

SWEDISH RESEARCH

Main financing bodies



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THE SWEDISH SYSTEM OF RESEARCH FUNDING

Sweden is among the countries in the world that devote most money to research and development (R&D) in relation to gross domestic product (GDP). Swedish expenditure on R&D amounts to 4% of GDP. The business sector accounts for three-quarters, and the higher education sector for just under a quarter, of this spending. Companies largely fund their own research but receive some contributions from the central government and abroad.

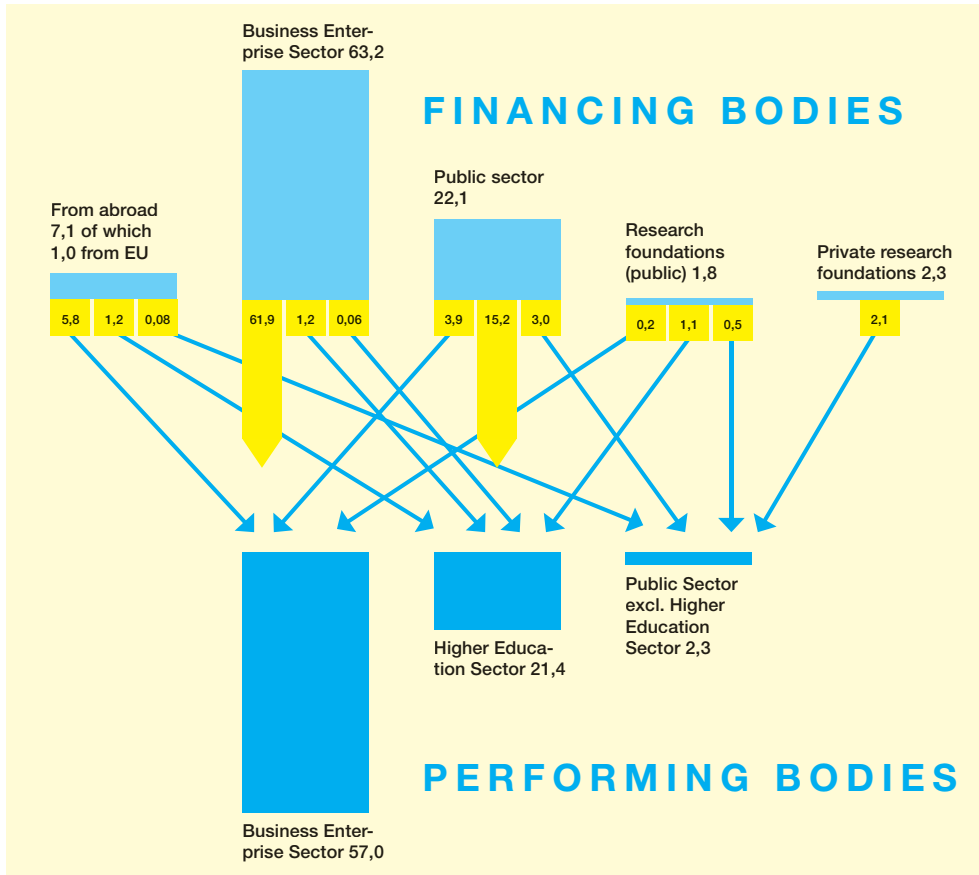
Public-sector funding of R&D takes place both through grants paid directly to higher education institutions (HEIs), and through support from research councils and sectoral research agencies. In addition, there are a number of public research foundations: altogether, these provide research funding in excess of SEK 1.6 billion annually. The Swedish Parliament grants R&D funds within all the ministries' spheres of responsibility. The Minister for Education, Research and Culture is responsible for overall coordination of research policy in the Government Offices. By far the largest share of publicly funded research is carried out at Sweden's HEIs and only a small proportion at research institutes, which distinguishes this country in an international comparison.

