

Research to benefit society

About the Swedish Research Council and our mission

Stefan Bertilsson
Secretary General for Natural Sciences



**The Swedish Research Council
enables research of the highest
quality and plays a central role in
the Swedish research system.**

The research and innovation system in Sweden

Parliament

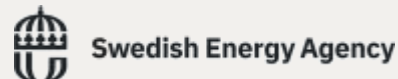
Government

Ministry of
Education and
Research

Ministry of
Climate and
Enterprise

Ministry of
Health and
Social Affairs

Other
government
ministries



Other
foundations

The role of the Swedish Research Council

Research funding

As Sweden's largest government research funding body for higher education institutions and research institutes, we play a central role in the research system.



Research infrastructure

We enable researchers to access advanced research infrastructure.



Research policy

We analyse the conditions for research, evaluate research, and advise the government on future research policy.



Research communications

We coordinate and develop communication on the importance, outcomes, and conditions of research.



Preconditions for research of the highest quality

- A long-term approach to funding of research and research infrastructure
- A high degree of internationalisation
- Access to advanced research infrastructure.
- Attractive research environments and research careers to the best researchers
- Good research culture
- Gender equality in the entire research system
- Society's trust in research
- Interaction between researchers and the surrounding society



Four areas that strengthen the quality of research

Long-term funding



Prioritisation and funding of infrastructure



Safeguarding the freedom and autonomy of research



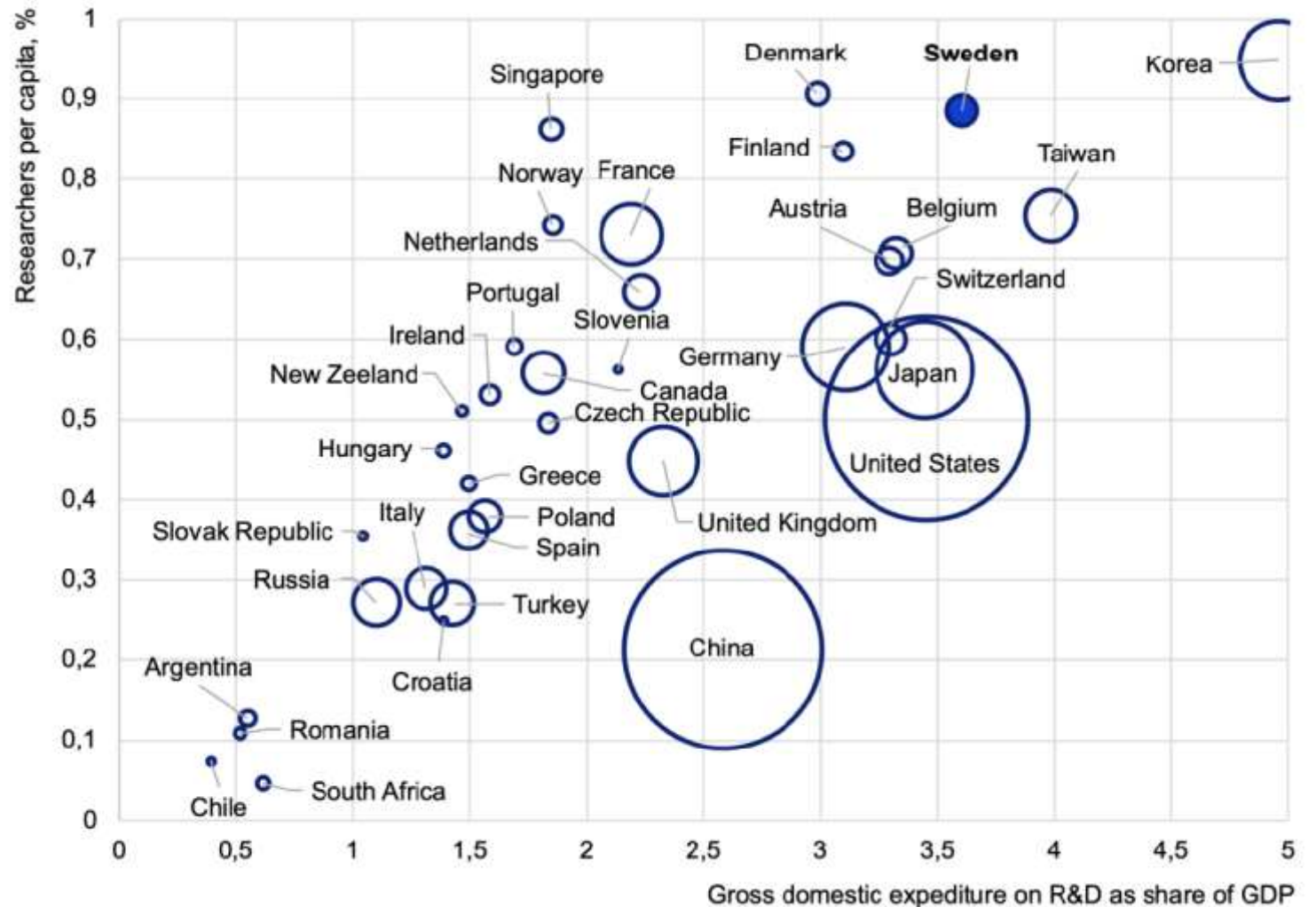
Good prerequisites for the best researchers



