

Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research

Research that shapes the future

25 November 2021, UU Grants days

SSF's Statutes



Support research within natural science, engineering and medicine



Promote strong research environments of significance for Sweden's long-term competitiveness



SSF:s core

- ✓ **Scientific quality**
- ✓ **Strategic Relevance**

Interdisciplinarity

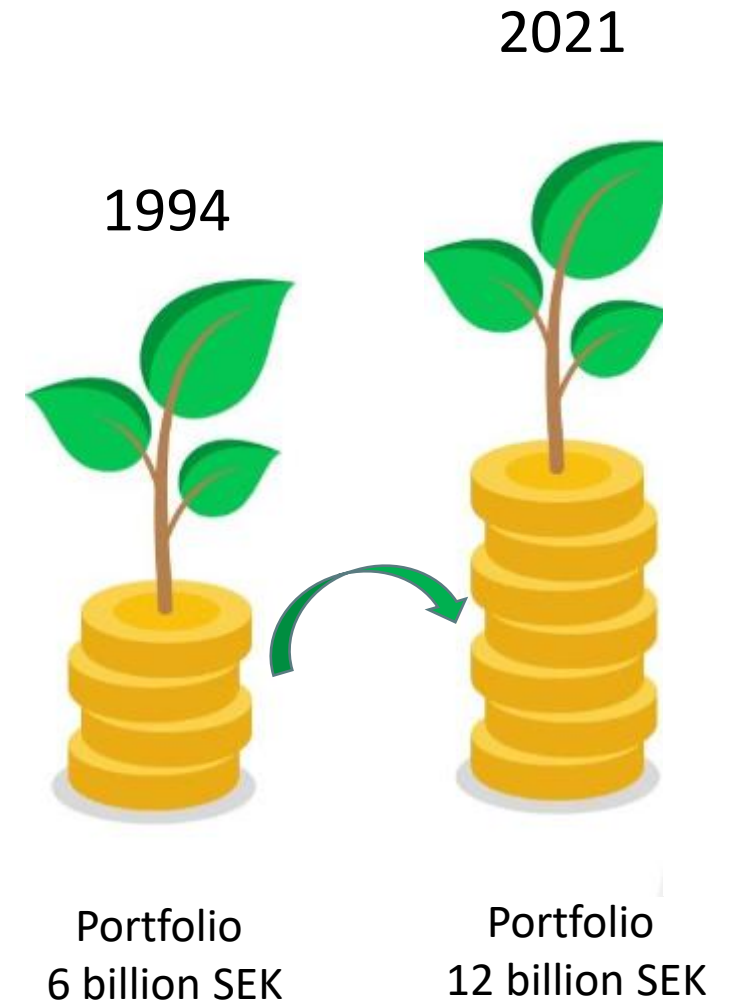
Internationalization

Mobility between sectors

Leadership

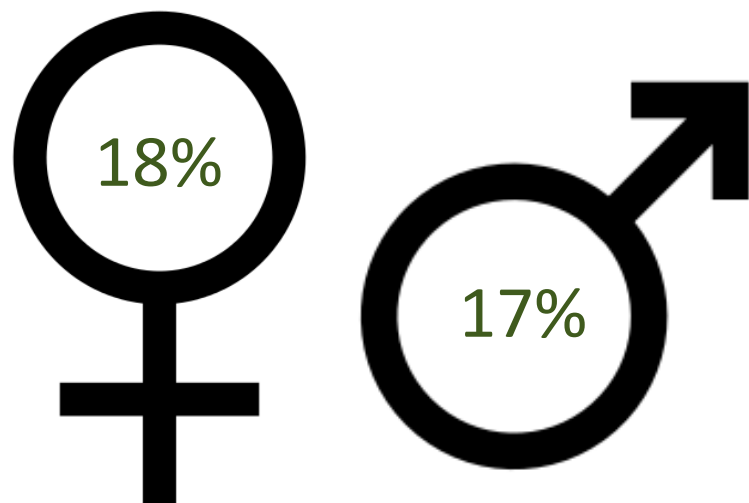
SSF's capital

27 years
↓
1834
research projects funded
=
15 billion SEK
funds paid out



Success rate – Equal opportunity

Overall approval rate for SSF, last 10 years.



