



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

# Government invests in space – Esrange to have testbed

Published 09 July 2018

The Esrange Space Centre should remain a strategic resource for national and international research, and the Government and the Swedish Space Corporation (SSC) are therefore investing SEK 80 million in a new test facility at the centre in Kiruna.

"Esrange has enormous expertise and 50 years' experience working with sounding rockets and research balloons – naturally we must be involved in these rapid technological developments and try to attract high-tech activities to Sweden from both commercial and institutional actors around the world," says Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson.

It is not currently possible to test and develop reusable rockets in Europe. The market for launching small satellites is expanding, and demand for developed rocket technology is increasing.

This is why the Government and the SSC are now investing in a testbed for the development of in-demand technologies: reusable launch technology for small and large rockets, more environmentally friendly engines, test flights and satellite technology. It will also be possible to use the facility to demonstrate new components for space applications, for example.

"The launch of small satellites is a growing market with good prospects of creating new jobs and businesses. The Government is now investing SEK 60 million in the production of new technologies to allow rockets to be reused and launched several times," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation

Mikael Damberg.

The investment is in line with the Government's space strategy presented earlier this year, and will consist of SEK 60 million from central government and SEK 20 million from the SSC. The project will begin immediately, with a view to starting operational testing in the summer of 2019.

Sweden is prominent in space research and this, coupled with Eorange's geographical location in Kiruna, means that the facility can compete in the growing global market. A number of major projects on specific space technology areas in which Eorange's capacity could prove unique and significant are currently ongoing in Europe.

"Space activities are necessary for public services that use satellite data: weather forecasting, communication and navigation. They also contribute to knowledge and measures on the environment, climate change, forestry and agriculture, navigation, the state of the seas, and natural disasters. By investing in space, we can better understand the Earth," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

Government financing is regulated by the EU's state aid rules. The project is therefore dependent on state aid approval from the European Commission.



Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# New procedure for handling alleged research misconduct

Published 25 June 2018

Alleged research misconduct should not be investigated by research organisations themselves, but rather by the new independent Research Misconduct Board. This is the Government's proposal referred for consideration to the Council on Legislation.

"No one should ever need to doubt Swedish research, and no patient should ever risk being subjected to treatments that are the result of research fraud. The system we now propose involves creating greater clarity and legal certainty," says Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson.

The background to the proposal is the need for uniform rules to handle alleged research misconduct. It has also proven problematic for higher education institutions to investigate themselves while also protecting their own reputation. Even if such an investigation is conducted impeccably, the clash of interests may result in reduced confidence in both the investigation and the higher education institution.

This is why the Government is now proposing that a new national agency, the Research Misconduct Board, investigate when research misconduct – in the form of fabrication, falsification or plagiarism – is suspected. Investigations will be conducted in accordance with a clear regulatory framework.

Under the new act, researchers will be required to follow good scientific practice and the research organisation will be required to oversee this. The system will include public higher education institutions, central government

agencies, municipalities, county councils and private education providers.

The new act is based on the inquiry 'New procedures for promoting good practice and handling research misconduct' (SOU 2017:10). It is proposed that the act enter into force on 1 September 2019.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# Government wants to welcome US guest environment and climate researchers

Published 23 May 2018

Climate change is one of the Government's top-three issues, alongside jobs and education. The Government has adopted a guest researcher programme under which US environment and climate researchers can be invited to conduct research in Sweden for a period of up to three years.

"The Government gives high priority to climate change, and is concerned at the reduced importance of climate- and environment-related research in the US. Research is needed to chart the impact of climate change on society, develop adaptation measures, find effective measures to reduce emissions, and transition to a fossil-free circular economy," says Isabella Lövin, Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate.

"This programme can help strengthen our cooperation with the US in an area that we are seeing is growing. Sweden already conducts prominent research in this area, but through this programme we can bring in more highly competent researchers," says Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister for Higher Education and Research.

