

A close-up, slightly blurred image of the Swedish flag, showing the yellow cross on a blue background. The flag is draped and folded, creating soft shadows and highlights.

Swedish research

Main
financing
bodies

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The Swedish Research System

Sweden is among world leaders when it comes to research and development investments in relation to GDP. Sweden invests more than 3% of its GDP in R&D. Three quarters of this is primarily self-financed industrial research, with just under a quarter being university-based.

Public R&D funding takes the form of allocations either directly to universities and colleges or through research councils and mission-oriented bodies. In addition, the Riksdag (Swedish Parliament) has created a number of research foundations which presently finance research totalling more than SEK 1,500 million per year.

Overall responsibility for the coordination of research policy at Government Offices rests with the Minister of Education and Science.

Sweden has very few research institutes in international comparison. Most publicly funded research is instead carried out in universities and colleges, a situation which distinguishes Sweden from other countries.

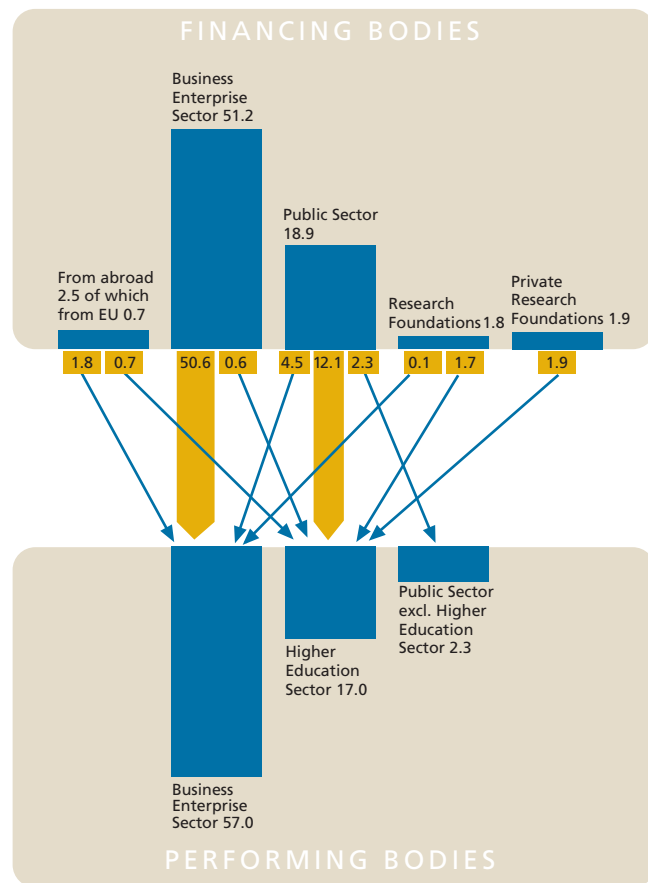
Swedish research councils mainly support basic research, whereas the mission-oriented bodies finance research and development intended to meet our needs for new knowledge in specific sectors of industry and society. Altogether, there are some thirty mission-oriented bodies of varying sizes with R&D funding resources.

County councils and municipalities also finance research, primarily in the care services.

In addition to these public institutions, various private funds and foundations support research in Sweden, some of them making important contributions to research in their specific areas.

In today's Sweden, there are 14 research universities, as well as some 40 university colleges which in varying degrees are involved in research. Of the 300,000 students currently enrolled in Swedish tertiary education, 18,000 are in postgraduate education and 30,000 work as teachers and researchers.

The flow of money to R&D in 1999. SEK 1000 million.



The illustration above describes the flow of money to R&D in 1999 in SEK 1000 million. The Business Enterprise Sector is the main source of R&D financing in Sweden. Public funds for R&D are distributed either directly to institutions of higher education, or through research councils and sectoral authorities. Research Foundations (established following a Parliament decision) and Private Research Foundations also finance R&D.