The research councils mainly support basic research. The sectoral research agencies fund R&D aimed both at meeting the knowledge needs of individual sectors and at fostering the development of society. All in all, there are some 30 sectoral research agencies with resources for R&D. County councils and municipalities also fund some research, mainly in healthcare and social care.

Besides the public fund providers there are private funds, foundations and fundraising organisations. Several of these are major stakeholders in the research sphere and provide substantial grants for research in their respective fields.

There are 14 universities and 25 other HEIs where research, or Artistic R&D, is conducted. The total number of students is approx 360,000, including 19,000 postgraduate students and 25,000 holders of positions as teachers and researchers.

Research R&D funding in Sweden 2003. SEK billion.



The illustration describes the flow of money to R&D in 2003 in SEK billion (excl. fundraising organisations). 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 educations, or through research councils and sectoral authorities. Research foundations (established following a Parliament decision), private research foundations and fundraising organisations also finance R&D.

SWEDISH ENERGY AGENCY

Government agency under the Ministry of Sustainable Development

Subject field

- Environment
- Natural sciences and Technology

Main R&D task

Development – Business, Financing, Networking, R&D statistics, evaluation and supervision

The Swedish Energy Agency works to promote reliable, efficient and ecofriendly supply and use of energy. As the Government's central administrative authority responsible for energy supply and use, its main task is to implement the energy-policy programmes adopted by the Swedish Parliament in 1997 and 2002. In so doing, it seeks to create an ecologically sustainable, economically viable energy system in Sweden and abroad.

The Agency's current (2005–11) energy-related research programme is intended to develop the energy system and generate growth. Besides both basic and applied research, its activities include development, demonstration and commercialisation. The work falls into six subject categories: fuel-based energy systems, energy use in buildings, the transport sector, energy-intensive industry, power generation and distribution, and studies of energy systems. For each theme there is a development platform for cooperation with the business sector and other users of research findings. These platforms contribute business intelligence and identify needs, one aim being improved integration of research with other policy instruments.

EU and international cooperation. The Agency is actively engaged in joint international efforts regarding climate issues, energy research and other matters. It works mainly through its involvement at various levels of the International Energy Agency (IEA) and in various R&D programmes under way in the EU.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 815 million



Postal address: Box 310, SE-631 04 Eskilstuna, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Kungsgatan 43

Phone: +46-16-544 20 00 Fax: +46-16-544 20 99

Internet: www.stem.se

E-mail: stem@stem.se

SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENT, AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND SPATIAL PLANNING

Research Council • Government agency under the Ministry of Sustainable Development

Subject field

• Environment • Natural sciences and Technology • Society and Culture

Main R&D task

Financing, Information concerning research and research findings

The Swedish Research Council Formas' overarching mission is to promote and support high-quality research related to sustainable development. Formas supports basic research and applied research in the fields of the environment, agricultural sciences, building sciences and urban development. Formas promotes ecologically sustainable growth and development in society, multi- and interdisciplinary research and international research co-operation and experience interchange. The Council is also responsible for information concerning research and research findings.

Formas provides support, for example, to young researchers by funding postgraduate students in projects or within the framework of research schools. Formas also finances research assistants, post-doc fellowships and fixed-term "special researcher" hirings. In addition, the Council is responsible for information on research and research findings being made readily available. The Council also works to create platforms for dialogue between research and practice, and it supports the mandatory task of higher education establishments to collaborate with society. Formas promotes international contacts. One of its major tasks is the safeguarding of Swedish interest with regard to national presence in EU research programmes.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 574 million



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

Postal address: Box 1206, SE-111 82 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Kungsbron 21

Phone: +46-8-775 40 00 Fax: +46-8-775 40 05

Internet: www.formas.se

E-mail: info@formas.se

SWEDISH COUNCIL FOR WORKING LIFE AND SOCIAL RESEARCH, FAS

Research Council • Government agency under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Subject field

• Working life • Public health • Social research

Main R&D task

Financing, Communications and information, Research evaluation

The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research, FAS, is tasked with supporting and initiating primary and needs-driven research in the fields of employment, work organisation, work and health, public health, welfare, caring services and social relations.