Sweden's R&D in international comparison

R&D as a percentage of GDP in 2023 in relation to number of researchers per thousand inhabitants.

The sizes of the circles illustrate the total R&D expenditure.



Funding research of the highest scientific quality

- Open competition where the best research ideas are rewarded
- Efficient, clearly defined processes
- Peer review for highest research quality
- Researchers on subject advisory boards, councils and committees



8,9

billion SEK

7,500

applications

8

**principles for
assessment**

900

**review panel
members**

75%

**to researcher-initiated
research**

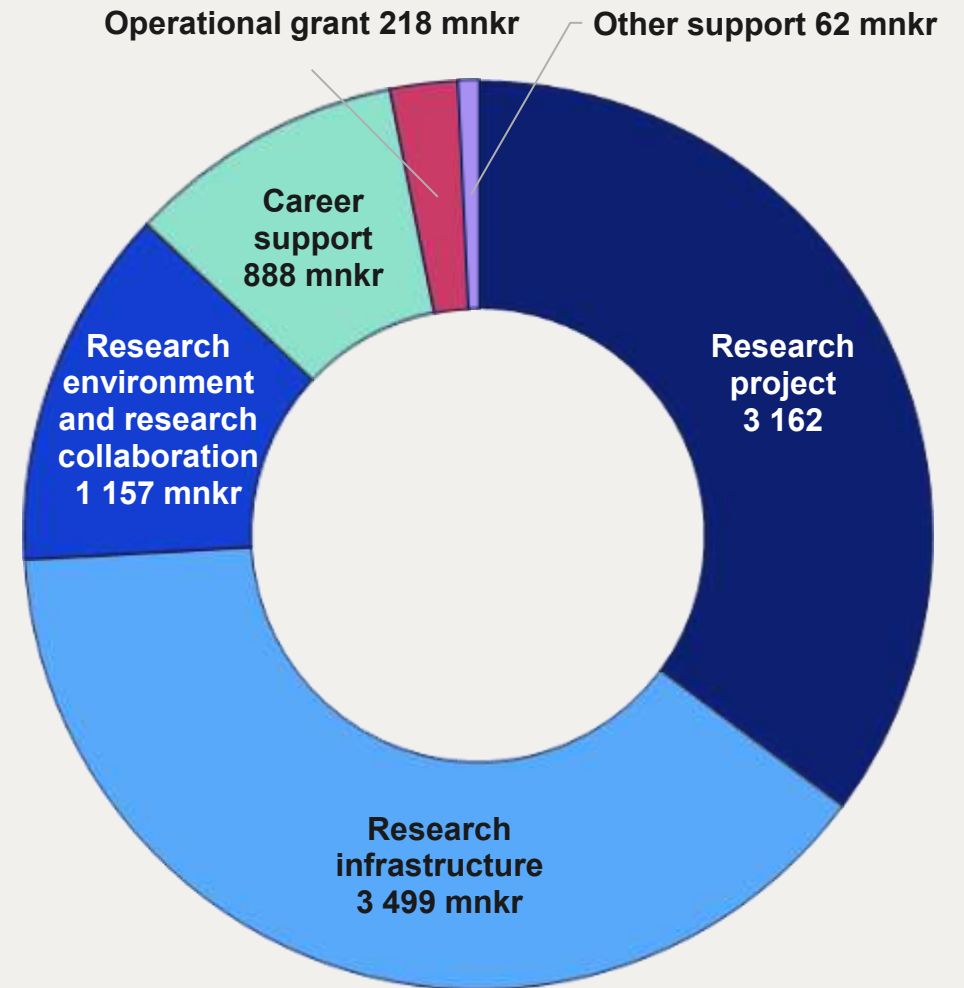
Type of research funding

- **Research project funding** – support to one or more researchers to carry out a specific research project