The research policy bill, presented in the second half of last year, earmarked funds to tackle various societal challenges. One of these is climate change and the environment. The programme is not just a Swedish contribution to international environment and climate research – it will also boost Swedish research in this area. Marshalling resources and expertise through

international research cooperation is often an effective way to produce results and obtain a good overview of an area.



Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# How ESS will lead the research community – the Government launches a new strategy for the Lund facility

Published 17 May 2018

“Advanced research in materials and life sciences is essential for tackling our major social challenges. ESS and MAX IV in Lund are two internationally unique research infrastructure facilities. But to become an internationally leading centre, we need clearer objectives, more efficient coordination and an overarching vision. This is why the Government has drawn up an ESS strategy,” says Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson.

Energy, food, pharmaceutical products and packaging are some of the important fields of research in which the European Spallation Source (ESS) and MAX IV could provide scientific breakthroughs. In a written communication to the Riksdag, the Government has now presented a national strategy for Sweden's work at the research facilities. The strategy will strengthen action, increase and broaden engagement, and create long-term conditions for relevant actors – higher education institutions, research funders and the business sector. The Government will follow up the strategy through instructions to relevant government agencies.

## What the Government wants:

- Research at ESS and MAX IV will help us tackle our major societal and

environmental challenges.

- ESS will be a climate-smart facility for world-leading materials research.
- ESS and MAX IV efforts should be coordinated to ensure increased synergy effects.
- Knowledge-building and skills supply will be reinforced in fields that are relevant for ESS and MAX IV.
- An ESS Secretariat and a strategic council (advising the Government) will be established for better national coordination of Swedish efforts.
- Increased participation from the business sector in ESS and MAX IV.
- ESS and MAX IV will help to increase interest in educational programmes in natural sciences and technology.
- ESS and MAX IV will help promote Sweden as a knowledge nation.

The strategy is based on the Government's research policy objectives. The ambition is to strengthen independent research while linking research policy to the global social challenges that are relevant to our society – the climate and environment, health and increasing digital transformation.





Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Government launches new space strategy

Published 09 May 2018

“Swedish aerospace activities have a strong position in the world, thanks to research excellence and successful industry. We will continue on this path. Investment in space activities is ultimately an investment in our planet,” says Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson.

The Government is now presenting a national strategy to strengthen Sweden's space activities, centred on benefits for society.

## Space research

Swedish space research is outstanding. For this to remain true, funds need to be used effectively. Collaboration between the Swedish National Space Board, the Swedish Research Council, the Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning and Vinnova must therefore increase in space research, climate and environment research and innovation in the business sector. The Swedish National Space Board and the Swedish Research Council will also work together to spread information about space research so as to increase the recruitment of women and men to science and technology.

Activities at Esrange will continue to be modernised to serve as a strategic resource for national and international research, development, demonstration, test activities and other space-related activities. The facility also has the potential to develop into a rocket launch test facility.

Space researchers should have access to appropriate infrastructure, such as

large-scale measuring instruments, either in space or on the ground.

## Space technology

Large amounts of data are received from the many satellites in orbit around Earth. Space data can contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the Global Goals, for example, by detecting plastic waste in the ocean, or assessing the extent of damage caused by war or natural disasters, or of crop failures. Through international cooperation, Swedish space activities will contribute to global environmental and climate monitoring.

Sweden's expanded presence in space requires tailored regulations. The Government will therefore review the Space Activities Act.

## Space industry

The high functionality required of space industry products in the extreme conditions of space pushes the boundaries of innovation and manufacturing. Knowledge acquired can then be used in other areas, such as the aerospace and automotive industry, digitalisation, automation and materials technology, which in turn will strengthen Sweden's competitiveness.

The high cost of space systems infrastructure necessitates international cooperation. The Government therefore aims for Swedish participation in major international space projects and ESA's space activities.