The Council's main tasks include evaluating research in its own fields of responsibility, identifying fields for new ventures and drawing up research programmes in consultation with other research funding agencies, working for greater national and international cooperation and exchange in the research community, promoting multi- and interdisciplinary research, promoting scientific publishing, knowledge transmission and dialogue, and furthering gender equality in research. FAS has special co-ordinating responsibility for research relating to older people, disability, international migration and ethnic relations, as well as social-scientific alcohol research. FAS is also charged with observing research into electromagnetic fields and electrical hypersensitivity.

EU and international cooperation. FAS promotes international contacts and works for greater international cooperation and exchange within its fields of responsibility. FAS is engaged in the European Science Foundation. FAS is also networking with other European research financing organisations in two ERA-NETs dealing with working life and the elderly respectively.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 300 million



FORSKNINGSRÅDET FÖR ARBETSLIV
OCH SOCIALVETENSKAP
SWEDISH COUNCIL FOR WORKING LIFE AND SOCIAL RESEARCH

Postal address: Box 2220, SE-103 15 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Westmanska Palatset, Wallingatan 2

Phone: +46-8-775 40 70 Fax: +46-8-775 40 75

Internet: www.fas.se

E-mail: fas@fas.se

SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Government agency under the Ministry of Sustainable Development

Subject field

- Medicine and health

Main R&D task

Financing

The Swedish EPA is Sweden's central environmental agency. Based on the 15 environmental objectives set up by the Swedish Parliament, the Swedish EPA works to ensure that unique natural areas are conserved, natural resources are managed wisely and pollution of air, water and soil is prevented.

Environmental policy instruments. We develop Sweden's environmental legislation by overseeing and pursuing court cases and proposing legislative changes. We devise environmental policy instruments and sustainable systems for production, consumption and communication so that decision-makers can take environmental aspects into account in their decisions.

Environmental monitoring and research. By means of observation, monitoring and documentation we discover environmental disturbances, monitor environmental impact and propose environmental quality standards. Research is an important source of knowledge, and in 2006 we will allocate SEK 100 million to 17 interdisciplinary environmental research programmes.

Subsidies and land purchases. By guidance and funding, we direct efforts with maintenance of protected natural areas, liming of acidified watercourses, predator inventories, game damage and remediation of contaminated soil. We also fund EU climate investment programmes and protect valuable natural areas by purchasing land for national parks and reserves.

Hunting and game. The Swedish EPA is responsible for management of wild mammals and birds. Hunting and culling of wolf, lynx, bear and wolverine is a part of game management.

EU and international cooperation. Much of the environmental work is pursued in the EU, where we represent Sweden in over 100 of the EU's expert groups, committees and subgroups for environmental issues. We participate in global environmental efforts through a number of international conventions.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 100 million

// SWEDISH RESEARCH //



Postal address: SE-106 48 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Blekholmsterrassen 36

Phone: +46-8-698 10 00 Fax: +46-8-20 29 25

Internet: www.naturvardsverket.se

E-mail: natur@naturvardsverket.se

SWEDISH NATIONAL SPACE BOARD, SNSB

Government agency under the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication

Subject field

- Natural sciences and Technology

Main R&D task

Financing

The Swedish National Space Board (SNSB) is responsible for national and international activities relating to space and remote sensing, primarily research and development. SNSB's objective is to initiate research, development and other activities relating to Swedish space and remote sensing activities, and to promote the co-ordination of these activities. In addition, it is to promote suitable information and documentation activities in the space and remote sensing context.