- **Career support funding** – support for individual researchers to improve their academic career opportunities
- **Research environment and research collaboration funding** – support to a research objective or a research area in a long-term perspective
- **Operational grant funding** – support to activities that support research on a national or international level
- **Research infrastructure funding** – support for construction, operation, and decommissioning of national research infrastructures and Swedish participation in international infrastructures
- **Grant for research communication** – support to researchers to plan, implement and evaluate communication activities.

Distribution of grant forms 2025

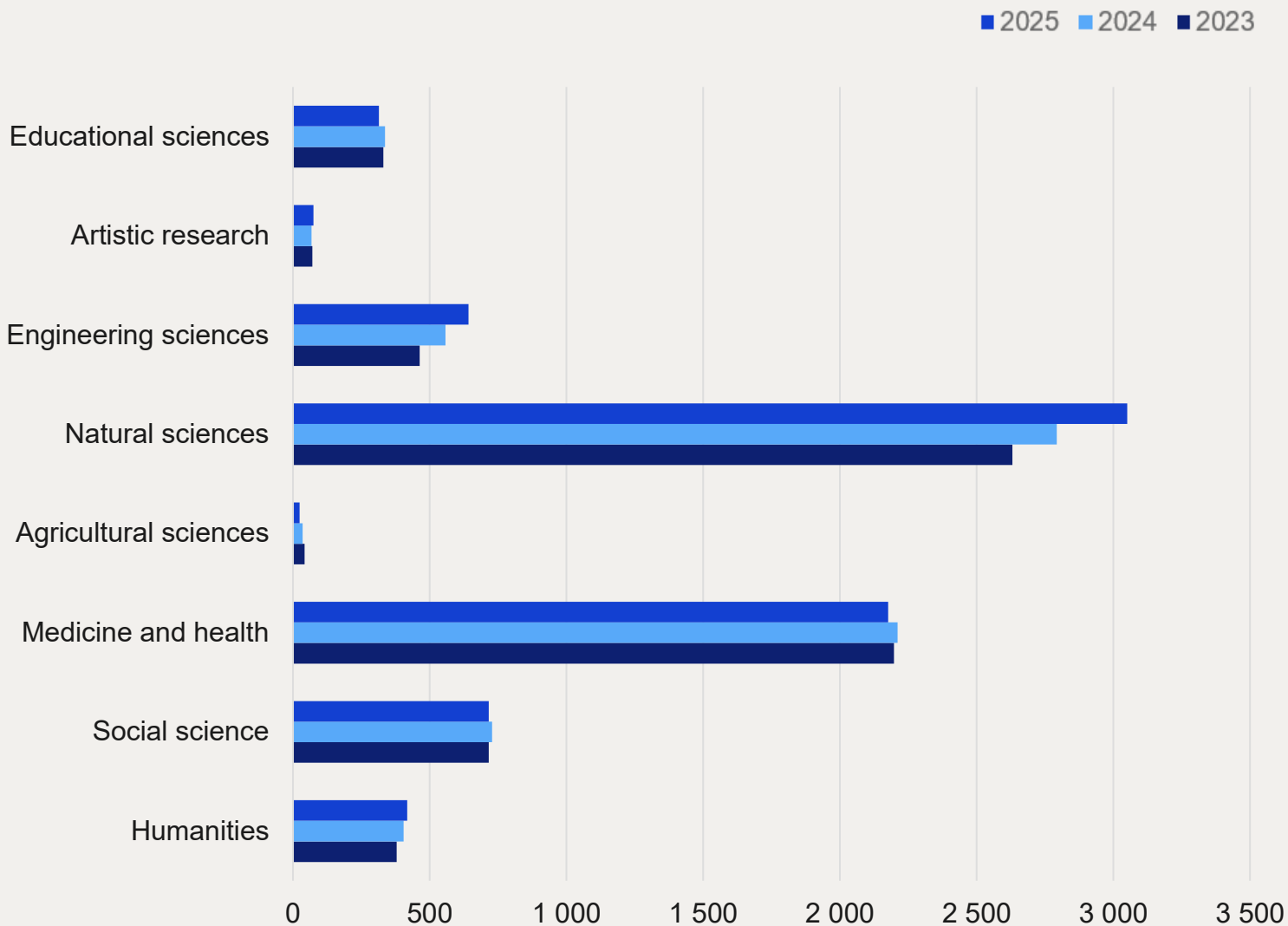
The Swedish Research Council finances just over a tenth of the research at higher education institutions.