## Why the Government is investing in space

Swedish space activities are a strategic asset for the development of the knowledge society. It is important that they be conducted in a way that promotes research, development and innovation, and contributes to the creation of high-tech jobs. This will increase Sweden's competitiveness.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Minister presents new space strategy at a press briefing in Solna

Published 08 May 2018

Helene Hellmark Knutsson will present the Government's strategy for Swedish space activities at a press briefing at the Swedish National Space Board in Solna. Media representatives are welcome to attend.

**Tid:** 9 maj 2018 at 11:00 to 12:00

**Plats:** Swedish National Space Board, Hemvärnsgatan 15, Solna

Please contact Sam Assadi if you wish to attend the press briefing.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Research minister to take part in Swedish-American life science conference in Washington DC

Published 10 April 2018

On 11–12 April, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson will be in the US to take part in the Swedish-American Life Science Summit (SALSS).

At the conference, Ms Knutsson will deliver a speech on the importance of education for life science.

SALSS is a network and an annual conference that brings together Swedish and American researchers, business leaders and financiers in the life science sector. The aim is to stimulate entrepreneurship and facilitate research and innovation through investments, exchanges of knowledge and partnership between Sweden and the US.

The conference will be held at House of Sweden in Washington DC.



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Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Brexit in focus when Helene Hellmark Knutsson visits the UK

Published 19 March 2018

On 19–20 March, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson will visit Oxford and London. The purpose of her visit is to meet UK Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation Sam Gyimah to discuss forms of future research collaboration and exchanges in the life sciences and other research infrastructure in the shadow of Brexit.

In addition to discussions with UK government representatives, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will visit the Francis Crick Institute, a world-leading centre of biomedical research. She will also visit Oxford University, where she will meet Swedish students to discuss strategic issues concerning collaboration between UK and Swedish higher education institutions.

## Programme

### **Monday 19 March**

Visit to the Harwell Campus, an innovation centre south of Oxford

Meeting with Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University Louise Richardson and meeting with Swedish students studying at Oxford University

### **Tuesday 20 March**

Visit to the Francis Crick Institute and meeting with the Director of the Francis Crick Institute, Paul Nurse

Meeting with Mr Sam Gyimah, Minister of State for Universities, Science,  
Research and Innovation



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# European Space Agency visit focuses on Sweden's space industry

Published 30 November 2017

The focus will be on the Swedish space industry as State Secretary Karin Röding and a Swedish business delegation visit the European Space Agency (ESA) in the Netherlands on Thursday 7 December.

The aim of the visit is to meet ESA representatives, study the facilities, gather information about planned research programmes and discuss business and cooperation opportunities for Swedish businesses in the space industry. In connection with the visit, Ms Röding will also meet Franco Ongaro, Head of the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC).

"The space industry is very important to Sweden, and we have huge expertise in this area. Naturally, we want to strengthen our cooperation and form closer contacts with the ESA so as to identify future cooperation opportunities for Sweden's space industry. The visit is also an important opportunity to see and learn more about current space research, and to highlight the contribution that Swedish research can make," says Ms Röding.

This visit is part of a broader initiative on the theme Capturing European Space Opportunities being pursued in 2017 by Business Sweden and the Embassy of Sweden in the Netherlands, along with ESA Business Incubation Centre Sweden, the Swedish National Space Board, Arctic Business Incubator, Uppsala Innovation Centre, Innovatum and the ESA. The visit was preceded by a number of information activities in Sweden about the ESA and the opportunities available to Swedish businesses in the space industry. The initiative is also intended to link up the Swedish space industry

with key European actors in the space sector to discuss future cooperation, business and innovation funding opportunities.





Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson visits the United States

Published 23 November 2017

Urban planning, life sciences, top-class higher education institutions and a meeting with a Nobel laureate – several interesting topics will be on the agenda when Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister for Higher Education and Research, travels to the United States on 27–29 November.