Same rate between women and men

75% of applications are from men

In our panels: 44% females since 2007



Citation levels for funding agencies



Forskningsfinansiär	Medelcitering
Stiftelsen för strategisk forskning	1,66
Energimyndigheten	1,64
Formas	1,34
Vetenskapsrådet	1,31
VINNOVA	1,27
Forte	1,25
Genomsnitt	1,42

Average for Sweden	1,14
---------------------------	-------------

Modes of SSF Support

- **Research Environments ex:**
 - Industrial Research centres
 - PhD schools
 - Infrastructure
- **Groups (ex: Framework Programs)** ← **Substituted by Multidisciplinary research centres in the future**
- **Individuals ex:**
 - FFL
 - Industrial PhD
 - Research Institute PhD
 - Strategic Mobility
 - Research Infrastructure Fellows

More information can be found in the extra slides in this presentation

Future Research Leaders

- Goal: Elevate the research leaders of the future
- How: Concentrated efforts for young excellence. Mandatory leadership programme (MSEK 240 for 16 grants) , 15 MSEK /project for 5 years
- Who: Successful individual with leadership potential
- When- under 2024 (every 3rd year)



Support for researchers applying for EU funding (under construction)

- Goal: Increase the number of successful applications from Swedish researchers to the EU's research program Horizon Europe.
- How: funding 300 000-500 000 kr
- Who: Researchers who plan to apply within EU calls
- When- December 2021
- Check the SSF website for more information



Coming: Sweden-Israel Lise Meitner Grants

- Projected opening of the call: Winter/Spring 2021/2022
- Marine and space science & technology
 - Water and energy generation, storage, and conversion technologies
 - Molecular biology, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals
 - Software, communications and internet, autonomous vehicles
 - Advanced materials for sensors, electronics, and optoelectronics
 - Sustainable and environmental-friendly materials/green chemistry.
- SSF & MOST contributes equal amounts to the funding (*SSF: up to 30 MSEK*)
- Funded projects: ~8 depending on budget
- Collaborative projects with 2-4 PI:s per country
- Duration of projects: 5 years
- Eligible costs: junior salary, exchange, travel, joint seminar, conference, workshop