Distributed research funding 2025:
8.9 billion SEK



Distribution of research funding

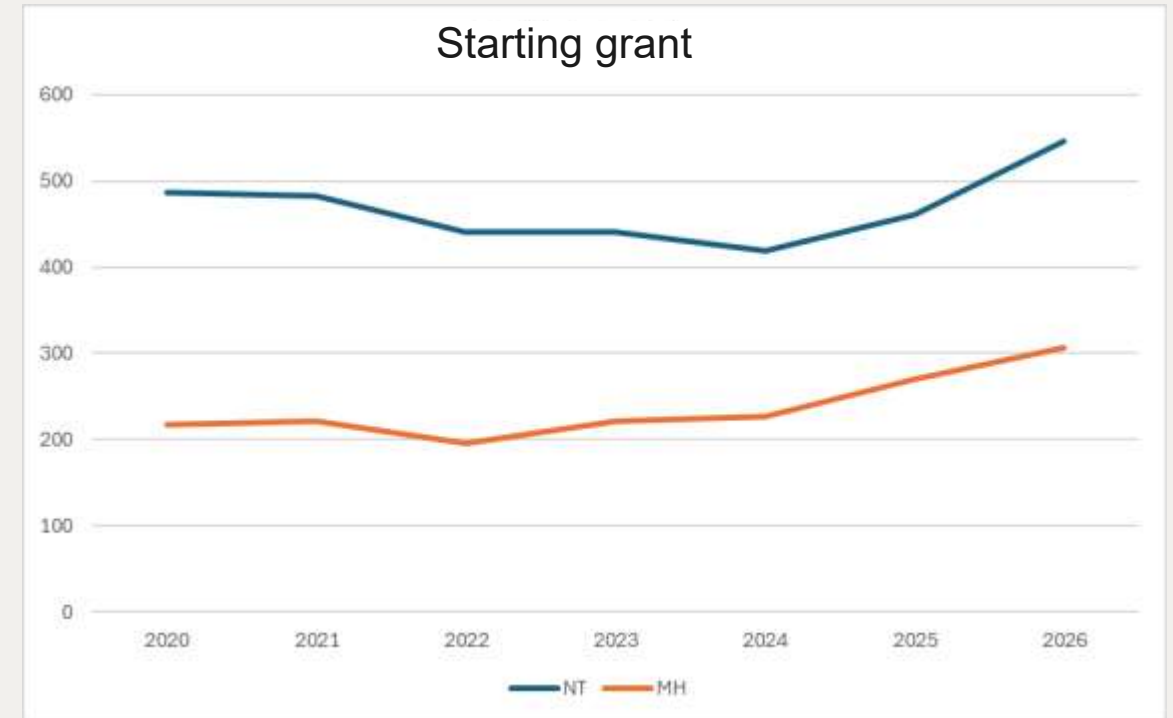
