



Article from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Sweden's national life sciences strategy and COVID-19

Published 12 November 2020

Sweden's national life sciences strategy was launched in late December 2019 to strengthen the long-term competitiveness of Sweden as a life sciences nation.

Life sciences contribute to improving health and quality of life of the population, ensuring economic prosperity, advancing the country as a leading knowledge nation and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Data-driven innovative solutions and scientific advances will have a fundamental impact on developments in prevention, diagnostics, treatment, monitoring, habilitation and rehabilitation, paving the way for personalised care – or precision medicine.

Sweden's research and innovation is of the highest international standard, and the life sciences industry is one of the nation's basic industries. However, international competition is intensifying. To harness the potential in the sector, a national life sciences strategy – setting out clear objectives and outlining a strategic and integrated approach – was seen as essential. Cross-sectoral collaboration between national, regional and local levels was regarded as a particularly important factor for regional responsibility for health care planning and delivery, and for coordinating and facilitating regional development.

Based on input from sector stakeholders, the Government outlined objectives in eight priority areas in which change was considered particularly important:

1. Structures for collaboration
2. Unlocking the potential of health data for use in research and innovation

3. Responsible, secure and ethical policy development
4. Integration of research and innovation into care delivery
5. Assistive technologies for increased independence, participation and health
6. Research and infrastructure
7. Skills supply, talent attraction and lifelong learning
8. International attractiveness and competitiveness

The COVID-19 pandemic, which struck shortly after the launch of Sweden's national life sciences strategy, has demonstrated the importance of life sciences and cross-sectoral collaboration in crisis management and societal resilience. The COVID-19 experience has also provided additional support for the relevance and timeliness of the strategy's eight priority areas.

The Government is firmly committed to ensuring that Sweden is an attractive investment destination in a global, digital and knowledge-based world by offering an environment that includes world-leading universities, an innovative and high-quality health care system and government agencies mandated to contribute to policy development and systemic innovation. The Life Sciences Office at the Government Offices connects the Government and sector stakeholders; these include the cross-sectoral health and life sciences innovation partnership programme and the health and life sciences partnership group, which advises the Life Sciences Office and the innovation partnership programme.



Article from Ministry of Education and Research

The Government's work in the area of education in response to the coronavirus

Published 30 March 2020 Updated 17 April 2020

With the outbreak of the coronavirus which causes the illness COVID-19, the Government is following developments carefully and is in continuous contact with the responsible authorities. The Government is taking the decisions that are necessary to help curb the spread of the coronavirus and combat the effects of the virus spreading through society. Below is a summary of the work being done in the policy areas of the Ministry of Education and Research.

To meet an increased need for training and transition in the labour market and to make it easier to study throughout the country, the Government has proposed initiatives including in adult education, liberal adult education and higher education.

A new act allows the Government to temporarily close preschools, schools, out-of-school centres and other educational activities. The act also gives the responsible entity the right to temporarily close an educational activity in some cases. There are currently no plans to close compulsory schools and preschools. The Government has made preparations to ensure – should the situation change – that care is available for children and pupils whose parents work in areas vital to society.

The Government has decided that schools that must be closed following a decision by an expert agency may adapt their educational activities to, for

example, remote or distance learning. It is recommended that Sweden's upper secondary schools, municipal adult education, vocational adult education and higher education institutions provide distance learning until further notice.

The Government considers that student loans that have been granted should not have to be paid back if no teaching is provided. To enable health and medical care students to work in the health care sector without their student aid being reduced, the Government proposes that the income ceiling for all those receiving student aid be temporarily removed in 2020.

The Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR) has decided that the Swedish Scholastic Aptitude Test will not be conducted in spring 2020. The Government is reviewing how this should be dealt with ahead of the autumn's intake.



Government Offices of Sweden

Article from Ministry of Education and Research

More teachers in classrooms

Published 09 May 2019

Listen to Matilda Ernkrans, Minister for Higher Education and Research, talk about her new role and how she wants to address important challenges.