Evaluation Process

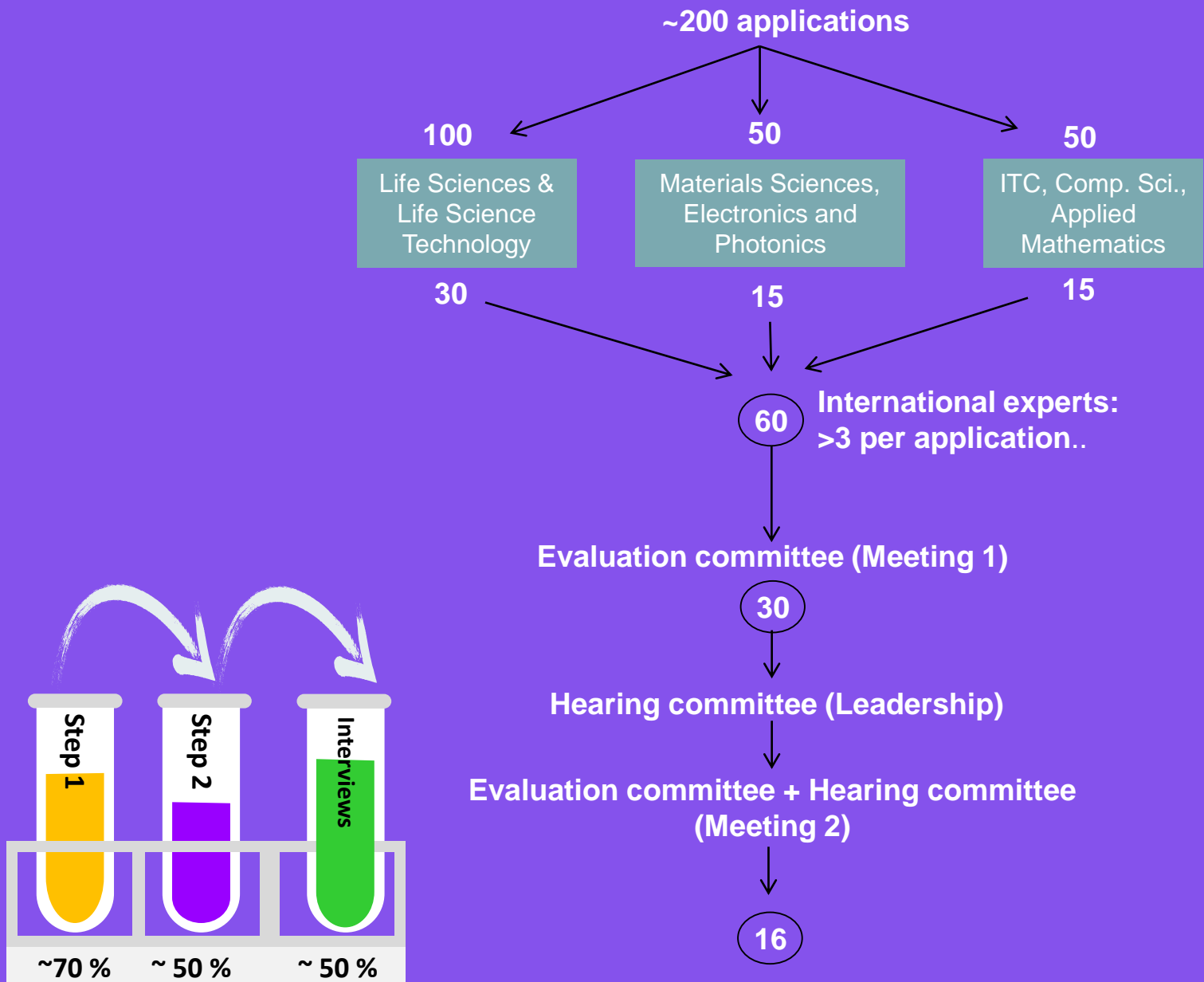


Evaluation Process (ex Framework Program)

- Evaluation Committee ~10 persons (equality in gender, region, sector, etc)
- Evaluation committee meeting 1 (1 primary, 2 secondary evaluators per application)
 - Scope
 - Strategic relevance (clinical relevance)
 - Cannot compete in the final stage (or incomplete application)
- International Peer Review (3 external evaluators per application)
- Evaluation committee meeting 2- final evaluation
- Funding decision– statements to all applicants



Evaluation process (ex. Future Research Leaders FFL)



Call opens: December 2018 Closes: April 2019

Step 1: August 2019

Step 2: Oktober 2019

Interviews: November 2019

Results: February 2020

Typical mistakes?

- *Not reading the call carefully*

- Ex. (ITM): “Proposals may be submitted by an applicant who is a researcher, engineer or staff scientist that is committed to the project during the entire grant period.”
- “Length of publication list and impact factor will not be determining factors.”

- *Don't start the application process @13.00 hours*



Typical mistakes?

- *Scientific excellence is not enough*

- *Let SSF select the most strategic application*

- *Let's convince the reader*

Exempel: Bedömningsunderlag



- Ex. (ID): Company sends in many applications in same call.
- Ex. (Materials Call, nanoscience):
Will solve all the problems in the world.





Some Advice

1. Understand the process.

Read carefully the call text

2. Start early

You will need lots of time for refining and revising the main idea before you are ready to submit

3. Reserve several weeks for writing.

You will need lots of time for collecting data, shaping the story, and checking the references.

4. Get plenty of feedback.

Your proposal will first be reviewed from people in your discipline, but not necessarily from people in your field.

5. Clear title, clear abstract, structure and plan.

6. Identify the challenges in your field

No one believes that what you propose has never been done before

☐ Why the project?

- What is the problem that the project will solve
- Why is it relevant
- What impact the project will make in science, society etc.

☐ Why now?

☐ Why you?

THANK YOU

For more information

<https://strategiska.se/en/call-for-proposals/>



EXTRA SLIDES- Our calls



IRC – Industrial Research Centres

Goal: Needs-driven research, with real impact in the medium - long term

How: Large centres (MSEK 100 / centre), Industry persons in programme board

Who: Multidisciplinary team in academia collaborating with industry/society



PhD Schools

- Goal: Supporting PhD:s in strategically important areas
- How: Concerted efforts for PhD education (MSEK 220), common course package
- Who: PI:s from several collaborating universities



Framework grants

- Goal: Strategic research with impact in the long term. Nudge the system through converging research.
- How: Concentrated efforts within selected strategic areas (MSEK 300 for 10 grants)
- Who: 2-4 senior PI:s with complementary expertise



Industrial PhD:s

- Goal: Supporting strategically relevant PhD:s
- How: PhD-student must be employed by industry (MSEK 30 for 12 grants)
- Who: PhD-supervisors in academia and in industry



Strategic mobility

- Goal: Reducing threshold between academia and industry
- How: Personal mobility in both directions (MSEK 15 for 15 grants)
- Who: Individuals who wants to transfer knowledge in both directions.
Engaged home & host environment.



Research Infrastructure Fellows

- Goal: Unlock research infrastructure potential
- How: Promote key persons committed to research infrastructures (MSEK 225 for 15 grants)
- Who: Individuals with fullhearted infrastructure engagement