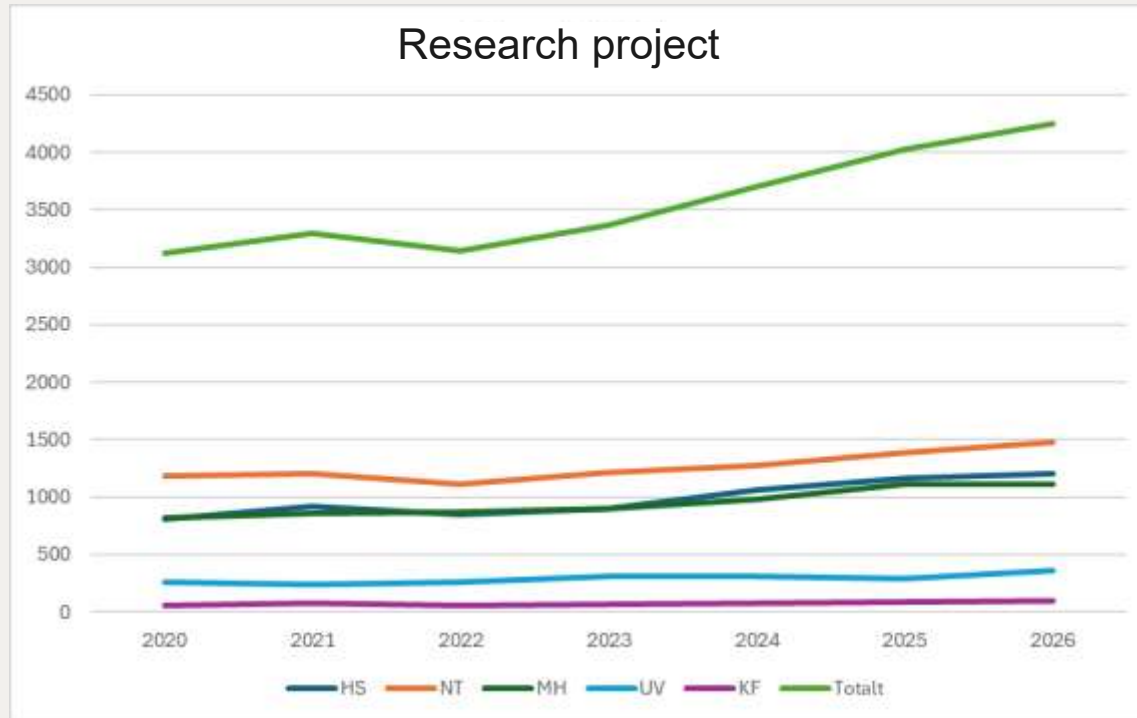
Amounts in million SEK for the period 2023-2025.



