

## SWEDEN

This information on national public-health research structures has been gained from country key informants and internet searches for STEPS (Strengthening Engagement in Public Health Research [www.steps-ph.eu](http://www.steps-ph.eu)), a project funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework Research Programme. It builds on the country profiles and reports from Ministries of Health and Ministries of Science that were created previously for SPHERE (<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/public-health/sphere/sphereprofiles.htm>).

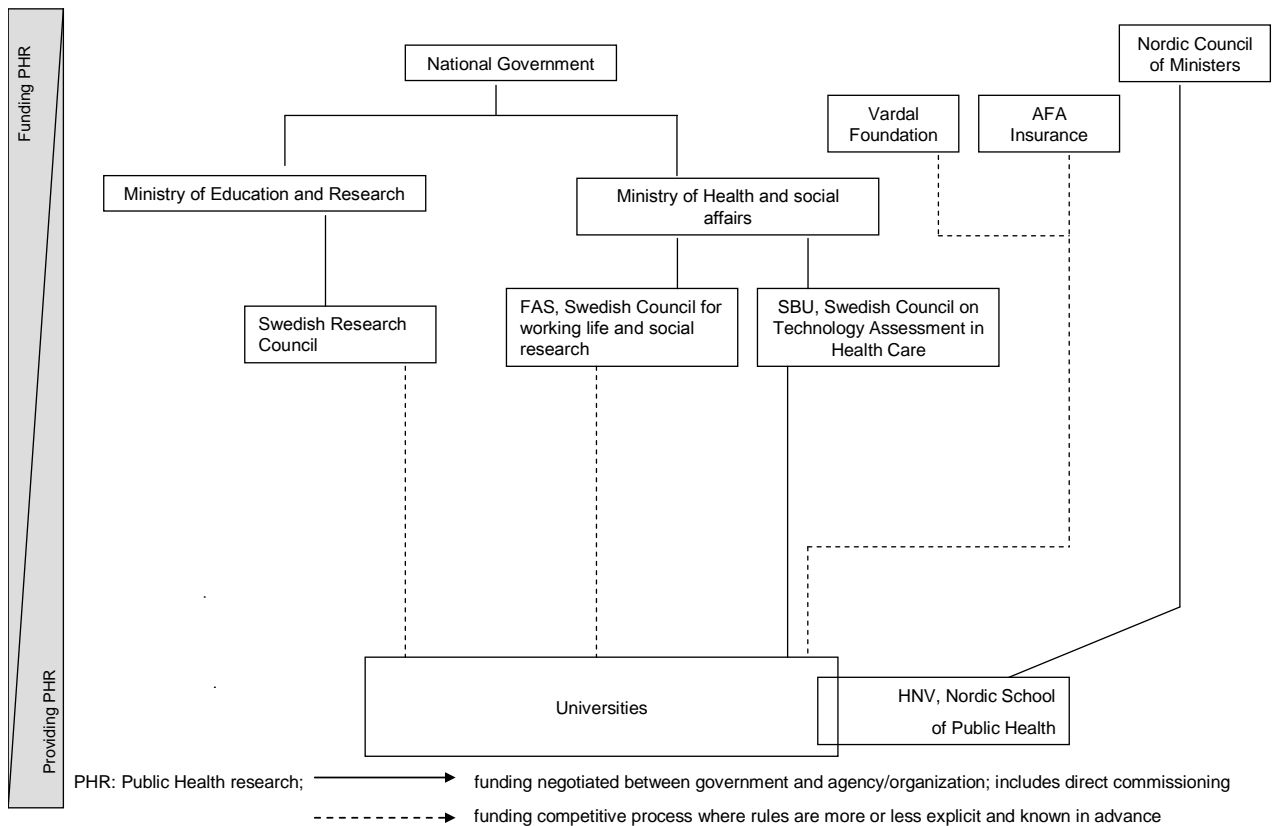


The organogram shows the structure for managing and providing public-health research from the perspective of financial flows.

The main organisations are also briefly described, with their URLs, and other relevant national documents and information on public-health research.

Note: 'Public-health research' includes all health research at population, organisation and system level broadly relevant to health and health-care policy and practice. It excludes clinical and laboratory (biomedical) research.

### 1. Organogram



## 2. Research Commissioners

### 2.1 Ministry of Health

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (<http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2061/a/16432>)

2.1.1. The FAS, Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research (<http://www.fas.se>) is a research funding Agency under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. It promotes the accumulation of knowledge in matters relating to working life and the understanding of social conditions and processes through: Promotion and support of basic and applied research; Identification of important research needs; Dialogue, dissemination of information and transfer of knowledge; Promotion of cooperation between researchers both nationally and internationally, particularly in EU programmes.

The Council's support for research takes various forms. It funds open calls based on scientific merit. To stimulate research within specific areas the Council may award longer period grants to research programmes at academic departments of excellence. The council also creates research positions at Swedish universities and provides grants for visiting researchers as well as scholarships for post-doc studies abroad.