The SNSB distribute government grants for space research, technology development and remote sensing activities. It initiates research and development in space and remote sensing areas, and acts as contact for international cooperation.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 50–60 million



Postal address: Box 4006, SE-171 04 Solna, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Solna strandväg 86

Phone: +46-8-627 64 80 Fax: +46-8-627 50 14

Internet: www.rymdstyrelsen.se

E-mail: rymdstyrelsen@snsb.se

SIDA, The Swedish Agency for International Development Cooperation

Government agency under the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Subject field

• Environment • Medicine and health • Natural sciences and Technology • Society and Culture

Main R&D task

Financing

Sida is responsible for the greater part of Sweden's international development cooperation. Its overall objective is to help create the preconditions for poor people to improve their quality of life. The major part of Sida's allocations for research cooperation is used to develop research in poor cooperation countries and for regional and international research programmes.

Through Sida's Research Council, support is also provided for Swedish research. The aims are to promote research of value to development cooperation and to increase knowledge in Sweden concerning development countries and development issues. Sida acts as a research council and awards grants annually based on scientific assessments by reference groups. In 2006 approximately SEK 140 million will be allocated to support PhD projects, research activities and research networks.

The Swedish Research Links Programme is aimed at promoting cooperation between Swedish researchers and established researchers in Asia, the Middle East and South Africa. The annual application process is managed by the Swedish Research Council in cooperation with FAS, Formas, VINNOVA and Sida. In 2006 approximately SEK 35 million will be earmarked for this type of cooperation.

EU and international cooperation. SAREC (Sida's Department for Research Cooperation) Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR), Joint coordinating Board, WHO; Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human reproduction, (HRP), Policy and coordination committee, WHO; European and Developing countries Clinical trials programme (EDCTP); European Malaria Vaccine Initiative; Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR); European Initiative for Agricultural Research for development (EIARD); International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE); International Foundation for Science (IFS).

Research funding 2006: the budget for research cooperation through Sida is approx SEK 975 million, of which SEK 350 million is allocated to Swedish research.



Postal address: SE-105 25 Stockholm, SWEDEN
 Visiting address: Sveavägen 20 (until August 2006),
 Valhallavägen 191 (from August 2006)
 Phone: +46-8-698 50 00 Fax: +46-8-20 88 64
 Internet: www.sida.se E-mail: sida@sida.se

VINNOVA

SWEDISH AGENCY FOR INNOVATION SYSTEMS

Government agency under the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communication

Subject field

• Environment • Medicine and health • Natural sciences and Technology • Society and Culture

Main R&D task

Financing, Networking

VINNOVA's mission is to promote sustainable growth by financing RTD and developing effective innovation systems.

VINNOVA is a strategic granting and co-ordinating actor in the Swedish innovation system.

VINNOVA contributes to long-term economic growth and sustainable development in both ecological and social terms by funding problem-oriented research in order to meet the needs of industry, society at large and by developing effective innovation systems.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 1 100 million. Due to the required matching funding from other financing bodies, the sum of available resources is twice as large: approx SEK 2 000 million.



Postal address: SE-101 58 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Mäster Samuelsgatan 56

Phone: +46-8-473 30 00 Fax: +46-8-473 30 05

Internet: www.vinnova.se

E-mail: vinnova@vinnova.se

SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL

Research Council • Government agency under the Ministry of Education, Research and Culture

Subject field

• Environment • Medicine and health • Natural sciences and Technology • Society and Culture

Main R&D task

Financing, National responsibility: Research Information, R&D statistics, evaluation and supervision

The Swedish Research Council is the largest state body providing funds for basic research in Sweden. The Swedish Research Council allocates support for Swedish basic research, with an emphasis on attaining the highest quality and bringing about development and renewal. The goal is for Sweden to be a leading nation in scientific research.

The Swedish Research Council advises the Government in matters relating to research policy. It is also engaged in strategic issues concerning research and research funding in a national and international perspective. The Swedish Research Council has an overarching responsibility for ensuring that attention is paid to ethical issues in research. The Council also works for enhanced gender equality in the research community and promotes the adoption of a gender perspective in research contexts.

The Swedish Research Council bears national responsibility for promoting and developing research information. The Council's role is, in cooperation with higher education institutions, other research sponsors and, in particular, researchers themselves, to create forums where researchers and the public can meet, to develop new methods of disseminating popular science and to bring controversial research issues to the fore.