Review panels (revised from 2021)

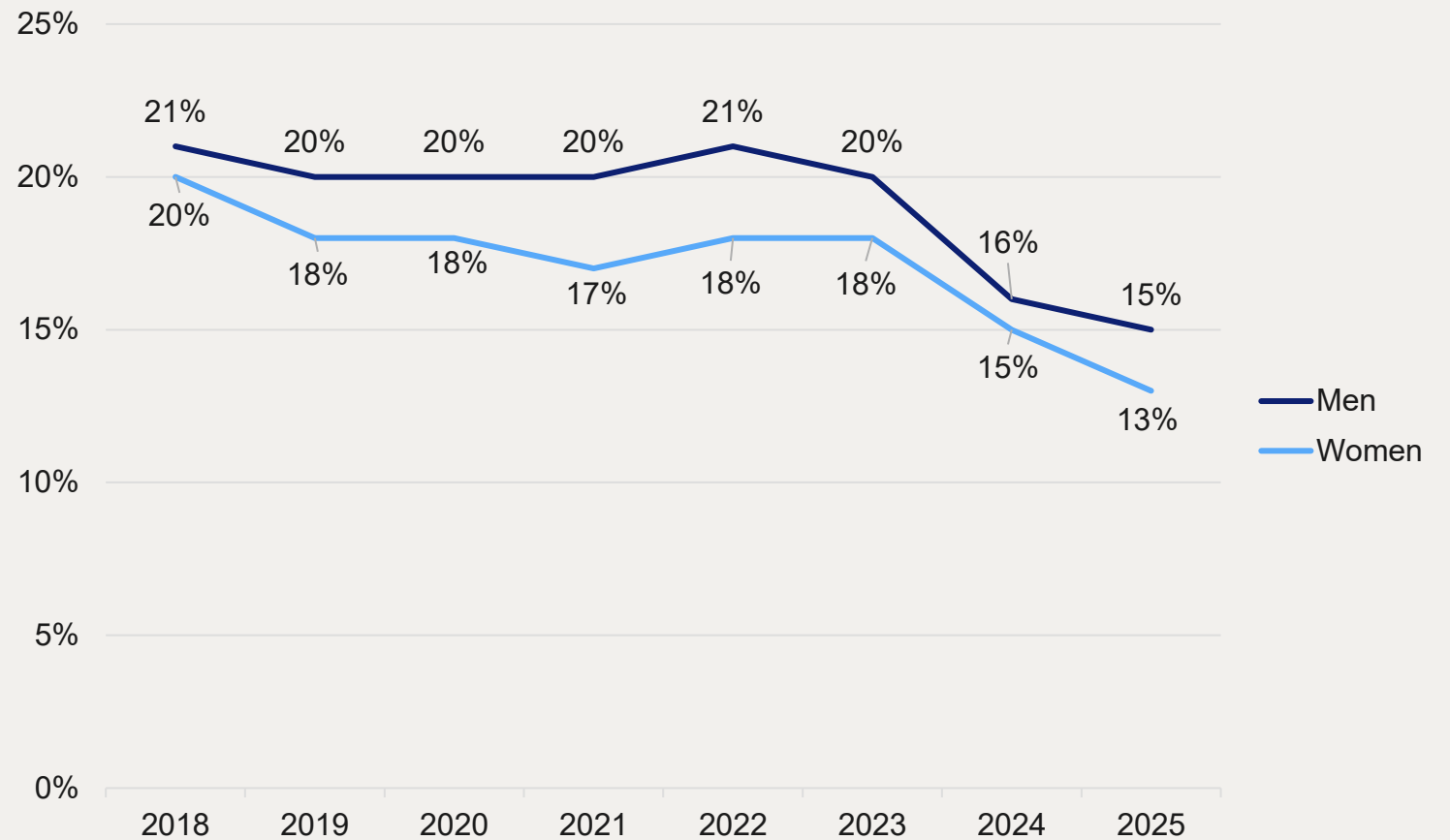
- NT-A: Atmospheric, Aquatic, and Soil Sciences
- NT-B: Geology, Geochemistry, and Geophysics
- NT-C: Evolutionary Biology and Genetics
- NT-D: Ecology and Organism Biology
- NT-E: Cell Biology, Developmental Biology, and Microbiology
- NT-F: Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Structural Biology
- NT-G: Analytical, Physical, and Theoretical Chemistry
- NT-H: Inorganic, Materials, and Organic Chemistry
- NT-I: Materials Science and Engineering
- NT-J: Bioprocess Technology, Chemical Engineering, and Environmental Engineering
- NT-K: Applied and Engineering Physics
- NT-L: Astronomy and Subatomic Physics – Since 2025 also space physics,
- NT-M: Physics of Light and Matter -Note small change see above
- NT-N: Mechanical Engineering
- NT-O: Biomedical Engineering
- NT-P: Systems and Electrical Engineering
- NT-Q: Computer Science
- NT-R: Computational Mathematics, Data Science, and Statistics
- NT-S: Mathematics

Increased number of applications



Approval rate 2018–2025

Average approval rate for
researcher-initiated project
grants across all subject areas



