

The Danish Council for Research and Innovation Policy

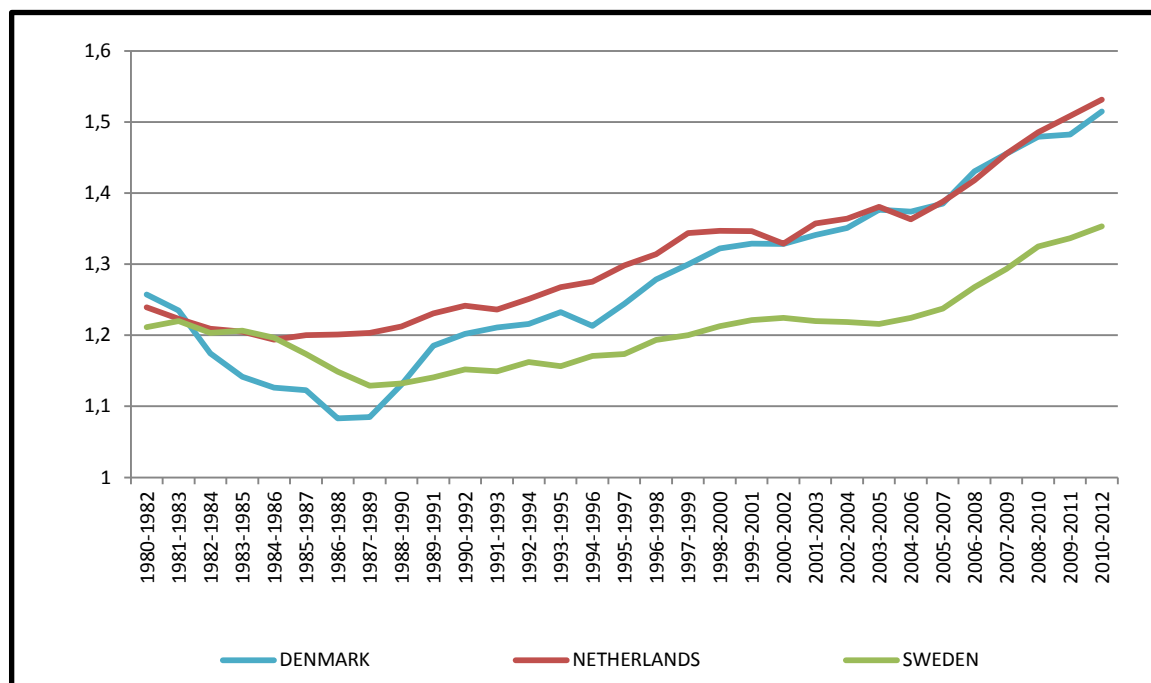
World Class Knowledge
at Axelborg, 9 June 2016

#Vmividen

Jens Oddershede, Chairman of DFiR

Denmark at the international forefront

- In research performance



*Development in MNCS
Based on full counts; three years overlapping
blocks (Schneider og Aagaard, 2015)*



Background



No simple solution to a complex problem

Research = an eco system

Challenges ahead, looking for warning signs

Your input is needed: DFiR's draft report

Preliminary conclusions

Qualifying debate

Balance

Stability

Change



Block funding / competitive funding
Quality culture
Growth layer
Excellence
Governance and management
Research / education
Cooperation

Balance

A healthy research system balances stability and change

From the analysis:

1980'ies



1990'ies – late 2000's



2016 ?



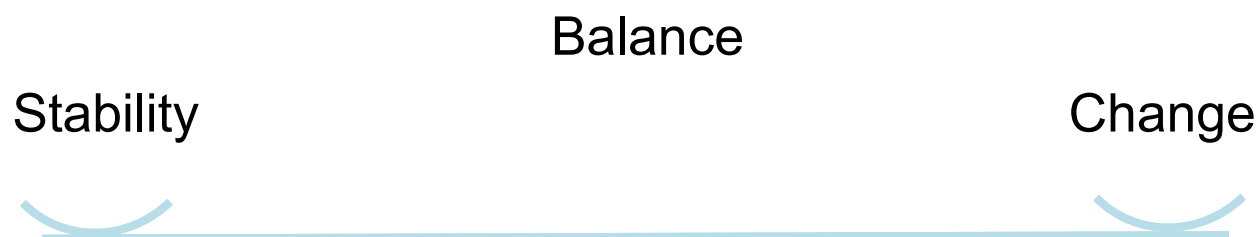
Denmark today:

Overall, things are going well
Challenges ahead

Denmark tomorrow:

Do not take balance for granted

The variables in the balance (1)



Block funding / competitive funding

Quality culture
Growth layer
Excellence
Governance and management
Research / education
Cooperation

Block funding / competitive funding

Block funding = stability, room for maneuvering, the needed bases, research based education, create protected room to maneuver and prioritise ...

