ERAC Mutual Learning Seminar
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Swedish R&D funding

Total R&D

- 121 billion SEK (2011)
- Private sector 2.28% of GDP (2011)
- 3.46% of GDP (2011)
- National goal 2020: around 4%
Total 4 billion SEK increase (13%) of allocation of funds 2013–2016

- Universities: 900 mn SEK
- Research councils: 545 mn SEK
- Recruitment: 300 mn SEK
- Strategic research areas: 300 mn SEK
- Strategic innovation areas: 225 mn SEK
- Life Science: 600 mn SEK
- European Spallation Source: 200 mn SEK (total cost SE 6 billion)
Total increases 8-year periods

- 2000-2008: 4
- 2008-2016: 8
COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION on the National Reform Program 2012 of Sweden

Take further measures in the upcoming Research and Innovation bill to continue improving:

- excellence in research
- the commercialization of innovative products
- development of new technologies
Measures in the research and innovation bill for improving excellence

- Increased funding to universities
- Reallocation of direct funding
- International recruiting of scientists
- Young scientists
- Program for excellent senior researchers
- Future allocation system based on peer-review
Increased funding to universities

• SE universities very dependent on external funding (43%).

• External funding increases quality, but have some drawbacks (time-consuming, risk-avoidance, short term etc.)

• 900 mn SEK increased funding 2014-2016.

• Main reasons: 1) increased risk-taking and 2) increase the permanent employment of researchers.
Allocation of direct funding

- 2010: New system for allocation of direct funding to universities.
- 10% of total funding redistributed based on quality.
- Quality measurements
  - Publications/citations: 50%
  - External funds – grants and contract research: 50%
- 2014: Modification of the system. 20 % of funding redistributed.
- More incentives for universities to specialize.
- Internal evaluations should influence the distribution locally.
International recruiting of scientists

- Top scientists important for quality. Low level of international recruitment in Sweden
- New program for recruitment of top scientists
- The Swedish Research Council, 250 million SEK
- 5-15 million for each recruitment, 7-10 years periods
- Universities applies for grants for recruitment
Young scientists

• Post-doc funding is a problem for Swedish young scientists
• Difficult to get permanent employment at universities
• New program at the Swedish Research Council
• 50 mn SEK
Program for senior researchers

- The most excellent Swedish research has decreased in volume the latest decades.
- The most cited publications are fewer than in comparable countries.
- Mission to Swedish Research Council to take initiative to a new program for the very best researches.
- 7-10 year program
- Stimulate high risk and great potential
Future allocation system based on peer-review

- Draw-backs with present system
  - different traditions of publication in different disciplines
  - measures historical achievements
  - less risk-taking

- The Swedish Research Council, together with other research councils, will propose a new system for allocation, which includes peer review.

- The future system will also take into account collaboration with society and industry.

- Allocations in 2018, at the earliest.
Thank You !