SEK 100 = EUR 10,73 April 2002

Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems

The Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems, VINNOVA, which is a government agency, was formed on 1st January 2001 with the aim of promoting sustainable growth in business, society and working life, by developing effective innovation systems and funding needs-driven research.

One of VINNOVA's most important tasks is initiating and funding needs-driven research, development and demonstrations. VINNOVA's activities help to develop innovation systems and therefore, in the long-term, sustainable development and growth in Sweden. VINNOVA invests in the fields of technology, working life and transport, including the integration of all these areas. Its aim is to meet the requirements of business and the public sector. The objective of VINNOVA's activities is to contribute to turning Sweden into one of the leading growth nations.

The resources which VINNOVA has at its disposal are the skills of its 145 employees, around SEK 1,000 million per year for investing in research and development, and other initiatives for strengthening innovation systems. In the long term, the purpose of VINNOVA's work is to help in developing the capacity for innovation in Swedish business, society and working life, and thereby to contribute to Sweden's prosperity.



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Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research

The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research's, FAS, mission is to promote the accumulation of knowledge on working life, social conditions, societal institutions and social processes through:

- Promotion and support of basic and applied research.
- Identification of important research needs.
- Dialogue, dissemination of information and transfer of knowledge.
- Promotion of cooperation between researchers both nationally and internationally, particularly in EU programmes.

FAS is within the sphere of activity of the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and receives an annual allocation from the Government of approximately SEK 260 million. The Council's board comprises members elected by the scientific community, as well as members appointed by the Government representing public interest in FAS activities, with the elected researchers forming a majority.

FAS' main activity is the allocation of grants on the basis of scientific merit, and in consideration of societal relevance. FAS may also support research centres and research positions at Swedish universities.

FAS provides funding for various international activities in the Swedish research community and maintains an international network.



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Swedish Energy Agency

The Swedish Energy Agency's main duty is to assist in bringing about the necessary conditions for an ecologically and economically sustainable energy system for Sweden. Research is an important element of this work.

The Agency is Sweden's central public authority for the energy sector, and is answerable to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. Out of a total budget of SEK 9,100 million, covering a seven-year period (from 1998), about SEK 400 million per year is spent on research and development.

The Agency finances five centres of excellence and about 40 R&D programmes covering various disciplines. We work with universities and industry, with the overall objective of ensuring that the results of research find their way into practical and commercial applications. Both basic and applied research is funded.

Our activities can be summarised as follows:

- to ensure a secure and sustainable supply of energy
- to assist investment in the production of electricity from renewable energy sources
- to reduce the use of electricity for heating
- to encourage efficient use of all forms of energy
- to further technical development in the energy sector
- to participate in activities relating to the global climate.



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Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research, SSF, was established by the Swedish Parliament in 1994 with capital of SEK 6,000 million. Its purpose is to support research in the natural sciences, engineering and medicine. The SSF has a 13-member Board appointed by the Government. As of January 2002 it is financing about 90 comprehensive research programmes and 100 research projects. Its total annual budget commitments for 2002 are just over SEK 700 million.

Under the terms of its statutes, SSF has to promote the development of vigorous research environments of the highest international standard with a view to enhancing Sweden's long-term competitiveness.

The various forms of support range from centres of excellence, network programmes and graduate schools to smaller programmes and individual career grants. The research programmes relate to both basic and applied research as well as intermediate areas, and cooperation with industry also plays an important role.

SSF has an overall strategy for its long-term planning and requests for proposals. For each announcement the SSF outlines the relevant application procedure.

Reviews of applications and evaluations of the research carried out are of central importance for ensuring quality and relevance. They are carried out by internationally renowned scientific and industrial experts.



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Swedish National Space Board

The Swedish National Space Board, SNSB, is a central government agency under the Ministry for Industry, Employment and Communications. The SNSB is responsible for national and international activities relating to space and remote sensing, primarily research and development. Basic research is financed via the Ministry of Education and Science. The Swedish space programme is carried out by means of extensive international cooperation, in particular through Sweden's membership of the European Space Agency, ESA. The SNSB's total budget is approximately SEK 700 million a year.