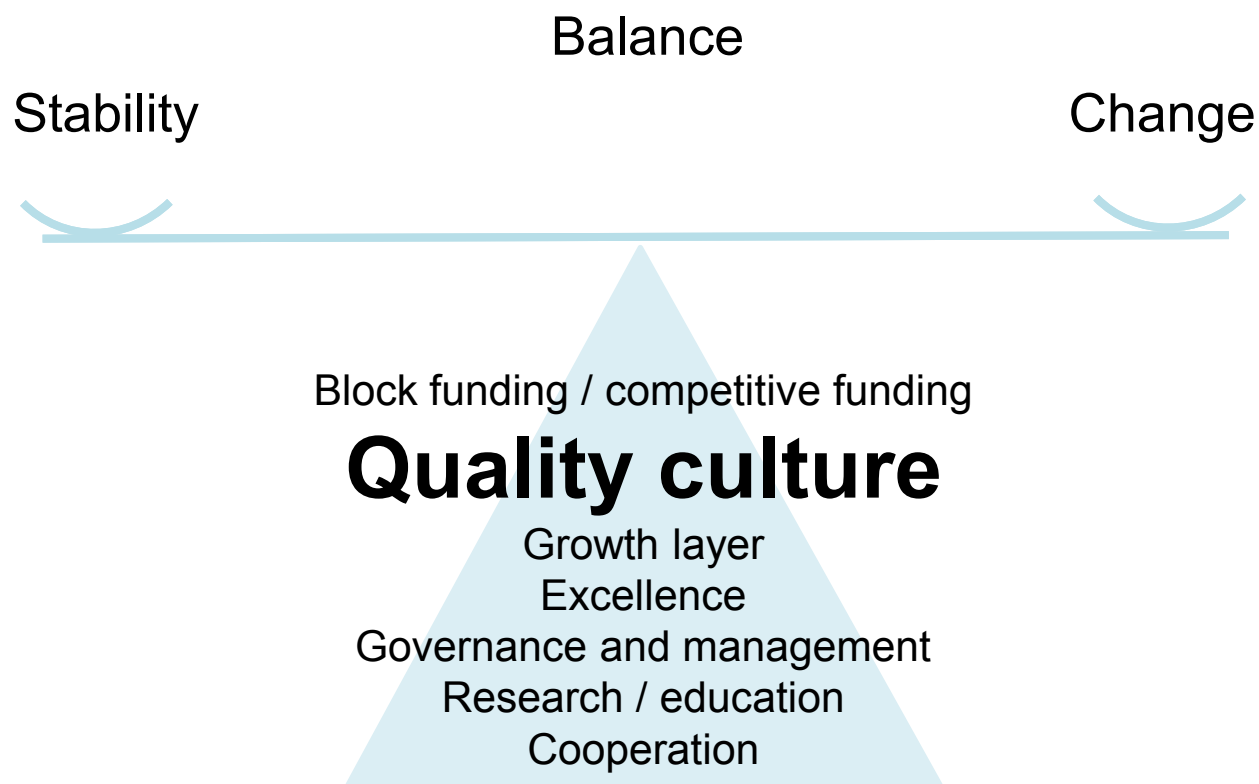
Competitive funding = induce changes, driver of quality if really competitive, societal priorities...

No fixed or ideal balance!

Denmark today: App. 60 / 40 - Sweden lower (too low?)
Overhead issue
Including private financing app. 50/50
Block funding per VIP is decreasing

Denmark tomorrow: Increase room for economic maneuvering, decrease number of faculty positions, overhead on private funds

The variables in the balance (2)



Quality culture

A necessary, but not sufficient, condition for delivering high research performance

Different ways to built and improve the quality culture:

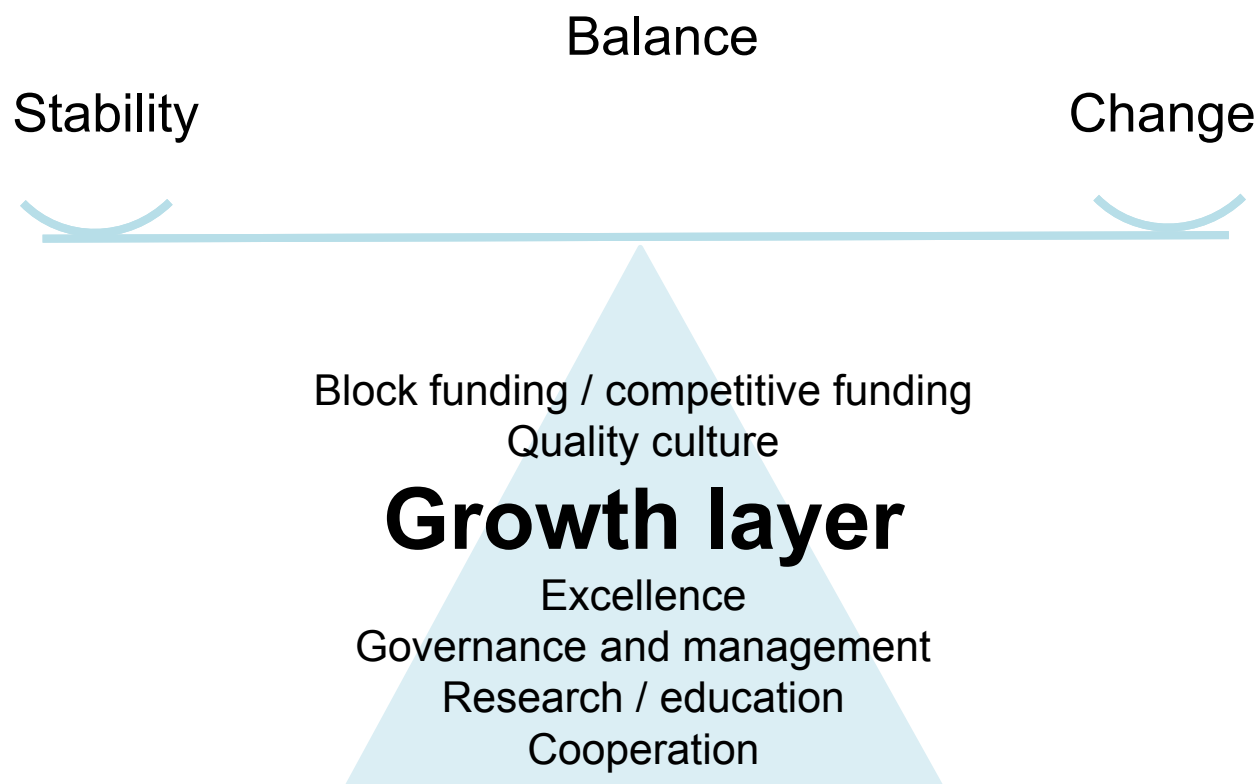
Holland: Research assessment culture and recruitment policy

Sweden: Unclear culture requirements

Denmark today: Since app. 1990: Competition for external funds based on quality criteria
Funding through competition has been the dominant quality driver

Denmark tomorrow: More widely applied quality-driven research assessment system, more competition for academic positions.....

The variables in the balance (3)



Growth layer

The research "eco-system" must ensure flow from bottom to top

Denmark: Suffered from an in-sufficient growth layer in the 1980'ies, improved through reforms (e.g PhD-reform, 1993)