The purpose of the visit is to gather knowledge and inspiration from the major universities MIT and Harvard in Cambridge, but also to highlight Sweden as an interested party for exchange and cooperation in research and higher education.

Ms Hellmark Knutsson will visit the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard to exchange experiences on research in the life sciences area. There will also be a presentation of research on smart cities at Senseable City Lab – a MIT centre that focuses on urban planning and social innovation.

The agenda also includes a meeting with Michael Rosbash, who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine this year for the discovery of the biological clock that plants and animals use to control their daily rhythm.

In New York, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will participate in a panel discussion at a lunch seminar at Columbia University, with the aim of attracting more US students to Sweden.

The delegation includes representatives from KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Stockholm Chamber of Commerce.

Please contact Jens Petersen for more information.

## Programme

### Monday 27 November: Boston

09.00–10.30 Meeting with Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard on life sciences

11.00–11.30 Presentation of MIT and the cooperation with Sweden

11.30–12.00 Architecture and urban planning: MIT and KTH

12.00–14.00 Education, research and future cities: MIT and KTH

14.00–14.45 Interdisciplinary education and research, Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL)

15.00–16.00 Discussion on cooperation and joint projects, International Science and Engineering Initiative (MISTI)

### Tuesday 28 November: Boston

08.30–10.00 Meeting with Swedish students and researchers from MIT, and round tour of the campus

13.30–14.30 Historical round tour of Harvard campus

15.00–15.30 Meeting with Brandeis Professor Michael Rosbash, Nobel Laureate, Physiology or Medicine, 2017

### Wednesday 29 November: New York

09.00 Meeting with Ellis Rubinstein, President and Chief Executive Officer of New York Academy of Sciences

12.00 Seminar at Columbia University to attract more US students to study in Sweden



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson to visit Indonesia and Singapore

Published 03 October 2017

International cooperation between higher education institutions and world-class teacher training programmes are the focus as Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson travels to Indonesia and Singapore on 3–6 October.

In Indonesia, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will meet Minister for Technology, Research and Higher Education Muhammad Nasir to discuss international cooperation on higher education and research. She will also visit a university, and meet students and representatives of the Indonesian Academy of Sciences and other actors in research and innovation. The trip is a follow-up of the State Visit in May 2017.

Singapore's teacher training programmes are outstanding, and the country tops international assessments of student achievement. Ms Hellmark Knutsson will meet Minister for Education Ong Ye Kung and visit the National Institute of Education to learn about Singapore's work on teacher recruitment and lifelong learning, and the reform efforts behind these. She will also meet the Science Council of Singapore and visit the prominent Nanyang Technological University, where Swede Professor Bertil Andersson is President.

Ms Hellmark Knutsson will travel with a delegation consisting of the Swedish Research Council and representatives of six Swedish higher education institutions.

Please contact Helena Paues for more information.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of the Environment

# Research cooperation the focus as Helene Hellmark Knutsson receives China's research minister

Published 31 August 2017

On Thursday 31 August, Minister for Higher Education and Research, Helene Hellmark Knutsson, is hosting a meeting with Wan Gang, Chinese Minister of Science and Technology. A cooperation agreement on research will be signed during the meeting.

Sweden has considerable research cooperation with China, and is one of the most attractive countries for Chinese students who want to study abroad. The aim of the meeting is to review Swedish-Chinese research cooperation in areas including technology and renewable energy. The agenda also includes discussions on future cooperation in, for example, life sciences.

During the meeting, the ministers will witness the signing of a cooperation agreement between the Swedish agency for innovation, Vinnova, and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology. The agreement concerns research cooperation on, for example, traffic safety, life sciences, ageing and climate change. The visit follows Ms Hellmark Knutsson's visit to China in June.

