEKNIKCOLLEGE AS A FACTOR OF GROWTH

Technological development and industrial companies are of considerable importance for Swedish economy and a high level of technical skills is essential for growth. Companies are in need of skilled employees with qualifications from upper secondary- as well as post secondary levels. In order to increase the number of applicants for technology-oriented courses at different levels, stakeholders in industry have committed themselves to developing the concept of Teknikcollege. Teknikcollege is a model of competence centres where municipalities, providers of education and companies collaborate with a common aim to increase the attraction and quality of technology-oriented courses for the needs of industry. The goal is for the companies’ future employees to possess the skills that are required on a global market. Teknikcollege represents attractive technical courses leading directly to employment but also courses to prepare for studies at higher levels.

The Council of Swedish Industry
WHAT IS TEKNIKCOLLEGE?

Teknikcollege is a network of competence centres in which companies collaborate with municipalities and providers of education in regard to technology-oriented courses at different levels. Courses at Teknikcollege are quality-assured on the basis of ten criteria. The companies of a region play a key role in shaping the structure of the courses as well as designing their actual content.

WHAT DOES TEKNIKCOLLEGE OFFER?

For Students
- Teknikcollege offers attractive vocational education and training that can lead directly to a job on the completion of studies or provide a good basis for further studies, e.g. various engineering courses.

For Companies
- Teknikcollege helps to secure the needs for skilled workers within industrial companies.

For Society
- Collaboration with other municipalities and different providers of education and training guarantees effective use of resources as far as municipalities are concerned.
TEKNIKCOLLEGE FOR GREATER QUALITY

An important factor of success within the concept of Teknikcollege is the collaboration of industrial companies with providers of education and training as well as with municipalities within a region. Teknikcollege helps to increase resource efficiency through collaboration in order to improve the quality of the courses. To be certified as Teknikcollege, it is necessary that providers of education and training from a minimum of three municipalities cooperate through agreements. Furthermore, these providers must work closely together with the region’s industrial companies. This makes it possible to share costs and to benefit from each other’s experiences and networks.

The regions in Teknikcollege are a part of the national network. This leads to exchange of experiences and nationally viable quality assurance of the municipality’s different providers of vocational education and training.

Above all, Teknikcollege provides a larger recruitment base, a higher status for technology-oriented education and fresh opportunities for skills development for both companies and providers.
**TEKNIKCOLLEGE FOR COMPANIES**

Teknikcollege makes it possible for industrial companies to influence the planning of courses so that they correspond to future skill requirements. In each Teknikcollege region there is a regional steering group but also local steering groups. The majority of members in these steering groups come from industry and the steering groups are also chaired by a representative from the industry. This means that the industrial partners play an important role in influencing the scope and structure of the courses as well as their content.

Involvement in the Teknikcollege network can take various forms, depending on the size of the company and the resources available. Participation is possible on a large as well as a small scale, thus making it possible for everyone to contribute. A company can collaborate with a provider of education by hosting study visits, by giving lectures or by providing problems and exercises taken from real life. A company can also participate through representation in a regional or local steering group and by offering practical experience and employment during summer vacation.

For the individual company, the benefits of Teknikcollege are many. Apart from the possibility to influence the content of courses, there are opportunities to meet prospective employees and to acquire knowledge of their abilities, interests and employability. As a result, the companies’ recruitment processes also become shorter.
CAPABLE AND ATTRACTIVE EMPLOYEES

A broad technical education gives students significant opportunities to an exciting working life. At Teknikcollege high-quality courses are offered and upper secondary school students have an opportunity to gain extended courses, the aim being to increase their lifelong employability. The teaching is based on integration between practical and theoretical subjects and the course is designed according to the skills requirements of the companies that collaborate in the Teknikcollege network.

At Teknikcollege the teachers work as a team. Considerable focus is put to the student’s personal development and ability to work in groups. The industrial companies of a region are never far from the students. Since the companies are involved in the quality assurance and content of the education, those studying at certified Teknikcolleges are attractive candidates for employment when they graduate from upper secondary school or on the completion of further studies at a university of technology.
COOPERATION THAT BENEFITS EVERYONE

In order to be certified as a Teknikcollege, companies, municipalities and providers of education must collaborate in courses at upper secondary school and post-secondary levels.

The programmes concerned are the Technical programme in combination with one or more technology-oriented vocational programmes at upper secondary level both for young people and adults. Post-secondary technology-oriented courses can also be certified. Close cooperation with a university and with industrial companies is a requirement.
Within Teknikcollege technology-oriented courses are certified at upper secondary school and at post-secondary level.
TEN CRITERIA

The criteria guarantee the process of constantly developing Teknikcollege so that it provides industry with the quality that it requires. In order to meet the requirements for certification and to be approved as Teknikcollege, all the criteria must be fulfilled.
1/ REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE
Teknikcollege has a regional perspective and is a common resource for the municipalities and industrial companies concerned. Municipalities cooperate locally through agreements.

2/ EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE
At Teknikcollege specialised technology-oriented education and training is provided, for the needs of the industry, at upper secondary as well as post-secondary level. Teknikcollege offers upper secondary school students academically oriented programmes in combination with technology-oriented vocational programmes. Cooperation also takes place between different forms of education, between different players and between adults and young people.

3/ CLEAR PROFILE
The educational activities have a clear profile and are linked to the needs of the regional industrial companies.

4/ COLLABORATION WITH WORKING LIFE
At Teknikcollege there is collaboration between different providers of education and working life. There is a regional steering group and several local steering groups, with company representatives in the majority.

5/ QUALITY ASSURANCE
The regional steering group is responsible for ensuring that all the criteria are fulfilled and for guaranteeing work processes, the quality of the education and developments at Teknikcollege.

6/ A CREATIVE AND STIMULATING LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
At Teknikcollege there is a down-to-earth learning environment which stimulates creativity and involvement and which attracts both female and male students.

7/ MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT
The machinery and equipment are of high quality and should provide the students with scope for learning new technology.

8/ COHERENT STUDY DAYS
Teknikcollege-certified courses are characterized by coherent study schedules and staffing that reflects working life.

9/ TEAMWORK AND INTEGRATION BETWEEN SUBJECTS
At Teknikcollege teachers work in a team and assume joint responsibility for the learning and development of the students. Considerable weight is given to the students’ personal development and ability to work in groups. The aim is coherent and well-thought-out education which is based on an active method of working by the pupils. The teaching is based on integration between practical and theoretical subjects.

10/ LEARNING AT WORKPLACES
The companies offer the students workplace training which, coupled with effective supervision, provides them with a solid foundation of vocational knowledge. Students also have an opportunity to carry out project work and to obtain practical experience and summer jobs.