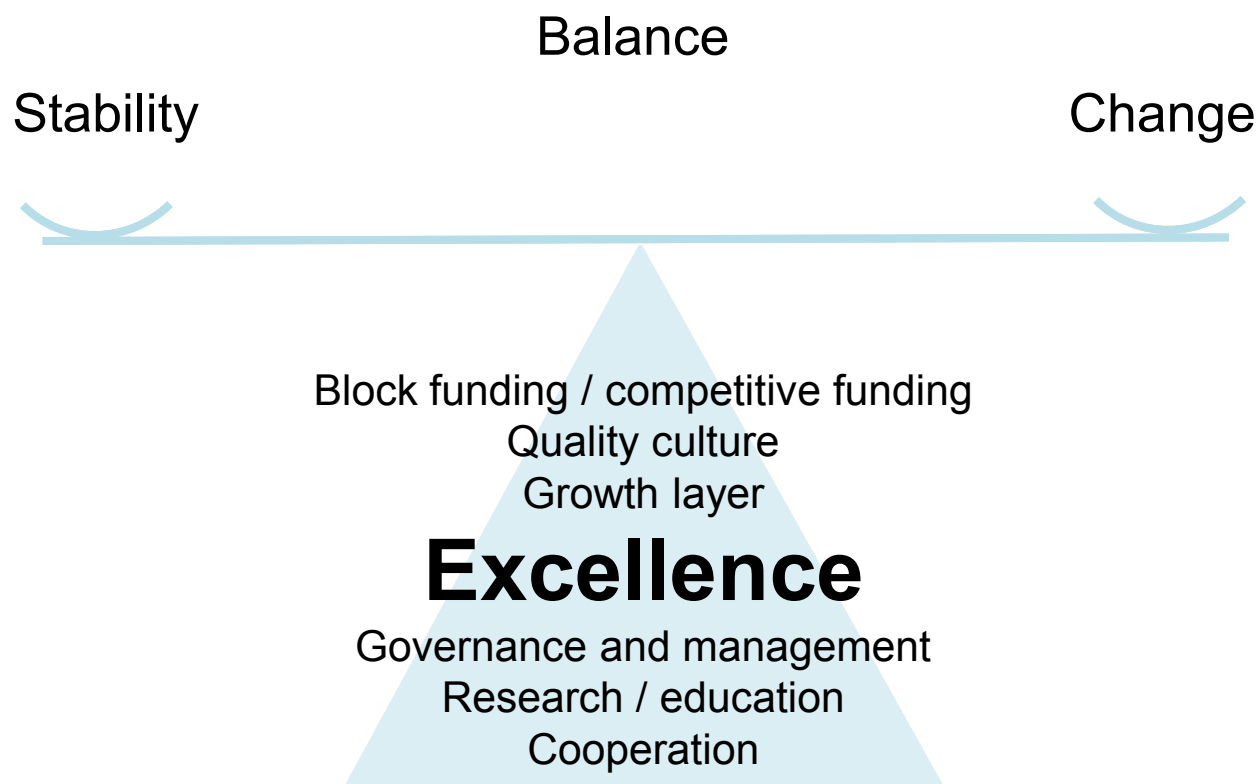
Sweden: Suffered from an unfinanced PhD-reform

Holland: Succeed with a flow through the food chain (e.g "Veni-Vidi-Vici")

Denmark today: The hour-glass problem

Denmark tomorrow: Transparent career paths inside and outside academia, more ressources in the middle of the system, number of PhDs, more small grants ...

The variables in the balance (4)





Excellence



Excellence is a strong quality driver

From the analysis:

The Danish National Research
Foundation 1991

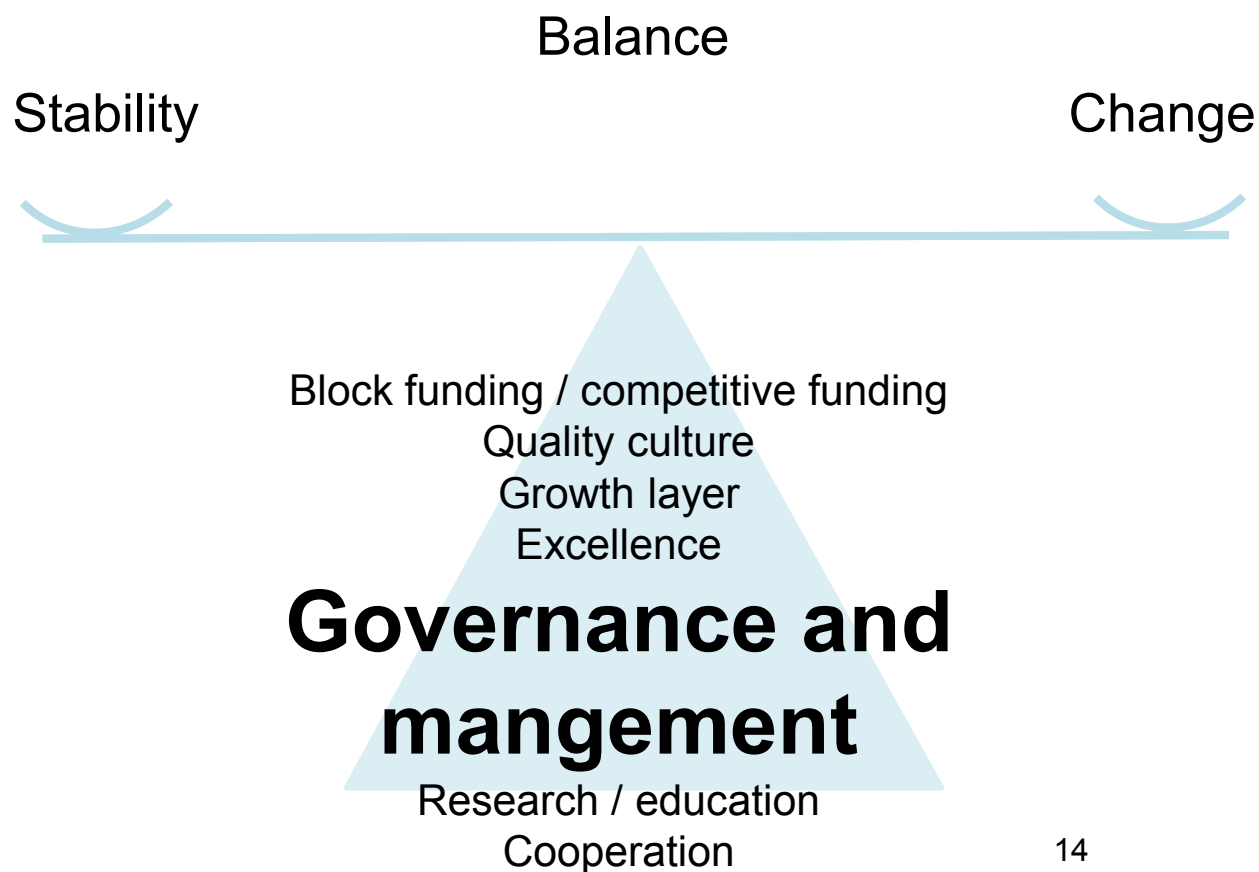
Denmark today:

