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Verksamhetsberättelse

FOHRK – Food, Health and Retail, Kristianstad University 2022



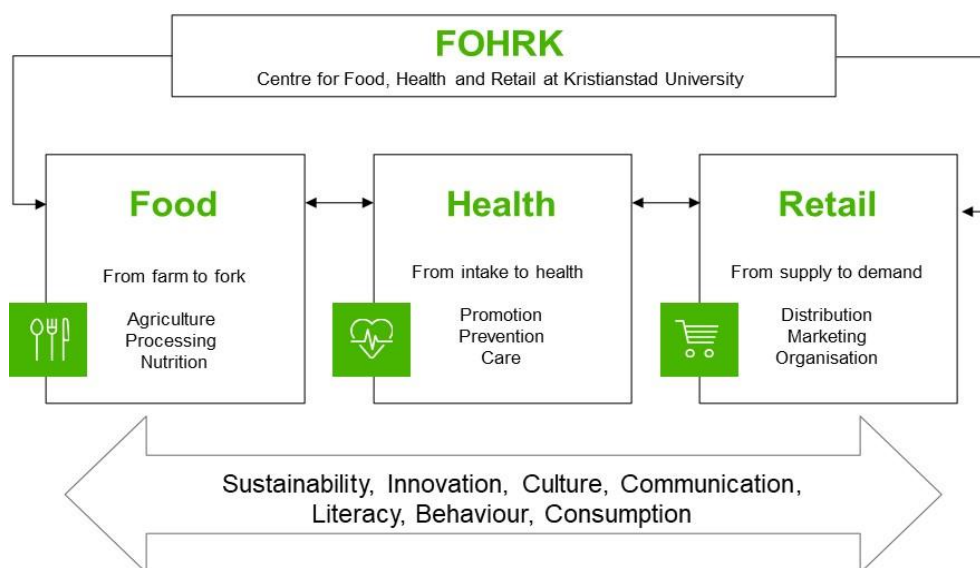
Karin Wendin, Albert Westergren, Jens Hultman och Maria Nyberg

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Bakgrund

FOHRK lanserades officiellt på högskolan den 24 maj 2022 med projektpresentationer och mingel. Dock påbörjades arbetet med FOHRK redan under 2021 efter att högskolestyrelsen fattat ett beslut om att inrätta en forsknings- och utbildningsprofil på temat mat, hälsa och handel.

Anna-Karin Edberg (vice rektor för forskning) tillsammans med Jens Hultman (professor, ekonomi), Karin Wendin (professor, mat- och måltidsvetenskap) och Albert Westergren (professor, omvårdnad) påbörjade arbetet med att bygga en forsknings- och utbildningsprofil som fick namnet FORHK (Centre for Food, Health, Retail, Kristianstad University). En översiktsskild av FOHRK ges i figur 1. Forskningsstödet var behjälpligt med research och underlagstexter. En underlagstext som kan användas för att beskriva FOHRK, t ex i ansökningar om forskningsmedel, återfinns i Bilaga 1.



Figur 1. Översiktlig beskrivning av FOHRK.

Vision och mål

Vision 2025

”FOHRK är en internationellt erkänd tvärvetenskaplig forskningsmiljö där kunskap kring livsmedel, hälsa och handel utvecklas och integreras. Genom tydlig anknytning till högskolans utbildningar samt med en stark regional och lokal förankring bidrar FOHRK till att stärka högskolans forskningsprofil samt

utbildningarnas kvalitet och relevans. FOHRK är en hörnsten i högskolans förmåga att bidra till ett hållbart samhälle”

Mål 2025

- FOHRK har en väl fungerande organisation i form av en verksamhetsledare, en ledningsgrupp/styrgrupp, en koordinator (administrativt stöd), en referensgrupp samt affilierade forskare och projekt.
- FOHRK har en bred och tvärvetenskaplig projektportfölj som speglar forskningsprofilens fokus på mat, hälsa och handel.
- FOHRK har en väl utvecklad kommunikationsstrategi med fokus på forskningsresultat, samhällsrelevans, hållbarhet, samverkan och kunskapsutbyte.
- FOHRK har en stark samhällelig förankring i form av samverkan och kunskapsutbyte med olika typer av organisationer (privata såväl som offentliga) där mat, hälsa och handel står i fokus.
- FOHRK arrangerar seminarier (minst fyra seminarier per år) där forskningsprojekt med fokus på mat, hälsa och handel regelbundet presenteras och diskuteras.
- FOHRK arrangerar ett större seminarium (FOHRK-dag) per år med fokus på forskning och där även externa intressenter bjuds in.
- FOHRK arrangerar seminarier (minst två seminarier per år) där examensarbeten med fokus på mat, hälsa och handel från flera av högskolans utbildningar presenteras.
- FOHRK har minst 30 affilierade forskare knutna till forskningsprofilen.
- FOHRK har minst tre strategiska rekryteringar (ex post-doc, doktorander) knutna till forskningsprofilen.
- FOHRK har minst 25 vetenskapliga publikationer per år.
- FOHRK har minst 25 populärvetenskapliga presentationer/publikationer per år.
- FOHRK har minst 10 inskickade ansökningar med tvärvetenskapligt fokus per år.
- FOHRK har säkrat en långsiktig basfinansiering för miljöns årliga drift.

