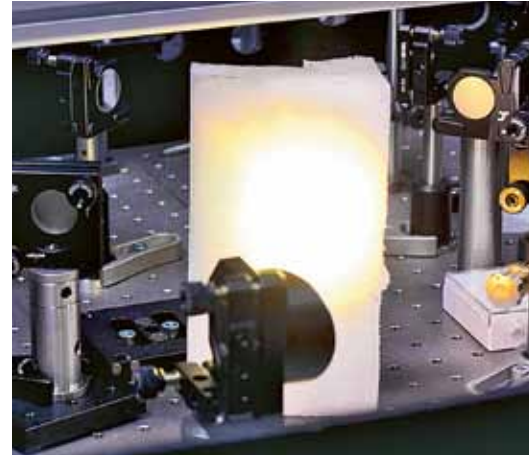


BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research, SSF, is an independent research funding body whose purpose is to support research in the natural sciences, engineering, and medicine. The Foundation promotes the development of strong research settings of significance for the development of Sweden's long-term competitiveness. This is done primarily by means of focused efforts, such as funding of a research project over a number of years, and large individual contributions to leading researchers, with an emphasis on the younger ones.

The Foundation was founded in 1994 with capital taken from the former wage-earner funds. The founding capital was SEK 6 billion. Thanks to good asset management and favourable stock market performance, the Foundation has been able to distribute approximately SEK 11 billion to Swedish research since the start while increasing its capital to almost SEK 10 billion (August 2013).

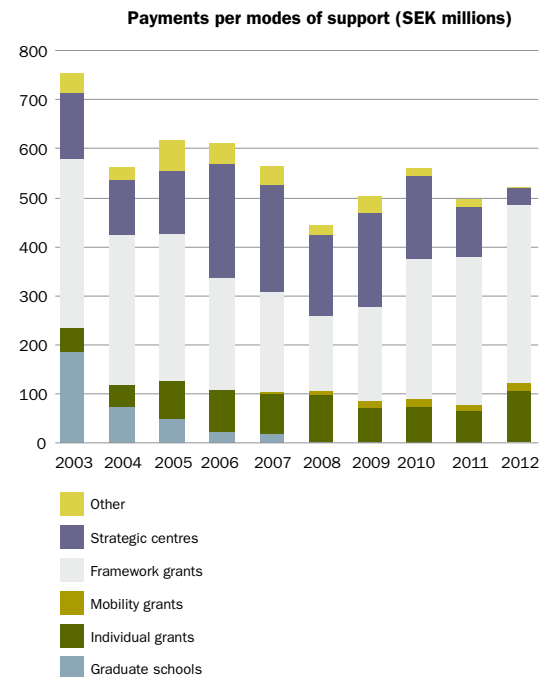


SSF has decided to give priority to the following main areas during the period up to 2017:

- Life Sciences
- Bioengineering
- Materials Sciences & Technologies
- Information, Communication & Systems Technologies (ICST)
- Computational Sciences and Applied Mathematics

The Foundation funds more than 200 research projects in the form of large targeted grants, known as framework grants, or individual grants to leading researchers.

The Governing Board consists of ten members, two of whom are appointed by the Government and one by the outgoing Board. The others are appointed by the Board after nomination by the state research councils, universities and academies (the Royal Academy of Sciences, KVA, and the Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, IVA).

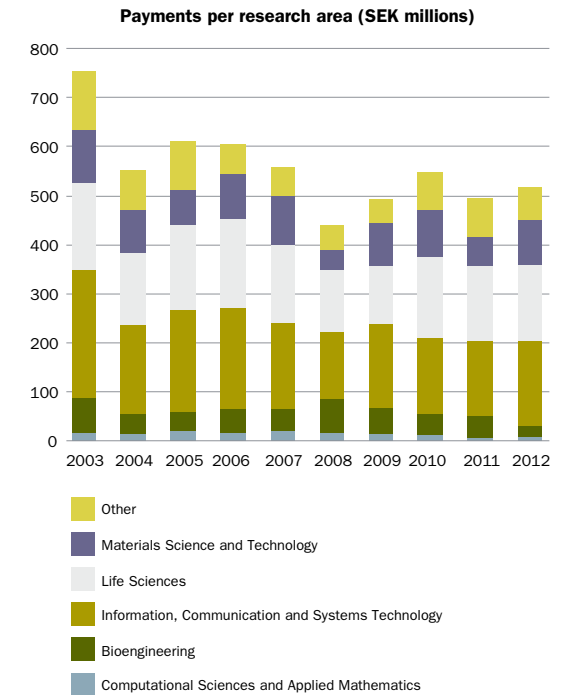


STRATEGY

According to its statutes, the Foundation shall support research settings of the highest international standard with a potential to strengthen Sweden's long-term competitiveness. The research activities may range from basic research to applied research and areas in between. International cooperation, interdisciplinary, and transboundary approaches and establishment of networks between academia and industry are to be encouraged. The interpretation of the key words strategic research and competitiveness is decisive for how the Foundation fulfils its mission. The Foundation has defined strategic research as research that can in the long run be of practical benefit to Swedish industry and society. Areas that are supported are ones where Sweden plays a prominent role today and ones where Sweden is judged to have the potential to be a leader. Benefit can be assessed from several aspects, such as:

- research whose results can serve as a basis for the development of existing or new companies
- more well-educated graduates who are attractive for employment primarily in industry and society, but also at universities and research institutes
- the ability of research settings of high international standard to attract uniquely qualified researchers and foreign investments to Sweden
- research that serves as a basis for international cooperation, whereby knowledge of interest to Swedish industry can be acquired.

It is assumed that the funded research might yield additional knowledge and expertise that could ultimately be applicable within knowledge-intensive and high-tech companies or other social sectors in Sweden. In this way the Foundation's initiatives can contribute to greater national competence, more jobs, and a sustainable society.



PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SOCIAL DIALOGUE

The Foundation strives for an active dialogue with universities and research institutes as well as individual researchers and clients in the private and public sectors. SSF also wishes to promote the dialogue in research-related matters between different sectors of society, in particular academia and industry.

SSF is clarifying its role as a research funding body in a transparent and open process – from planning and calls for proposals via the selection and decision process to evaluation and accounting.

The focus is on disseminating research results that can give rise to innovations or be further developed within related research areas and/or interdisciplinarily. The Foundation further expects those who work in the supported activity to disseminate the results of their research on their own initiative.

FORMS OF SUPPORT

We work with several different forms of support, with an emphasis on framework grants and individual grants to leading researchers. The period of the grant is normally three to six years. The Foundation also has a mobility programme to stimulate mobility between the university world and the business world, as well as an international researcher exchange programme.

Framework grants

These are grants where one or more researchers from one or more research groups collaborate to solve an important research problem within a given area, which is specified in the call for proposals. One of the researchers is the chief applicant. A programme committee consisting of experts from both academia and industry follow and support the projects within the programme.

The Future Research Leaders programme

The purpose of the programme is to identify and support young, promising researchers with leadership potential and give them the funding they need to put together their own internationally competitive research groups. The programme also includes special leadership training.

The Ingvar Carlsson Award

This is a programme aimed at giving homecoming post-docs an opportunity to launch their own independent and creative research careers in Sweden. This programme also includes leadership training.

International cooperation

International cooperation is of great importance for maintaining and raising the scientific quality of the research. The Foundation therefore considers it important to promote cooperation between leading Swedish and foreign research groups, as exemplified by a cooperation agreement with South Korea.

ORGANISATION AND WORK FORMS

Executive management, secretariat and selection organisation

The Foundation is presided over by an Executive Director answering directly to the Governing Board. The Executive Director is assisted by a secretariat of roughly 14 persons and a number of working groups with Swedish and foreign researchers, as well as representatives from industry and society.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The foundation's capital is managed with a reasonable level of risk in a conservative, balanced fashion to ensure a satisfactory return. The Foundation does not have eternal life, but may consume its capital.

APPLICATION PROCESSING

In order to encourage innovative research within a limited budget, the Foundation works with strategic action areas and a competitive application procedure. The Foundation does not normally consider applications submitted without a preceding call for proposals. All programmes are concluded after the agreement period, which is usually five years. The quality and relevance of the research are evaluated and the experience is fed back.

Quality and relevance

Review of applications and evaluation of completed research are vital for guaranteeing both scientific quality and strategic relevance. These tasks are performed by internationally leading scientific and industrial experts. A high level of quality in the evaluation work is vital for both the research community and society at large, and important for achieving trust between all parties.

THE SWEDISH FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH

- Supports research and postgraduate studies in science, engineering, and medicine for the purpose of strengthening Sweden's future competitiveness.
- Funds a large number of research projects at universities and technical institutes – many in collaboration with industry.
- Awards grants to leading researchers, with an emphasis on young coming stars.
- Supports important areas such as life sciences, biotechnology, materials research, information technology and computational sciences.
- Has a disbursement volume of approximately SEK 600 million per annum.
- Has capital of approximately SEK 10 billion as a basis for its activities.



SWEDISH FOUNDATION *for*
STRATEGIC RESEARCH

*Research that
shapes our future*