The hour-glass problem

Denmark tomorrow:

*Do not forget the next generation, a
broader definition of excellence, more
recruitment of junior faculty,
responsibility of all parties financing
research ...*

The variables in the balance (5)



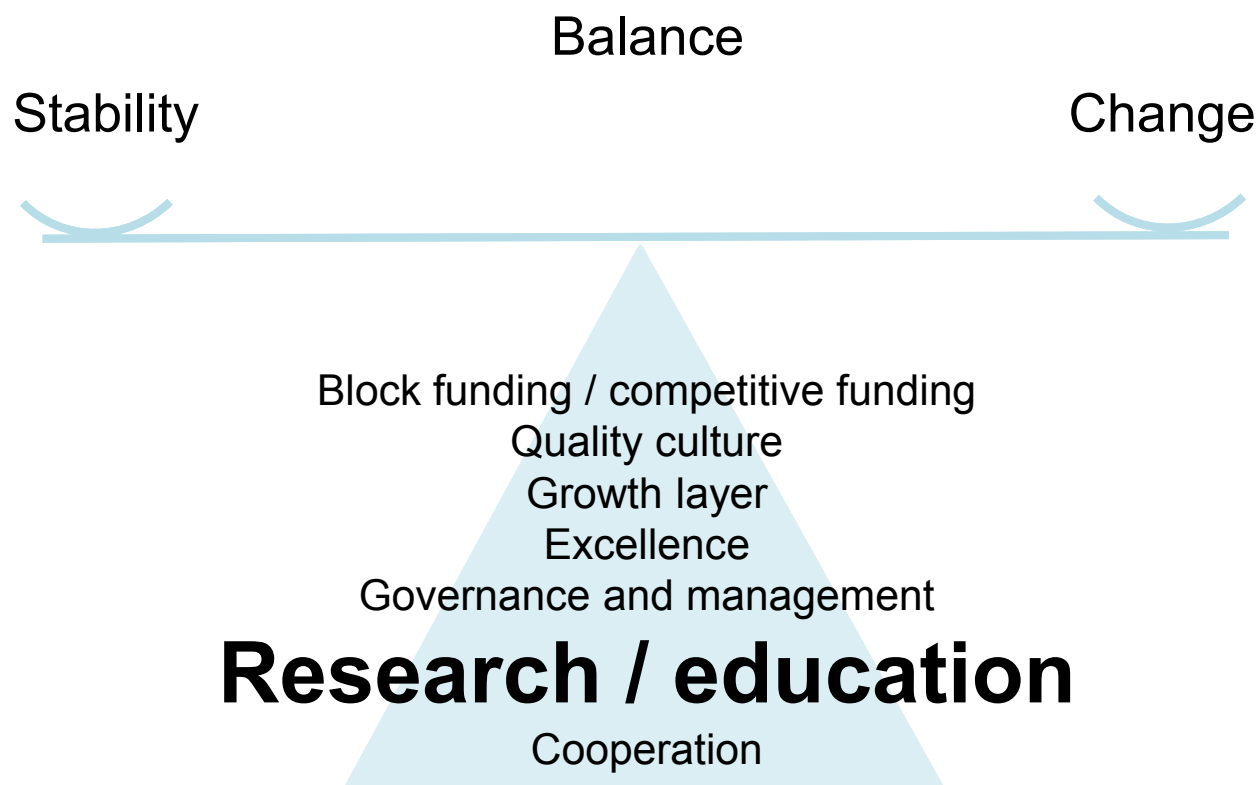
Governance and management

University management must set directions for research

From the analysis: Danish university reform (1993)

