



The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research supports and initiates basic and applied research with a view to improving our knowledge about working life, public health and welfare.

www.fas.se





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Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research
ESF Workshop on Evaluation of Funding Schemes and Research
Programmes, DFG, Berlin, November 22-23, 2007

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Since 2001, Sweden has four main public research-funding agencies:

- **FAS** The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research, www.fas.se
- **Formas** The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning, www.formas.se
- **Vinnova** The Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems, www.vinnova.se
- **VR** The Swedish Research Council, www.vr.se
- Almost 700 MillionEur/year+foundations
- The system is under evaluation



General objectives and regulations set by the government:

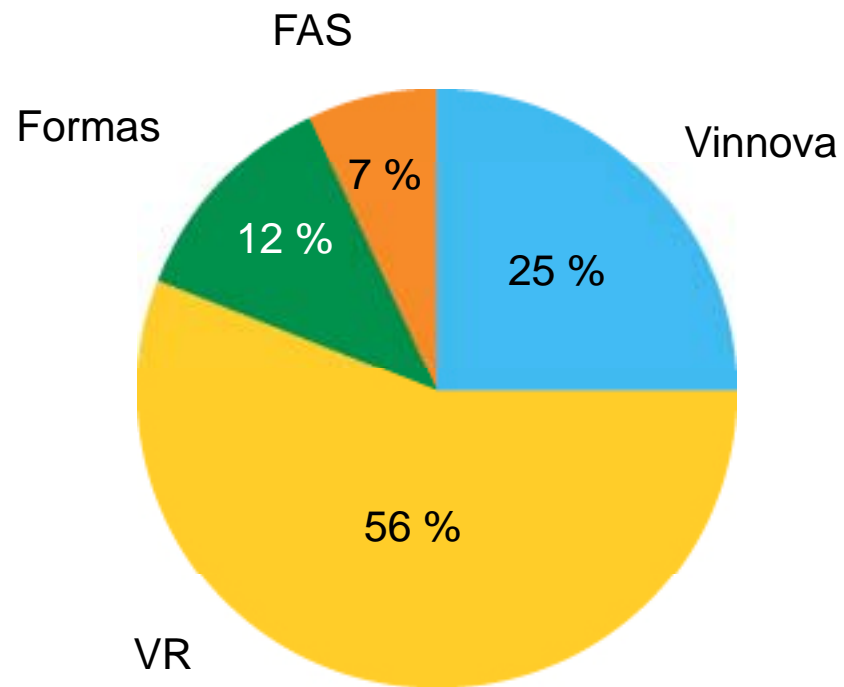
- Promote scientific excellence
- Allocate resources for high-quality science
- Identify important research needs
- Evaluate and analyse research
- Promote international collaboration
- Encourage multidisciplinary research
- Career-support for young scholars
- Promoting gender equity in research
- Promote dissemination&civic dialogue



Current trends in Swedish research and innovation policy:

- Strong focus on scientific excellence
- A new set of centres of excellence
- Longer&larger grants - 5-10 years
- Promoting internationalisation&EU
- Resource interaction Univ& Councils
- New research bill 2008
- The 1% of GNP to research?
- Towards a hidden university reform?
- In search for evaluation strategies.....

Government research-funding bodies. Funds for research 2007, total: SEK 5.5bn = 600 Euros





FAS main areas of research funding SEK 350 mn/annually

- Work and health
- Work organisations
- Labour market issues
- Public health
- Welfare and social policy
- Social services and social relations
- Around 1000 research projects
- Around 350 – 400 researchers



FAS – Organisation and functions

- Activities are led by the Secretary-General
- The Board consists of researchers and the public actors (academic majority)
- The FAS office (20 empl. is tasked with
- Administration&selection of grants and
- Dissemination of information&dialogue
- Organizing FAS evaluation work, follow upp and report to the Government



Funding instruments

Research

Project grants
Programme grants
Centres of excellence
Research positions
Post-doc awards