2.1.2. The SBU, Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care (<http://www.sbu.se/en/>) is a Ministry of Health and Social Affairs' agency (<http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2061/a/37984>). SBU has the mandate of the Swedish Government to comprehensively assess healthcare technology from medical, economic, ethical, and social standpoints. SBU organizes assessments on a project basis. A multidisciplinary team, called a Project Group, is recruited for each project. Project groups consist of leading experts from Sweden and abroad, representing various fields of clinical practice and scientific research. These experts carry out comprehensive and thorough assessments by systematically searching, selecting, reviewing, and evaluating research findings from around the world. SBU projects typically include systematic literature reviews. SBU does not conduct original research, but collects, reviews, and evaluates available research findings.

(Source: <http://www.sbu.se/en/About-SBU/The-Assessments/>, assessed in February 2010)

### 2.2. Ministry of Science

Ministry of Education and Research (<http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2063/a/21953>)

2.2.1. The Swedish Research Council (<http://www.vr.se/>) is a research funding agency under the Ministry of Education and Research.

Within the Research Council there are separate decision-making bodies for different academic disciplines with advanced academic competence: The Scientific Council for Humanities and Social Sciences; The Scientific Council for Medicine and Health; The Scientific Council for Natural and Engineering Sciences; The Committee for Educational Sciences; The Committee for Artistic Research and Development and The Council for Research Infrastructures. The Councils and committees allocate funds for research and research infrastructure within their disciplines, taking account of the Council's decisions on matters of principle and strategy. The Council for Medicine and Health was created in the Research and Innovation Bill that was presented in the fall of 2008.

The Council allocates around SEK 4 bn annually by way of grants for research, and is the largest State funding agency for basic research at Swedish universities, colleges and institutions. The bulk of the Council's research grants go to projects which have been initiated by researchers themselves through peer review. The Research Council also provides support for other purposes such as infrastructure and academic positions.

## 2.3. Other ministries

## 2.4. Regions

In 2005, the 21 county councils and the municipalities, which are the main financiers and providers of healthcare, also funded 3.16bn SEK (0.12% of GDP) of research. Six county councils are also reimbursed by the government for education of medical doctors and clinical research, and in 2005, these funds contributed 1.45 billion kr (0.05% of GDP) to health research at the regional level.

([http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/documented\\_briefings/2008/RAND\\_DB533.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/documented_briefings/2008/RAND_DB533.pdf))

## 2.5. Foundations

2.5.1. The Vardal Foundation (<http://www.vardal.se>) is a research funding foundation established upon a resolution by the Swedish Parliament. The foundation focuses on the challenges of ageing and health issues of children and adolescents. The Foundation is one of the major players in Sweden for interdisciplinary research in the field of health and social care. By collaborating with other financiers, the Foundation is able to achieve a greater impact of the financing effort, compared to what financiers can achieve on an individual basis. The budgeted amount for financing research in 2010 amounts to SEK 60 million.

2.5.2. AFA Insurance (<http://www.afaforsakring.se/WmTemplates/Page.aspx?id=2602>) is an organisation owned by Sweden's labour market parties. AFA insures employees within the private sector, municipalities and county councils. In addition to its core insurance activities AFA supports research for improving health in working life both through financial grants and by offering access to AFA's claims database. In 2010 AFA is investing around 150 million SEK on research, development and dissemination of knowledge. AFA Insurance provides funding for individual projects or for projects included in notices of Research and Development programs within the work environment and health. Relevance, scientific quality and expected practical use are important criteria when we consider which projects should receive funding.

### 2.5.3. Medical charities.

The Swedish Cancer Society ([www.cancerfonden.se/sv/Information-in-English](http://www.cancerfonden.se/sv/Information-in-English)) is "the principal financier of cancer research in Sweden". The Society allocated 300 SKK (€30m) in 2007, for research including prevention. It funds research positions as well as project grants, with procedures similar to the Swedish Research Council, and with around 80 other fundraising organisations, is a member of the Swedish Fundraising Council. It aims to increase knowledge about the non-profit sector, and along with the Red Cross has financed a research post in the subject at the Stockholm School of Economics. The Swedish Heart-Lung Foundation (<http://www.hjart-lungfonden.se/HLF/In-English>) annually grants around 85 million SEK to research and the Swedish Diabetes Association ([www.diabetes.se](http://www.diabetes.se)) also funds research with annually around 14m SEK.

2.5.4 The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research was founded in 1994 with capital from the former wage-earner funds, with the objective to support research in natural science, engineering and medicine that strengthens Sweden's competitiveness. In 2010, SSF provided funding of around SEK 550 million: biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical technology is a current priority. "Support depends on the returns on capital."

<http://www.stratresearch.se/en/About-SSF/Mission/>

2.5.5 Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation (annual total €100m) and the Knowledge Foundation (€30m) are other major contributors to biomedical sciences.