Overall responsibility for research infrastructure

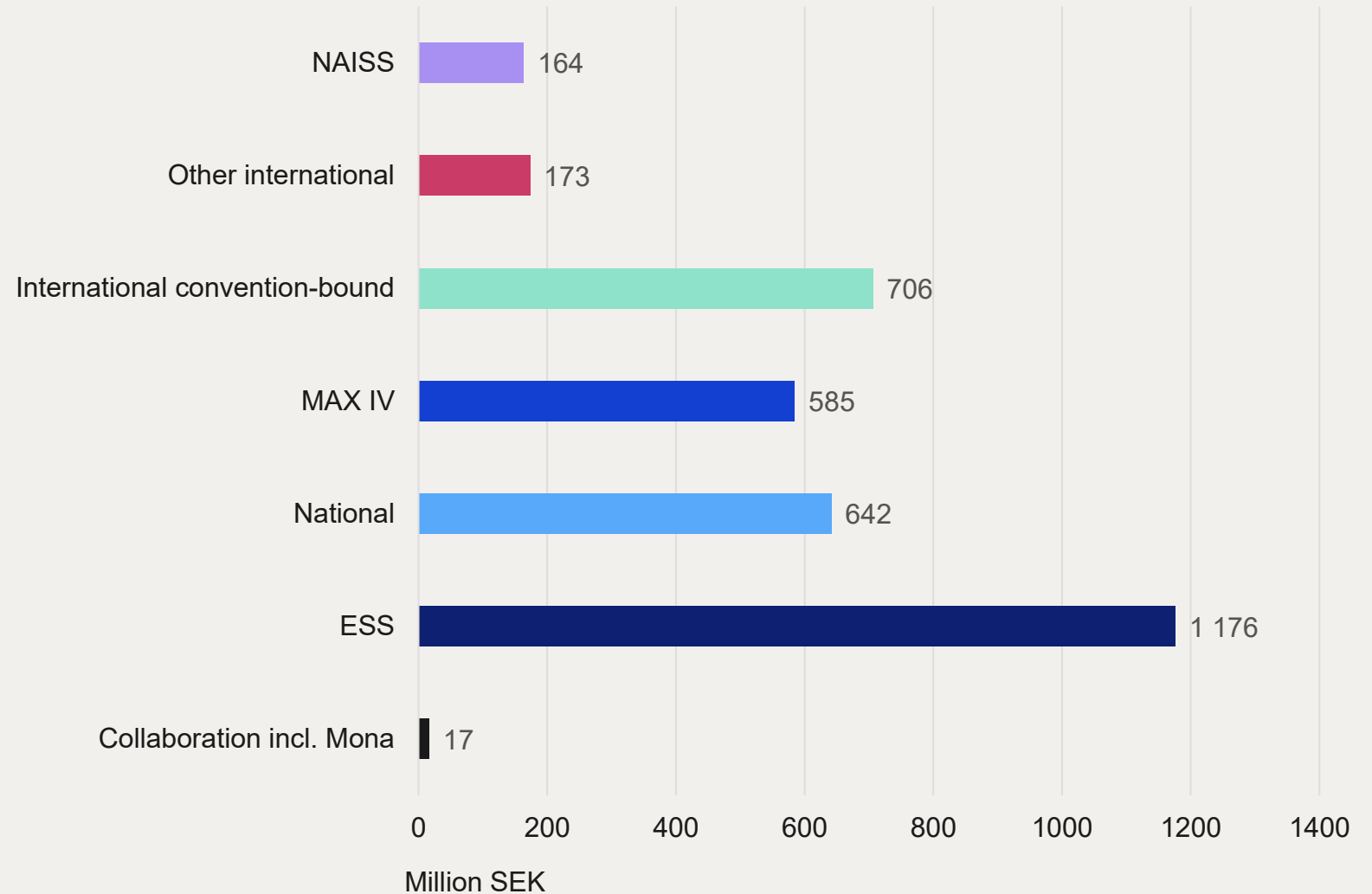
- Provide funding for national research infrastructures
- Fund memberships of international infrastructures and organisations
- Develop strategies and plans for Sweden's long-term needs for national and international research infrastructure
- Operate our own research infrastructure: university data networks and within register-based research
- Monitor and evaluate



EISCAT's radar station outside Kiruna.

Support for research infrastructure and tools

3.5 billion SEK in grants for major infrastructures in 2025.



Analyses and evaluations

Analyses

- Government assignments
- System analyses
- Thematic areas

Evaluations

- Special initiatives
- Subject evaluations



We communicate, inspire and develop

Contribute to development

- Science Europe
- EUSEA och PCST
- CoARA
- Open Science
- EU Framework programme, ERA
- Reference group for communication

Disseminate research

- Forskning.se
- Journalisttjänsten
- Podd: För en klokare värld
- Swecris

Offer meeting places

- Forum för forskningskommunikation
- Curie/Curie Talks
- Offentliga samtal
- Network meetings

Support researchers to communicate

- Grant for research communication
- Coaching for researchers applying for ERC funding
- Framework for doctoral courses
- Lectures and workshops

International activities

- Internationalisation through our grants
- Stimulate researchers in Sweden to participate in EU's framework programs and promote international research collaboration through NCPs (National Contact Points) and NOS bodies (Nordic Office for Space Cooperation) in the Nordic region
- Fund collaboration within partnerships in the EU, the Nordic region, and through bilateral collaborations
- Fund and participate in the development of international infrastructure
- Provide support to the government in developing policy at the EU level