EU and international cooperation. To strengthen Swedish research funding with European and international research funds, the Council collaborates both nationally and internationally with other agencies and organisations, among others: European Science Foundation, Joint Committees of Nordic Research Councils, European University Institute, International Group of Funding Agency, CERN and UNESCO (for more information on international activities, see www.vr.se).

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 2 520 million (research information included)



Vetenskapsrådet

Postal address: SE-103 78 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Regeringsgatan 56

Phone: +46-8-546 44 000 Fax: +46-8-546 44 180

Internet: www.vr.se

E-mail: vetenskapsradet@vr.se

THE KNUT AND ALICE WALLENBERG FOUNDATION

Foundation

Subject field

- Medicine and health
- Natural sciences and Technology

Main R&D task

Financing

The Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation is one of the major research funders in Sweden and supports research and educational projects at the national universities, colleges and comparable research institutes. During 2004 a total of SEK 786 million were awarded to around hundred different projects. Most of the grants were donations for expensive scientific equipment within the natural sciences, technological and biomedical basic research.

The purpose of the Foundation is to support scientific research, teaching and education of benefit to the Swedish research community. The policy is to support Swedish universities, institutes and other academic units with grants within the following areas:

- Expensive scientific equipment
- Scholarship programs
- Special research projects of high scientific value
- Projects in the field of educational science
- Projects to support young people's interest in research.

Priority will be given to applications for funding equipment for scientifically outstanding projects already supported by other funders with regard to personnel and running costs, and to equipment for national research facilities. The Foundation also grants research awards to promising young scientists via donations to the Royal Academy of Sciences and to the Swedish Academy and the Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities in collaboration.

*Knut och Alice
Wallenbergs
Stiftelse*

Postal address: Box 16066, SE-103 22 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Phone: +46-8-545 017 80

Fax: +46-8-545 017 85

Internet: www.wallenberg.org/kaw

E-mail: kaw@kaw.se

Research funding 2006:

approx SEK 700 million

RIKSBANKENS JUBILEUMSFOND

Foundation

Subject field

- Society and Culture

Main R&D task

Financing

The Riksbankens Jubileumsfond supports scientific research by awarding project grants to individual researchers and research groups. The foundation is the largest financier of research outside the universities and university colleges in the humanities and social sciences.

Special sector committees are set up at times by the foundation to investigate the need for research investment and to promote the exchange of information in sectors that are judged to be of special significance. Here are a few examples: Mankind and Communication Technology, Research on Equal Opportunities, Alcohol Research, Parliamentary Research, Capital Market Research, Art and Design, Research on the Knowledge Society and Research on Culture – Security – Sustainable Social Development.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 300 million



Postal address: Box 5675, SE-114 86 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Kungsträdgårdsgatan 18

Phone: +46-8-506 264 00 Fax: +46-8-506 264 31

Internet: www.rj.se

E-mail: rj@rj.se

THE SWEDISH FOUNDATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Foundation

Subject field

- Environment
- Medicine and health
- Natural sciences and Technology
- Society and Culture

Main R&D task

Financing

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.

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. During its first ten years the Foundation has invested about SEK 1 300 million in scholarships and grants. Funding applications may be submitted only by academic staff at Swedish universities and university colleges.

The Swedish School of Advanced Asia-Pacific Studies, jointly funded by STINT and the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, will provide substantial long-term finance over five years to boost the creation of advanced knowledge on cultural, economic, political and social issues of contemporary relevance to the Asia-Pacific region.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 75 million



STINT

Stiftelsen för internationalisering av
högre utbildning och forskning

The Swedish Foundation for international
Cooperation in Research and Higher Education

Postal address: Skeppargatan 8, SE-114 52 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Skeppargatan 8

Phone: +46-8-662 76 90 Fax: +46-8-661 92 10

Internet: www.stint.se

E-mail: info@stint.se

MISTRA, FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

Foundation

Subject field

• Environment • Natural sciences and Technology • Society and Culture

Main R&D task

Financing, Networking

The purpose of The Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research, Mistra, is to fund research of strategic importance for a good living environment. The Foundation shall promote the development of strong research environments of the highest international class with importance for Sweden's future competitiveness. The research shall be of importance for finding solutions to important environmental problems and for a sustainable development of society. Opportunities for achieving industrial applications shall be taken advantage of.