The SNSB functions as a research council for Swedish research using equipment in space or at high altitudes in the atmosphere. The scientific areas currently supported include:

- Astronomy
- Space physics
- Atmospheric physics
- Remote sensing / Earth observation
- Physiology in microgravity
- Material sciences in microgravity

Total support amounts to SEK 45–50 million of research grants a year.



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Swedish Polar Research Secretariat

The Swedish Polar Research Secretariat is a government agency, under the Ministry of Education and Science, whose mandate is to promote and coordinate Swedish polar research at a high international level. The Secretariat's main task is to plan and execute research expeditions in the Arctic and Antarctica. Scientific priorities are determined by the Swedish Research Council, which also funds a large part of the research and assesses scientific quality.

The Secretariat organizes both marine and terrestrial expeditions. The former are mainly aimed at the Arctic ocean, while the latter goes to the Arctic tundra as well as to Antarctica. The Secretariat has two research stations in Queen Maud Land, Antarctica, which are staffed during the austral summer. Antarctic research is conducted in close practical cooperation with Finland and Norway.

The Secretariat is the administrative authority for the Swedish Antarctica Act (1993:1614) and examines requests for permits to visit or conduct activities in Antarctica in accordance with the law and its environmental provisions.

The Secretariat's yearly budget is approximately SEK 24 million of which around 85% is used for research expeditions.



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The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation

The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation supports scientific research by awarding grants for projects to individual researchers and teams of researchers within the humanities and social sciences. Grants may also be given in order to strengthen an existing research environment or to establish a new one in areas which are considered to be especially important.

The Foundation was created in 1962 through an endowment from the Riksbank – the Swedish Central Bank. In 1993 the Riksdag (the Swedish Parliament) approved the contribution of a further donation to the Foundation also aimed at encouraging research in the humanities and social sciences. Furthermore, the Foundation also has at its disposal three smaller donations for scholarly exchanges and medical research.

In the middle of 2000 the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation's net assets amounted to approximately SEK 8,000 million. In recent years the Foundation has substantially increased its research grants. For 2001 about SEK 350 million was allocated for research purposes. Significant sums are also allocated for infrastructure ventures. A Board of Trustees, consisting of representatives from universities and university colleges, the Riksdag and experts in asset management, governs the Foundation.



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The Knowledge Foundation

The aim of the Knowledge Foundation is to upgrade Sweden in order to increase Sweden's growth and competitiveness by developing knowledge and expertise. One way of doing this is to develop and strengthen Swedish research by creating distinctive research environments at new universities and university colleges. This is done in close association with industry. It is a characteristic of the Foundation's support that development projects will be of high scientific quality, commercially relevant, innovative and multidisciplinary.

The Knowledge Foundation also supports the development of new postgraduate studies to meet the needs of industry. Postgraduate studies are provided in the form of postgraduate schools, as well as support for PhD students at Institutes of Industrial Research, small and medium-sized companies and teachers of IT subjects at new universities and university colleges.

During the financial year 2002, the Foundation plans to invest about SEK 275 million in new research projects and postgraduate studies.

The Knowledge Foundation was established in 1994 with money from employee funds.



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The Swedish Cancer Society

The Swedish Cancer Society has supported cancer research in Sweden since 1951. Today, the Swedish Cancer Society supports 75% of all externally financed cancer research projects in Sweden. In addition the Society provides information on cancer, operates a telephone helpline and runs several other projects for the benefit of patients with cancer. Cancer prevention also has a high priority.

The Swedish Cancer Society receives no government support. All activities, including the support of research projects, rely on generous donations and charitable events organised by the Society.

The Swedish Cancer Society supports cancer research in a broad context. Projects ranging from basic research to applied research and clinical trials are supported. Support is also given to research projects dealing with epidemiology and prevention as well as projects concerned with the care of cancer patients. While most support is given to projects such as these, the Swedish Cancer Society also runs a scheme dealing with positions for cancer researchers, ranging from a post-doctorate programme to positions for senior scientists. The Swedish Cancer Society also runs a programme supporting international exchanges at different levels, and another whose aim is to coordinate cancer research in Sweden.