*Denmark tomorrow: University management must ensure
protected research space in for
individual researchers, career paths, take care of the
chain!
food*

The variables in the balance (5)



Research / education

The mission of a university is to combine research and research-based education

From the analysis:

Sweden has favoured education over research for a while

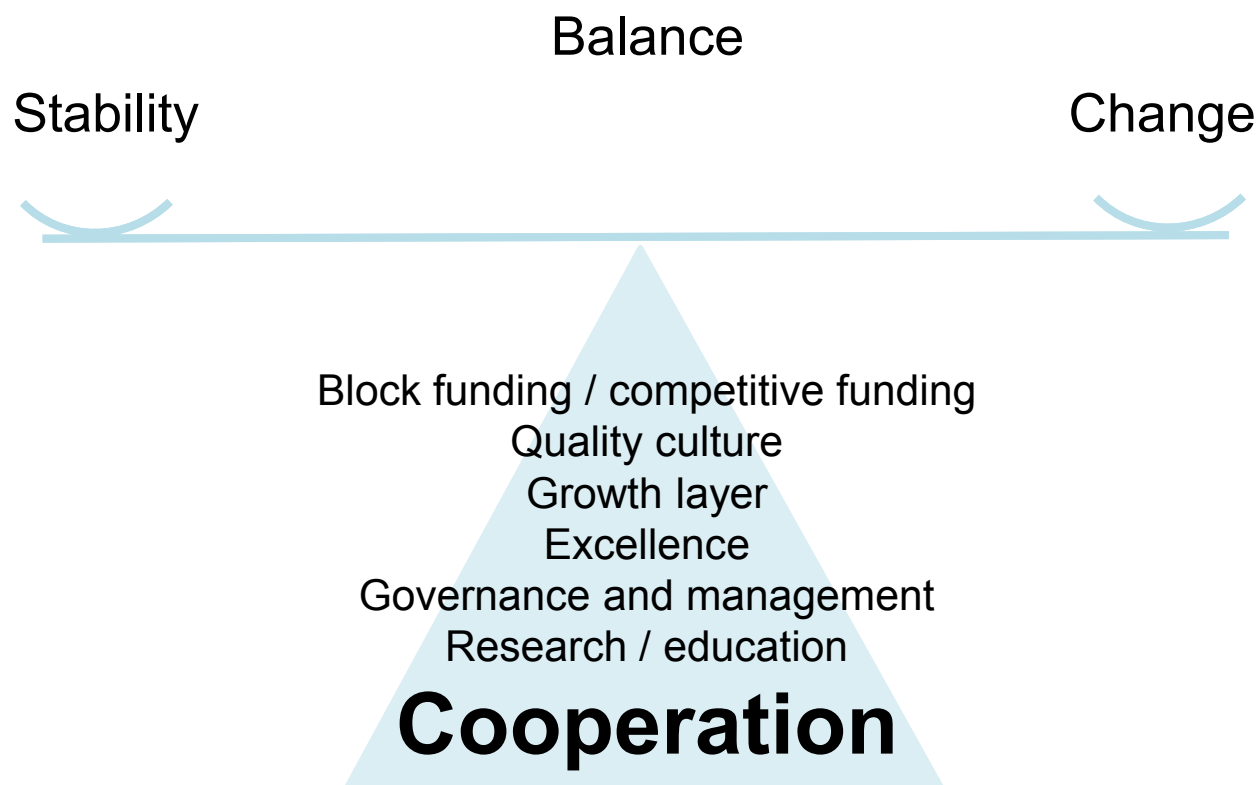
Denmark today:

Increasing focus on education

Denmark tomorrow:

Regain the balance, not all higher educations must be research-based ...

The variables in the balance (5)



Cooperation

The Dutch succes serves as inspiration ("division of tasks and concentrations")

Denmark today: Limited cooperation and incentives for cooperation

Denmark tomorrow: Create incentive structures for cooperation between universities and authorities, lead by the ministry ...