Mistra's strategy is to seek to ensure that its funds produce a threefold return: strong research environments that create value for users, asset management in support of sustainable development, and active communication to make the results known.

Mistra forms part of Sweden's system for innovation for an environmentally sound society and globally sustainable development. Mistra invests in strong research groups which, working alongside users, are able to contribute to solving major environmental problems. The users of the research which it supports are to be found both in industry and in public administration, policy-making and non-governmental organizations.

Mistra provides funding for some twenty major programmes, each extending over six to eight years. All of them have the aim of building bridges, both between disciplines and between researchers and users.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 200 million
(in real terms at 2003 prices)

MISTRA

Postal address: Gamla Brogatan 36-38, SE-111 20 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Gamla Brogatan 36-38

Phone: +46-8-791 10 20 Fax: +46-8-791 10 29

Internet: www.mistra.org

E-mail: mail@mistra.org

THE KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION

Foundation

Subject field

- Environment
- Medicine and health
- Natural sciences and Technology
- Society and Culture

Main R&D task

Financing, Networking

The objective of the Knowledge Foundation is to build up Sweden's competitiveness and growth through the development of expertise and competence in both the industry and the higher education establishments and research institutes.

The Knowledge Foundation aims to enhance Sweden's competitiveness by supporting research at new universities and university colleges, competence development in industry, the promotion of IT in schools, education and health care and the restructuring of industrial research institutes.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 215 million (postgraduate studies included)

Knowledge Foundation ><

Postal address: Box 3222, SE-103 64 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Klara Norra Kyrkogata 33

Phone: +46-8-56 64 81 00 Fax: +46-8-24 75 09

Internet: www.kks.se

E-mail: info@kks.se

SWEDISH FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH

Foundation

Subject field

- Medicine and health
- Natural sciences and Technology

Main R&D task

Financing

The purpose of the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research is to support research in the natural sciences, engineering and medicine. The Foundation's mission is to promote the development of strong research environments of the highest international standard with a bearing on the development of Sweden's future competitive strength.

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research finances about 100 major research programmes and about 100 research projects. Its concentrated efforts are aimed at enabling the establishment of strategic research centres with an international impact. It also provides individual grants to outstanding researchers. Industrial cooperation plays an important role and international evaluation is a pivotal function for guaranteeing quality and relevance.

EU and international cooperation. The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research has signed memorandums of understanding with The Academy of Finland, Genome Canada, Japan Science and Technology Agency, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, National Science Foundation (USA) and The Wellcome Trust (UK).

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 500 million



Postal address: Box 704 83, SE-107 26 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Kungsbron 1

Phone: +46-8-505 816 00 Fax: +46-8-505 816 10

Internet: www.stratresearch.se

E-mail: found@stratresearch.se

THE SWEDISH FOUNDATION FOR HEALTH CARE SCIENCES AND ALLERGY RESEARCH

Foundation

Subject field

- Environment
- Medicine and health

Main R&D task

Financing

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 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. The Vårdal Foundation stake around SEK 60 million each year on different forms of research financing. More than 1000 research projects have received financial support. In addition, certain targeted measures were implemented in areas in which a particular need has been identified, for example a new Centre for Allergy Research at Karolinska institutet in Stockholm and The Vårdal Institute at the Lund and Göteborg Universities. The Vårdal Foundation also collaborates with other financiers to achieve a more powerful research financing than what each financier can achieve individually. Examples of such collaboration investments are "Swedish Brain Power" – a syndicate for neuro-scientific research at Karolinska institutet as well as "Ethics in Health Care". The Vårdal Foundation commits to forcefully increase the research about children's health by an interdisciplinary program and has initiated a career development program to support younger researchers. The Foundation also supports studies of the changing and often complicated processes within the modern health care system and the processes of knowledge transfer.