Dissemination of knowledge

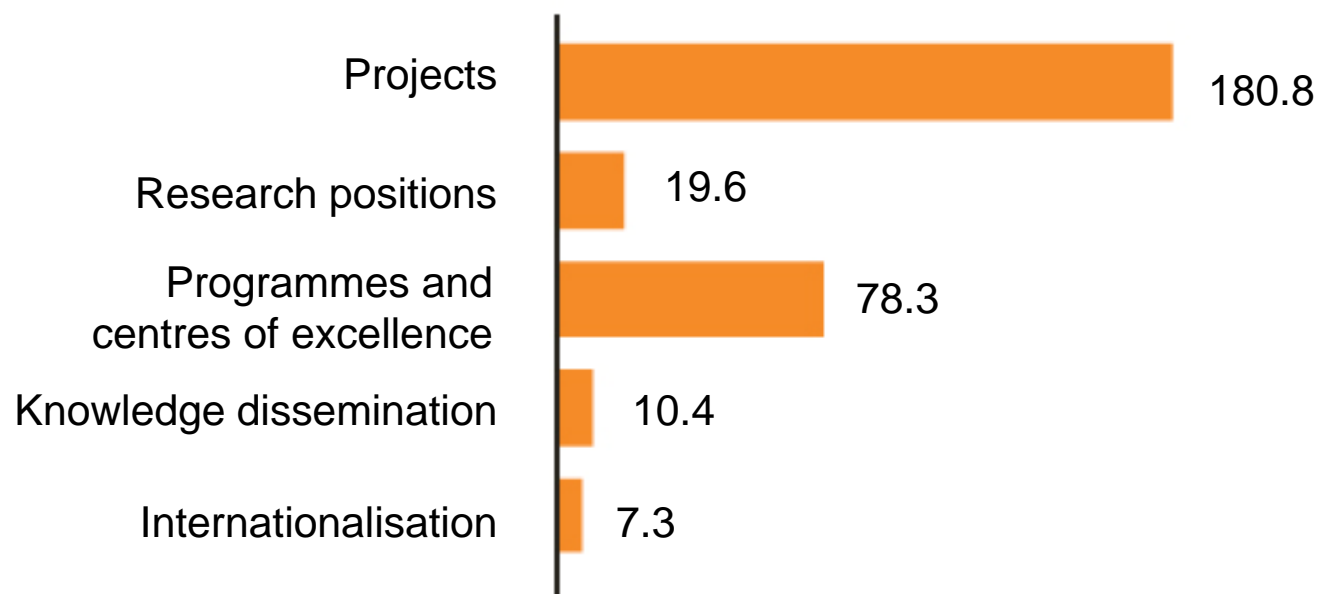
Networks
Conferences/symposia
Publication grants

Internationalisation

Travel grants
Scholarships for research and post-doc studies abroad
Grants for visiting researchers