[http://www.forskning.se/download/18.1c247649124dd647eb780001024/Research\\_Finace\\_eng2.pdf](http://www.forskning.se/download/18.1c247649124dd647eb780001024/Research_Finace_eng2.pdf)

### 3. Research Performers

#### 3.1. State Institutes

##### 3.1.1. The Swedish National Institute for Public Health (<http://www.fhi.se>)

The Institute is a governmental agency under the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs. The Institute works to promote health and prevent ill health and injury, especially for population groups most vulnerable to health risks. The Institute has three main tasks: to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the national public health policy; to be a national expert agency for the development and dissemination of methods and strategies in the field of public health, based on scientific evidence; to exercise supervision in the areas of alcohol and tobacco.

The Institute regularly submits a Public Health Policy Report to the central government as a basis for discussions about the development and implementation of the national public health policy.

The Institute is also responsible for the development and dissemination of methods and strategies in the field of public health. The Institute's role as a centre of excellence within the field of public health involves developing and conveying knowledge to central government and its agencies, as well as to regional authorities, municipalities and NGO's. This function also includes monitoring the development of theory in all spheres of public health.

#### 3.2. Mixed organizations

#### 3.3. Universities

Universities are the main research performers in Sweden. There are 16 public universities (to a limited extent supported by 16 university colleges: colleges, unlike universities, do not educate researchers). Those universities receive 75% of their funding from the government sector.

(Source: ERAWATCH research inventory report: Sweden

<http://cordis.europa.eu/erawatch/index.cfm?fuseaction=ri.content&topicID=4&countryCode=SE>, assessed in March 2010)

3.3.1. The Nordic School of Public Health (NHV) is a Nordic institution established in 1953 and funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers (Nordiska ministerrådet). It offers higher education and research in the field of public health for persons working within health and medical services in the Nordic countries Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Finland. In addition, NHV has a large student body outside the Nordic Countries due to extensive distance learning opportunities. It is possible to take single courses or a combination of courses that lead to a degree. English speaking students can obtain a Diploma in Public Health, Master of Public Health (MPH), or Doctor of Public Health (DrPH). Additional diploma programs are available in Scandinavian language.

Source: [http://www.nhv.se/customer/templates/InfoPage\\_334.aspx?epslanguage=EN](http://www.nhv.se/customer/templates/InfoPage_334.aspx?epslanguage=EN); <http://www.sasnet.lu.se/nhvgoteborg.html>), assessed in March 2010)

3.3.2. Karolinska Institutet's (a medical university, <http://ki.se/?l=en>), mission is to improve people's health through research, education and information. Karolinska Institutet has a special research focus on public health and disease prevention.

#### 3.4. Health Services

#### 3.5. Independent organizations

### 4. Research Strategies

4.1 The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research (FAS) strategic plan "Research on people's working life, public health and welfare: Research strategy 2009–2012 ... Summary and vision for the period 2009–2012" includes: "2. Targeted investments are also necessary in the core areas of public health and social sciences" including migration and ethnicity, alcohol and drugs, and research on functional impairment. The lack of has long been cited. Such research is often costly and requires major investments. FAS wants to promote the development of methodology and knowledge, particularly intervention research on the effects of social measures and research on implementation of evidence based knowledge, and to stimulate health economics research on the healthcare systems.

(Source: <http://www.fas.forskning.se/upload/dokument/en/fas%20strategy%202009-2012n.pdf>, assessed in March 2010)

4.2 The Swedish Research Council Research (<http://www.vr.se/>) has a three-year strategy 2009-2012. It allocates approximately €340m (2008) annually across six disciplinary areas, of which €85m is for medicine and health "i.e. medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and health care sciences". There are 19 evaluation panels. The Scientific Councils in 2010 developed topic overviews in each area. The Scientific Council for Medicine and Health produced a 'subject list' (2010) stated: 'Tomorrow's challenges include aging population and lifestyle-related diseases, and need for competence in health economics, epidemiology and records research, as well as 'coordinating centres of excellence'.

### 5. Programmes and calls

5.1. The research funded by the FAS, Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research covers the following areas: Chemical and physical hazards at work including electromagnetic fields; Stress, work and health; Work organisation; Labour market issues; Public health and health services; International migration and ethnic relations; Social policy and social insurance; Social welfare; Family and children; The elderly; Disability; Drug abuse.

(Source: [http://www.fas.forskning.se/fas\\_templates/Page\\_546.aspx](http://www.fas.forskning.se/fas_templates/Page_546.aspx), assessed in March 2010)

### 6. European contacts

## 6.1.National FP7Contact point (Health area)<sup>1</sup>

6.1.1. Gunnar Sandberg (VINNOVA/Europaprogrammen)

## 6.2. National DGSANCO Contact point<sup>2</sup>

6.2.1. Ann-Cristine Jonsson, Department of Policy Analysis and Monitoring, Swedish National Institute of Public Health, [ann-cristine.jonsson@fhi.se](mailto:ann-cristine.jonsson@fhi.se)

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html), assessed in February 2010

<sup>2</sup> Source: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/index_en.htm) assessed in February 2010