The budget for supporting cancer research is approximately SEK 300 million in the year 2002.



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The Swedish Foundation for Health Care Sciences and Allergy Research

The Swedish Foundation for Health Care Sciences and Allergy Research, the Vårdal Foundation, initiates and stimulates innovative, interdisciplinary Swedish health care science and allergy research of a high international standard and clinical relevance. Formed in 1994, by order of the Swedish Parliament, the Foundation has rapidly established itself as a principal source of funding for research in this field. During its first six years, the Foundation supported Swedish research with almost SEK 640 million. In addition, certain targeted measures were implemented in areas in which a particular need had been identified. For example, SEK 25 million was allocated for a new Center for Allergy Research at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm and SEK 65 million was allocated for The Vårdal Institute.

The Foundation's multidisciplinary review committees primarily give priority to projects which:

- take an interdisciplinary approach.
- are clinically relevant to a high degree.
- are oriented towards chronic illness, geriatric care, inequalities in health – particularly women's and children's health issues – and overarching health care issues.
- study the changing and often complicated processes within the modern health care system.
- focus on the causes and effects of allergy and other forms of hypersensitivity.



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The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education

The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education, STINT, was established in August 1994. Created by an Act of Government and Parliament, it is an independent, endowed foundation with assets, as of January 2002, of approximately SEK 1,300 million and an annual budget of approximately SEK 130 million for the next 2–3 years. The nine-member Board is appointed by the Government and mainly represents the university sector. In accordance with its mandate, the Foundation strives to enhance the quality and competence of Swedish higher education and research through international cooperation.

STINT has established a number of programmes involving international cooperation and the exchange of postgraduate students, scholars and scientists. Funding applications may be submitted only by academic staff at Swedish universities and university colleges.

The Swedish School of Advanced Asia-Pacific Studies, established in 2001 and jointly funded by STINT and the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Fund, will provide substantial long-term finance to boost the creation of advanced knowledge in Sweden on cultural, economic, political and social issues of contemporary relevance to the Asia-Pacific region.



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The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, MISTRA, established in 1994, is a foundation and as such has to comply with the Swedish Foundations Act. The relevant paragraph from the statutes states that: The aim of the foundation is to support research of strategic importance for a good living environment.

The foundation shall promote the development of robust research environments of the highest international standard that will have a positive impact on Sweden's future competitiveness. The research shall play a significant role in solving major environmental problems and contribute to the development of a sustainable society.

At the beginning of 2002, the foundation's capital amounted to SEK 4 000 million. MISTRA distributes about SEK 250 million a year for environmental research aimed at solving strategic environmental problems. A MISTRA programme is considered a success if advanced scientific research is put to practical use in companies, authorities or other organizations.

MISTRA funds about 20 or so major programmes, each with a time span of six to eight years. Major investment in interdisciplinary research programmes stimulates innovation, new possibilities and novel forms of cooperation, benefiting both Swedish environmental research as a whole and Sweden as a nation.

The Government appoints MISTRA's board and chairperson.

MISTRA

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The Swedish Research Council

The Swedish research council is a government agency under the aegis of the Ministry of Education and Science which is responsible – at a national level – for the development of basic research and information about research in Sweden. From its annual budget of around SEK 2,000 million, scientists at Swedish universities and university colleges compete on a national basis for research grants. The council ranks and finances basic research of the highest quality in all scientific disciplines. The aim is to ensure that Sweden maintains its leading position as a nation engaged in research.

To this end, the council encourages, for example:

- interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research
- research ethics and gender balance
- innovation and communication
- national and international cooperation

Scientists are in the majority on the council's board, as well as on the three scientific councils (for the humanities and social sciences, for medicine and for natural and engineering sciences) and on the committee for educational science.

