



Vetenskapsrådet

Impacts on science och society

Per Janson

Senior analyst, Swedish Research
Council



What is impact?

- A fuzzy concept
- The effect of an intervention (research programme)
- Something that makes a difference, in areas that matters to people



Main questions

- What forms of impacts of research/research funding is of interest to evaluate?
- What methods can be used to show impact empirically?
- *Limitations: Evaluation of funding schemes and research programmes should be the focus. Not system-level, Not evaluation of single projects.*



Why study impact?

- Extensive public investment into research
- "A new social contract" – the public and the government expect more direct and specific benefits from their investments in research
- Knowledge on how research creates impact



Different forms of impact

- Impact on science
- Impact on society

Including the four dimensions of sustainability:

- A) Societal
- B) Economic
- C) Environmental
- D) Cultural



Expected outcomes

- A report that document various ways of evaluating impact
- develop a design of a study which can be used by funding agencies to facilitate a comparative analysis
- A joint project of impact assessment