Aktiviteter och händelser under 2022

Under året har FORHKs styrgrupp fördelat arbetet så att Professor Karin Wendin leder FOHRK, Professorerna Jens Hultman och Albert Westergren deltar aktivt i styrgruppen. Dessutom har Biträdande professor Maria Nyberg under året blivit knuten till gruppen. Styrgruppen har haft regelbundna möten för att planera FOHRKs verksamhet och aktiviteter.

I maj invigdes FOHRK med inbjudna från företag, olika organisationer, universitet och internt från högskolan. Uppstart med lunch och sedan presentationer och diskussioner. Som avslutning var Rickard Tellström inbjuden för att föreläsa kring mat, hälsa och handel i ett samhällsperspektiv.

Med start i juni, och under hösten, informerade styrgruppen om FOHRK och om kommande aktiviteter samt om hur högskolans forskare och pågående projekt kan affilieras. Informationen om FOHRK gavs vid såväl fakultetsmöten som i fakultetsnämnder och i forskningsmiljöer. Det första öppna seminariet hölls i december 2022, där både de som redan affilierat sig och de som var nyfikna och ville veta mer om FOHRK välkomnades. Under seminariet presenterade sig medlemmarna, följt av korta projektpresentationer och diskussioner om hur vi framåt kan jobba med FOHRK.

Under hösten skickades också, för FOHRKS räkning, in två ansökningar, en till VR och en Familjen Kamprads stiftelse. Svar för VR-ansökan väntas 2023 och Kampradansökan fick avslag. En ansökan till Handelsrådet är under planering.

I december blev två projekt, som direkt kan knytas till FOHRK och med HKR som huvudsökande, beviljade. Ett med finansiering från KK-stiftelsen med fokus på kött samt ett med FORMAS-finansiering som fokuserar på vin och kaviar.

BILAGA 1

Centre for Food, Health and Retail at Kristianstad University (FOHRK)

Kristianstad University (HKR) is situated in Sweden's most important region for the innovation and production of food and beverages. Over the years, the university has developed collaborations with companies that are involved in leading food innovation both nationally and internationally, such as Tetra Pak, Findus Sverige, IKEA, Bergendahls, Axfood, Solina Sweden and Lyckeby Culinar. It also collaborates with the Krinova Incubator and Science Park, which is partly owned by Kristianstad University's holding company (20%). Krinova has a network of almost 1500 companies working in food processing. This creates a unique opportunity to develop internationally competitive research that also contributes to the regional development in the area of food processing. The goal of the university is, therefore, to build a research and educational environment, characterised by an interrelationship between competitive research and education with high relevance for society in general and for industry in particular, i.e., the Centre for Food, Health and Retail at Kristianstad University (FOHRK). Based on this goal, a vision has been formulated accordingly: "FOHRK provides an internationally known research and education environment focused on the development of interdisciplinary knowledge concerning food, health and retail. With a strong connection to the university's education programmes and thriving regional and local connections, FOHRK contributes to strengthening the research profile of the university as well as to the quality and relevance of education programmes. FOHRK is a cornerstone of the university's ability to contribute to a sustainable society." FOHRK aims to build interdisciplinary knowledge in collaboration with industry partners focusing on the aspects defined in Figure 1, which describes the value chain in each research area, i.e., from farm to fork, from intake to health, and from supply to demand. Food, health, and retail are the core research areas, providing the basis for interdisciplinary research and education in where areas such as sustainability, innovation, and communication are of high importance.

Current situation

Research at the university in food, health and retail FOHRK will integrate three existing research areas. The first, Food and Meal Science, is a multidisciplinary area based on food science, nutrition and health, as well as food culture and communication. The second, Health Science, is the largest research area at Kristianstad University which among other health aspects, focuses on research on the relationship between food and health. The third, Retail research, specialises in the market system for food, such as sustainable supply chains and consumer