Amounts granted in 2004 broken down by type of grant, SKr million

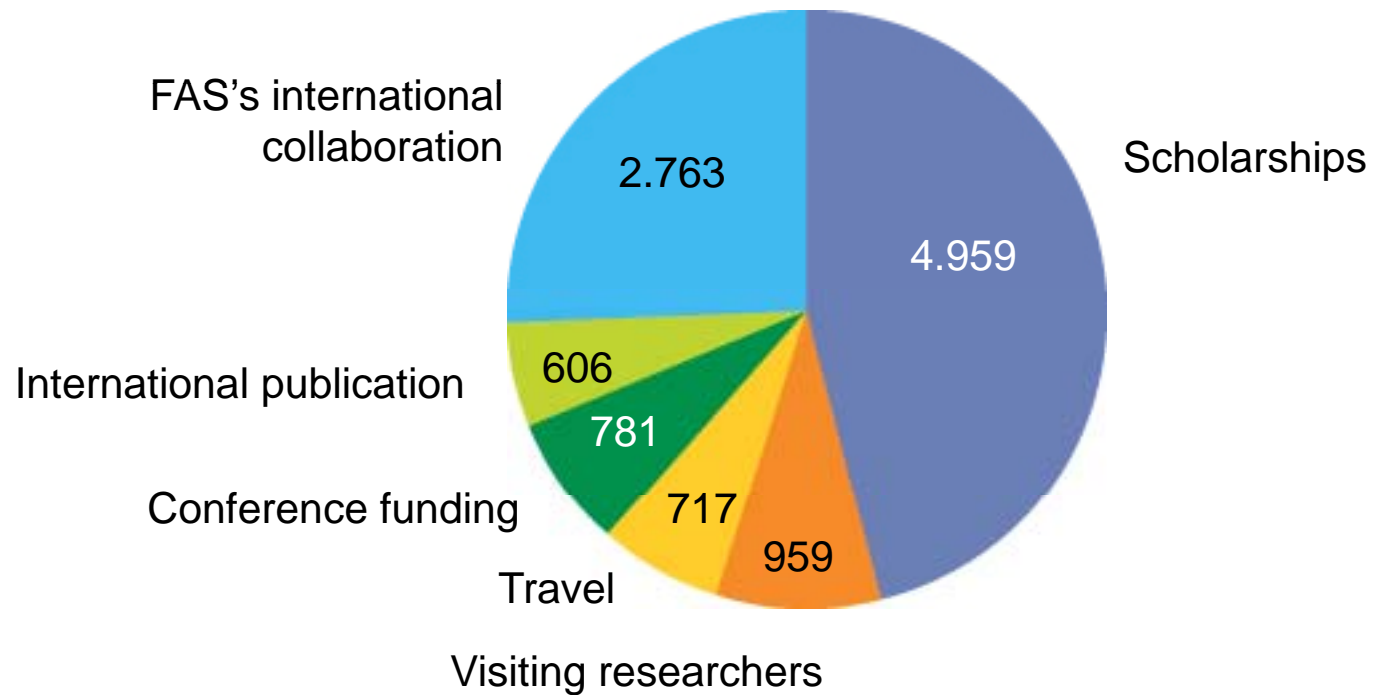




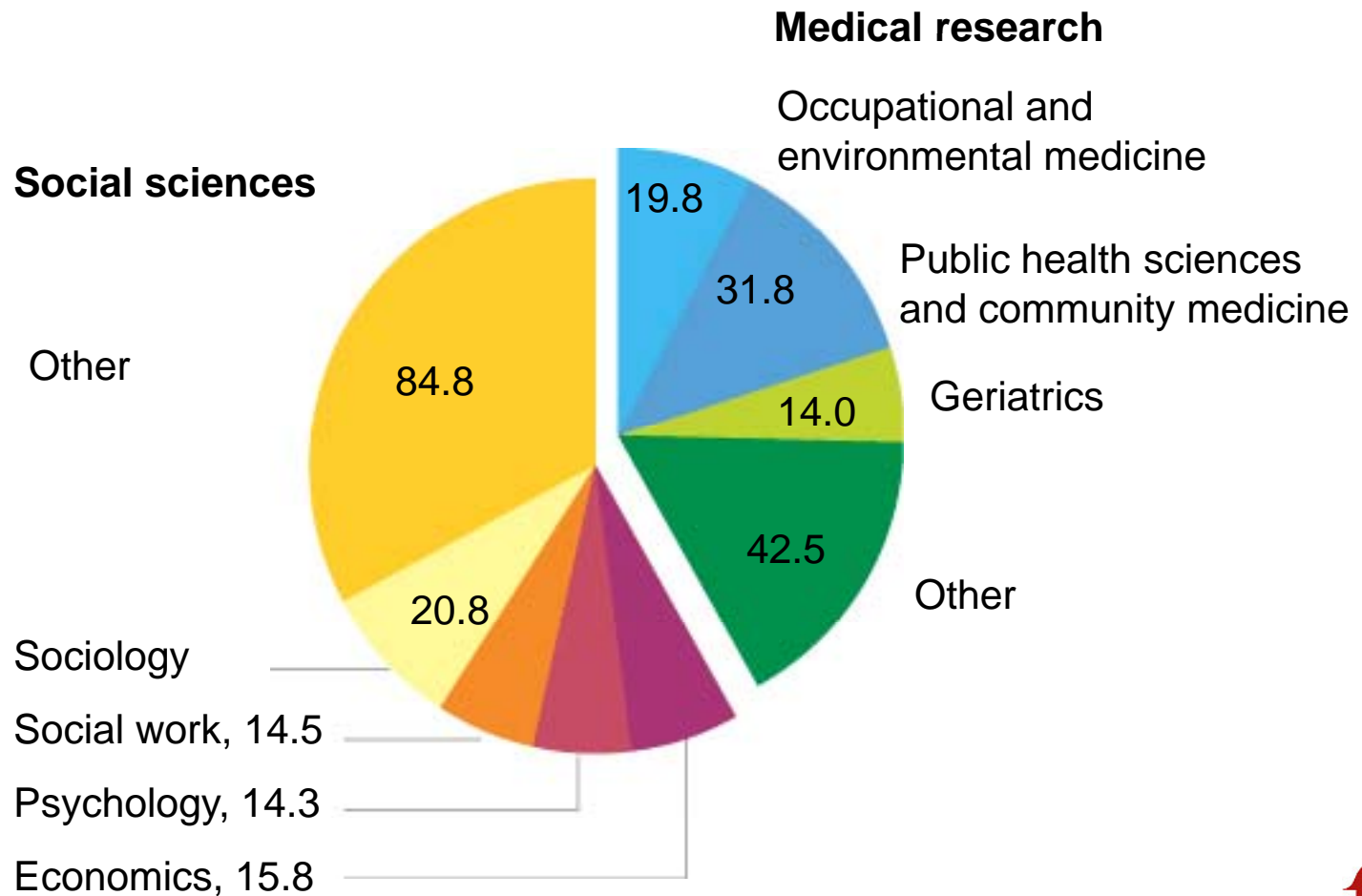
International


- FAS supports and stimulates international collaboration & especially EU-context
- FAS is employing the services of international experts for evaluations
- FAS is a member of the European Science Foundation and is also part of other networks of research-funding agencies
- FAS is partner in three ERA-NETs on ageing, innovative work org. and OSH