The Swedish Research Council participates in a wide range of international research organisations, principally to enable Swedish scientists to gain access to leading-edge scientific equipment.



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The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning

The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning, Formas, supports basic and applied research. Formas promotes ecologically sustainable growth and development in society, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research, and international research cooperation and the exchange of experience. The council is also responsible for information on research and the results of research.

Formas is a government agency under the aegis of the Ministry of the Environment. Researchers at universities, university colleges and research institutes apply for grants. Formas has an annual budget of around SEK 520 million in research and information appropriations from the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry for Industry, Employment and Communications. Formas encourages and supports scientifically important research concerned with sustainable development. The following five areas in particular receive support:

- The Environment
- Agriculture, Horticulture, Fishery and Reindeer Husbandry
- Forests and Forestry
- The Built Environment (including development and experimental projects)
- Urban and Regional Planning.



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International cooperation

In research international collaboration is increasingly important. The Swedish research community has extensive contacts abroad. Sweden has also long participated in several international research organisations.

Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems, VINNOVA, represents Sweden in:

- Nordic network for sponsors of R&D in working life issues (AMFORA)
- European Cooperation in the fields of Scientific and Technical research (COST) – national coordinator
- Production, use and distribution of European digital content (eContent) – National Contact Point
- Network for market-oriented R&D (EUREKA) – national coordinator
- The Association for Technology Implementation in Europe (TAFTIE)
- Trans European Telecommunications Networks (Ten Telecom) – National Contact Point

EU-programmes:

- Competitive and Sustainable Growth
- Promotion of Innovation and Encouragement of SME Participation (Innovation & SME)
- Information Society Technologies Programme (IST)

Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research (FAS),

represents Sweden in:

- International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH)

Swedish Energy Agency, represents Sweden in:

OECD/International Energy Agency (IEA), (incl. Climate Technology Initiative, CTI)

EU-programmes:

- Renewable energy (ALTENER)
- Clean and efficient solid fuel use (CARNOT)
- Studies, analyses, forecasts and other related work in the energy sector (ETAP)
- Non-technological action on energy efficiency (SAVE)
- International cooperation in the energy sector (SYNERGY)

Swedish National Space Board, represents Sweden in:

- European Space Agency (ESA)
- UN's Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of COPOUS
- Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)

EU-programmes:

- European Commission, mainly DG Research

Swedish Polar Research Secretariat, represents Sweden in:

- The European Polar Board (EPB)
- The International Arctic Science Committee's (IASC) Regional Board
- The Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO)
- The Committee of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP)
- The Standing Committee of Antarctic Logistics and Operations (SCALOP)

The Swedish Research Council, represents Sweden in:

- European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN)
- European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC)
- European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)
- European Southern Observatory (ESO)
- European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF)
- International Agency for Research on Cancer – WHO (IARC)
- European University Institute (EUI)

EU-programmes:

- Consultative Committee for the Euratom specific programme on nuclear energy research (fusion), (CCE-FU)
- Improving the human potential and the socio-economic knowledge base (IHP)

The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences

and Spatial Planning (Formas), represents Sweden in:

- The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)

OECD/International Energy Agency (IEA):

- Buildings and Community Systems
- Energy and Environmental Technology Information Centres (EETIC)
- Energy Storage
- Heat Pumping Technologies
- Solar Heating and Cooling

EU-programmes:

- Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (EESD)
- Quality of Life (QOL)

The Nordic Council of Ministers:

- Nordic Agricultural Research Cooperation Committee (NKJ)
- Nordic Forest Research Cooperation Committee (SNS)

This brochure presents some of the main research financing bodies in Sweden. It will soon be possible to find most research financing bodies through the new website

www.forskning.se

The purpose is to make it easy to find and understand information about research, to increase interest in research and the benefit of research in society as well as in working life. For example, it is possible to search through research results and useful links or to study researchers' views on socially topical issues. The website is aimed at the general public.

Would you like more copies of the brochure?
Please contact any of the participating organisations.