marketing, and the successful adoption of sustainable market development. In collaboration with each other, the areas of Food and Meal Science, Health Science and Retail research have a strong focus on how to detect and prevent health problems in different populations. Another important focus in this context relates to food product development, food behaviour, preferences, and consumption patterns, as well as health-related, cultural, social and economic conditions for meals in everyday life, malnutrition and nutritional treatment. Research in collaboration with companies that produce, distribute and market food to customers is being developed in order to reach a fully sustainable food supply chain. An example of current research projects is one funded by the Kamprad Family Foundation with contributing partners Findus, Näver and Svenska Parkinsonförbundet, which is focused on the food intake of older people who have difficulty handling cutlery, with the aim of improving their health and quality of life. Another example is the project recently approved by Forte, “Senior Alert – ett medel för bättre vård i samverkan”, which focuses on understanding the relationship between nutrition and health in parallel with other parameters in order to obtain a more efficient preventive healthcare process. This project also provides a foundation for further collaboration and product development with industry partners. Education programmes at advanced and PhD levels connected to the strategy, Kristianstad University offers advanced level programmes in Nursing, Integrated health sciences, Food and meal science and Business administration specialising in international business and marketing. In 2020, Kristianstad University achieved an important step in creating the foundation for the FOHRK profile when it was granted examination rights for third-cycle education (PhD) in two subject areas, one of which was Caring science. Staff composition, scientific publications and research funding Kristianstad University employs 350 lecturers and researchers, within which the three areas food, health, and retail (business included) have 65 lecturers, 21 PhD students and 66 researchers (i.e. senior lecturers, associate professors and professors) (2020), Figure 1. Scientific publications within these three areas have steadily increased between 2016 and 2020, with the largest number in health sciences (Figure 2). The total amount of research funding within the three areas was approximately 34 million SEK during the years 2017–2020, of which health sciences constituted the largest amount at about 23 million SEK (Figure 3).

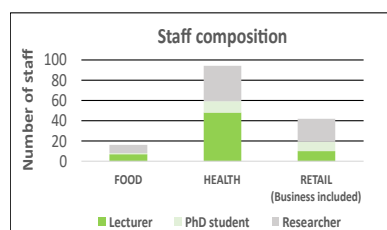


Figure 1. Staff composition in the respective area at HKR, the year 2020.

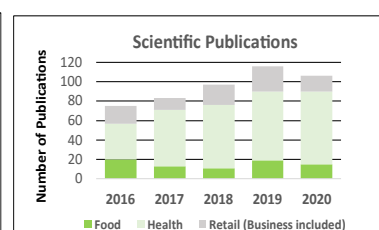


Figure 2. Number of Scientific Publications in the respective area at HKR 2016-2020.

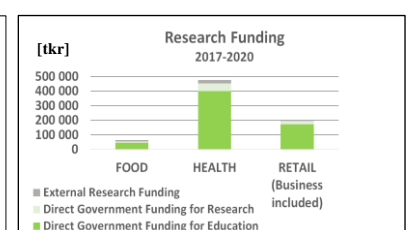


Figure 3. Distribution of different forms of funding in the respective area at HKR, 2017-2020.

Challenges

The strategy for Kristianstad University 2021-2025 – “Större bidrag till vårt samhälle”, highlights the need of developing interdisciplinary research and education in the area of food, health and retail. The first important goal has been to establish FOHRK as a profiled research area. A second goal is to start a qualification process in 2027 to become a KK-environment programme to develop an internationally well-recognized research and education profile within FOHRK. This ambition requires strategic development in research and education, resources in terms of staff, and increased collaboration with companies and innovative start-ups, both locally and regionally, within food production, retail and health. The university will identify strategic partners in the private sector for long-term collaboration whereas short-term recruitments will focus on an increased number of researchers and PhD students, especially in the areas of food and retail, while still maintaining a high level of quality education. Furthermore, education programmes at Master’s level will be developed within the profile areas, especially targeting international students and programmes aimed at companies. The plan for and realization of the ambition going from the current situation to starting a qualification process is further explained and detailed in the next section.

Plan

Based on the challenges previously described, the university has prepared a preliminary plan to develop each of the areas food, health and retail in a way that is required to build the interdisciplinary knowledge environment. The plan described for each respective area will gradually lead to more integrated interdisciplinary research and education with the aim of providing a better understanding of how food, health and retail can contribute to a more sustainable society. Interdisciplinary programmes at advanced and PhD levels addressing different perspectives about how healthy food choices can be facilitated need to be developed, for example through industrial graduate schools in close collaboration with companies. Food and Meal Science will focus in the short term on the recruitment of lecturers and researchers specialized in nutrition, as well as in consumer science, to strengthen the multidisciplinary expertise within the subject of food and meal science, which is also of relevance in the areas health and retail. In the long term, food and meal science will develop research for creating a sustainable society by giving food and meals a holistic perspective through interdisciplinary research and the dissemination of knowledge. Health Science is facing short-term challenges in increasing the proportion of researchers to at least fifty percent to be able to expand interdisciplinary research and education. Long term, the plan is to strategically recruit researchers focusing on nutrition and



health from both a research and education point of view. Important collaboration partners are companies focused on healthy food and assistive devices, as well as food for persons with specific problems, such as eating difficulties (for example due to Parkinson's disease), and for persons with malnutrition, overweight or diabetes. Retail research will focus in the short term on recruiting researchers focusing on consumer behaviour, sustainability, marketing, branding and distribution, to increase and strengthen both research and education, and especially to broaden the expertise in quantitative methodology. In the long term, Retail research will develop its scholarly work on research topics relevant to sustainability, internationalization and digitalization in the retail sector, in particular where the research reflects the current and future challenges of the sector. Important collaboration partners are companies in the wider food sector, including both regional and national retail and wholesale firms.