Funds granted in 2004 for international exchange purposes, SKr thousand

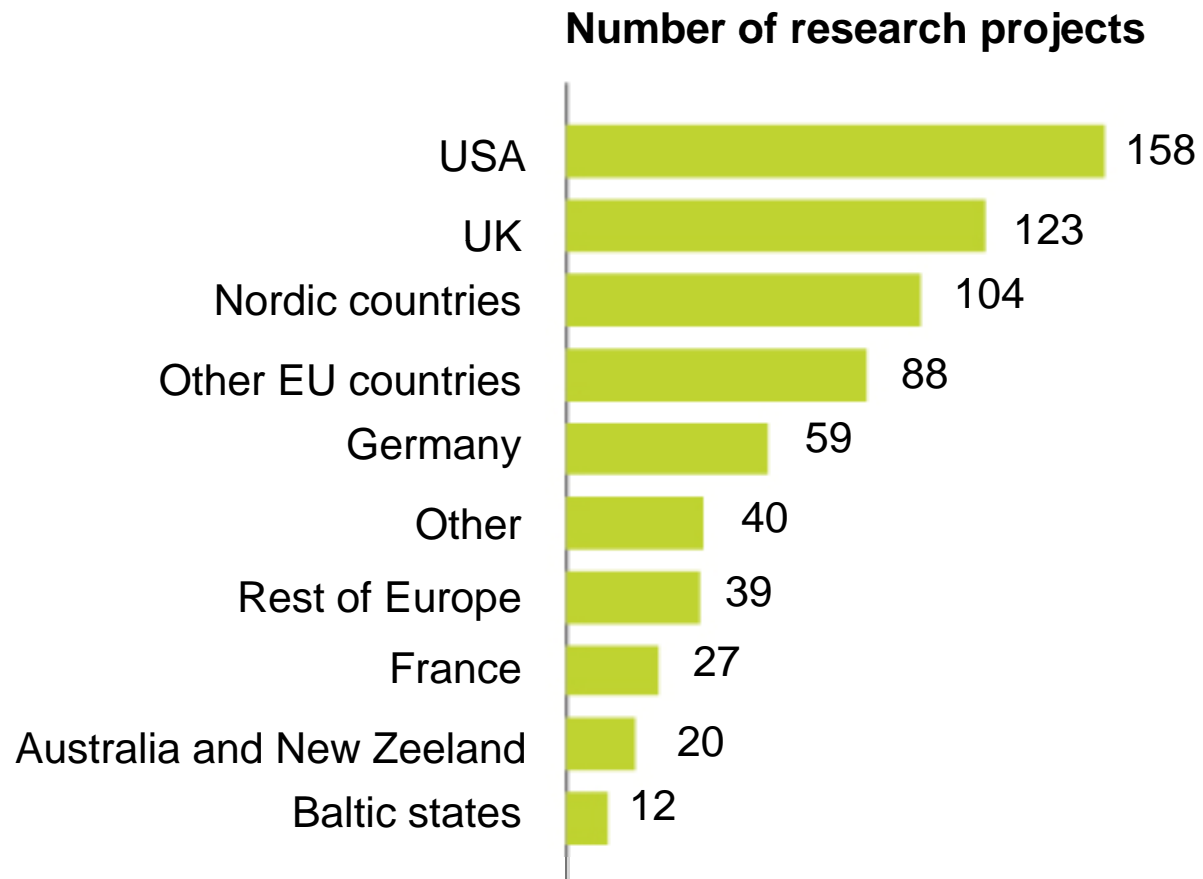


Amounts granted in 2004 broken down by discipline, SKr million





International research collaboration in 2004 broken down by country/region





FAS-method for peer-review evaluations

- Clarification of evaluation task and definition of area
- Reference group of leading Swedish scholars
- Description of the development of the field over last decades
- Mapping and categorizing international publications
- Composition of international evaluation team/team leader
- Initiation of self-evaluation processes
- Autonomous work by the evaluation team
- Crucial role of team leader (coach) + team diversity
- Need to continuous support to the team



FAS-method for peer-review evaluations continuation....

- Bibliometric methods and role of quality indicators
- Meetings, workshops and conferences with scholars
- Production of a preliminary report
- Formal acceptance by FAS board
- Presenting the report to the government
- Policy discussions about long term strategic priorities
- Dialogue with the academic community



Level of quality assessment from individuals to fields and disciplines to the research system as such

- Individual track record (grant application)
- Research teams/research environments
- Centres or institutional settings
- Fields or disciplines
- Academic communities
- The research system in general
- Scientific quality vs societal relevance



Examples of Evaluations commissioned by the Government.

- Swedish Disability Research, 2001
- Swedish (IMER) Research 1995-2002
- Institute for Labour Market Policy Evaluation, 1997–2004
- Research by The National Board of Institutional Care in the period 1994–2002
- Swedish Labour Law Research 1995–2001, 2003
- Swedish public health research, 2004
- Training and research in social work in Sweden, 2003
- Youth Research in Sweden, 1995-2001
- Health economics, 2006
- Work environment 2006
- Impact of the closing of National Work Life Institute



Some concluding remarks on FAS evaluation track record

- Need for good home work on the research map
- Definition of objective and task
- Evaluation as a mutual learning process
- Focus strategic issues
- Dialogue with community actors&interests
- Difficulties to use result and relocate money
- Blue sky model is evaluated in grant selection
- In search for a more dynamic method
- Risks of the bibliometric boom
- Much to learn from the ESF-Workshop



Typical responses from evaluation teams

- Strengths/weaknesses in the international field
- Reproduction of the academic community
- Shortages of career positions for young scholars
- Quality of data, registers/bases and survey sets
- Difficult to evaluate societal relevance
- Comments on funding instruments
- Seldom cutting recommendations
- Public communication&dissemination
- Scientific quality vs societal relevance
- More resources needed or stronger priorities



Evaluations of centres of excellence to be designed

- FAS supports ten centres of excellence
- 10+10+10 (ten million, ten years, ten people)
- Generation&gender gaps in EX-centres
- Pre-selection at university level
- International panel of experts
- Midtime report after 5 years (2 years)
- Connecting research&graduate training
- Evaluation strategy rather open
- Risk of Matthew principle 2.0
- Policy connection and high expectations
- Research as a tool for a better society??



Research information and FAS information activities

- The website and linked portals
- Newsletters
- Reports and popular science overviews
- Conferences and seminars
- Press contacts
- For more information on FAS and on research funded by FAS visit our English website www.fas.se/en