The Foundation gives priority to:

- Promoting projects and programs that take an interdisciplinary approach and are clinically relevant
- Supporting the recruitment and education of postgraduates

Research funding 2006:

approx SEK 60 million



Postal address: Box 3210, SE-103 64 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Hölländargatan 13

Phone: +46-8-545 13 550 Fax: +46-8-545 13 560

Internet: www.vardal.se

E-mail: info@vardal.se

THE SWEDISH CHILDREN'S CANCER FOUNDATION

Fundraising organisation

Subject field

- Medicine and health

Main R&D task

Financing

The Swedish Children's Cancer Foundation is a non-profit organisation, which aims to support research into childhood cancer. In order to do so, the foundation relies solely on donations and gifts from individuals, organisations and companies, since it does not receive any funding from the government or local authorities.

Since it was founded in 1982, the foundation has made more than half a billion SEK available for research into childhood cancer, and currently provides some form of research support to around 120 researchers.

The Swedish Children's Cancer Foundation also provides support for both training and further education of paediatric oncology nursing staff, in order to give children and teenagers with cancer optimal care and to facilitate life during and after treatment. In addition, the foundation provides care and recreation opportunities for families who have, or who have had, children suffering from cancer.

The Swedish Children's Cancer Foundation also aims to use various educational initiatives to increase awareness of childhood cancer and to change attitudes, thus improving conditions for children with cancer and their families.

EU and international cooperation. The Swedish Children's Cancer Foundation is involved in international activities through ICCCP (an international organisation for paediatric organisations), and SIOP and NOPHO, an international and nordic organisation for paediatric oncology physicians. The Swedish Children's Cancer Foundation also fund participation in international symposia and cross-border exchange between paediatric oncology researchers.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 75 million



The Swedish Children's Cancer Foundation

Postal address: Box 5408, SE-114 84 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Grevgatan 39

Phone: +46-8-584 209 00 Fax: +46-8-584 109 00

Internet: www.barncancerfonden.se

E-mail: info@barncancerfonden.se

THE SWEDISH CANCER SOCIETY

Fundraising organisation

Subject field

- Medicine and health

Main R&D task

Financing, inform about cancer

The Swedish Cancer Society has supported cancer research since 1951. Today, the Swedish Cancer Society is the single largest financier of Swedish cancer research projects. In addition the Society provides information on cancer and operates a telephone helpline. Cancer prevention also has a high priority.

The Swedish Cancer Society receives no government supports. 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. Project 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 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.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 300 million



Cancerfonden

The Swedish Cancer Society

Postal address: David Bagares gata 5, SE-101 55 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: David Bagares gata 5

Phone: +46-8-677 10 00 Fax: +46-8-677 10 01

Internet: www.cancerfonden.se

E-mail: info@cancerfonden.se

THE SWEDISH HEART-LUNG FOUNDATION

Fundraising organisation

Subject field

- Medicine and health

Main R&D task

Financing, Research

The Swedish Heart-Lung Foundation is a fundraising organisation whose primary function is to finance independent research projects dealing with the major widespread diseases such as diseases of the heart, lungs and the circulatory system.

The Swedish Heart-Lung Foundation finance primarily clinical medical research in the field of heart-lung diseases.

Research funding 2006: approx SEK 80 million

Hjärt  Lungfonden

Postal address: Riddargatan 18, SE-114 51 Stockholm, SWEDEN

Visiting address: Riddargatan 18

Phone: +46-8-566 24 200 Fax: +46-8-566 24 229

Internet: www.hjart-lungfonden.se

E-mail: info@hjart-lungfonden.se

This brochure presents some of the main research financing bodies in Sweden. You will find more information about the Swedish system of research funding at the website

WWW.FORSKNING.SE

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