Later in the day, Minister Wan will meet with Ibrahim Baylan, Minister for Policy Coordination and Energy, for a presentation of Swedish system solutions in the area of environmental and energy technology. The presentation will take place at Smart City Sweden in Hammarby Sjöstad, Stockholm.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson to lead higher education delegation to China

Published 09 June 2017

Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson will visit Beijing and Shanghai in China on 11–16 June. The aim of the visit is to highlight Sweden as a nation of education and research, and to promote the internationalisation of higher education and research.

Ms Hellmark Knutsson and a Swedish delegation representing the higher education sector will have bilateral meetings with China's Minister of Education, Chen Baosheng, and Minister of Science and Technology, Wan Gang. A memorandum of understanding on education and research will be signed during the visit.

"China is the Asian country that sends most students to Sweden, and we enjoy research cooperation with China at many different levels. The memorandum of understanding is an important step in further strengthening relations and stimulating mobility between our two countries. International exchange is also extremely important for an innovative and export-dependent country such as Sweden, as well as to strengthen the quality of higher education and research," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

Sweden is a world leader in research and innovation linked to the life sciences. To spread awareness in China of the Swedish life science sector, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will hold a press conference and a speech at the China-Sweden Health Forum 2017, on the theme of health care and cooperation in that area.

The programme in Beijing also includes meetings with the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, the Peking Union Medical College, the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the Chinese Academy of Engineering. The visit will conclude in Shanghai, where Ms Hellmark Knutsson and the delegation will meet researchers and students at Fudan University and visit the Nordic Centre, which works to promote cooperation between researchers and students from the Nordic region and China. The minister and delegation will also meet representatives of Tongji University and Shanghai Jiao Tong University.



Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Focus on space industry when Helene Hellmark Knutsson visits US

Published 19 May 2017

On 21–25 May, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson will travel to California, USA, to visit world-leading actors in research and industry in the field of space. The aim is to learn about the latest developments in the space sector and collect knowledge for the Government's work to produce a Swedish space strategy. During her trip, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will also visit NASA's Ames Research Centre and the Mojave Air and Space Port.

"I think it's important that we have an innovation and research capability in this area. The Swedish State invests some SEK 1.7 billion per year in space activities and work is now being started to produce a Swedish space strategy. The aim is to get a holistic view of the social benefit for Sweden and to explore the potential for Swedish research and innovation capacity," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

Space is an important arena for research on climate and environmental issues, as well as more technically oriented research and medical research. Space applications and space-based systems also have a key role in various public services and business sector activities, such as navigation, weather forecasts, communications, financial services, agriculture and forestry, environmental monitoring, materials development and transport.

Work is also under way in Sweden to investigate the possibilities of

expanding the capability of the Swedish Esrange Space Centre outside Kiruna so that it is able to launch small satellites into orbit. During her visit to the US, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will therefore visit several leading actors in the field, including Millennium Space Systems, Boeing and Planet, where there will be a guided tour of the area where the CubSat mini-satellite is constructed.

During her trip, Ms Knutsson will visit:

- Nasa Ames Research Centre
- Mojave Air and Space Port
- Millennium Space Systems
- Boeing Satellite Development Centre
- Planet
- The Aerospace Corporation
- A lunch seminar at the Nordic Innovation House
- Institute for the Future
- Stanford University





Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Collaborating for knowledge – for society’s challenges and strengthened competitiveness

Published 28 November 2016 Updated 28 November 2016

The Government today presented the research policy bill ‘Collaborating for knowledge – for society’s challenges and strengthened competitiveness’ to the Riksdag. The bill presents the Government’s view on the direction of research policy with a ten-year perspective, focusing in particular on measures in 2017–2020. Important cornerstones of the bill include increased basic appropriations to higher education institutions, initiatives in research linked to global societal challenges and increased resources to strengthen Sweden’s innovative capacity.

"The name of the bill attempts to capture the direction the Government wants to see. It's a matter of increased collaboration among higher education institutions, the business sector and society as a whole with the aim of meeting our major societal challenges and strengthening our competitiveness. There has previously been overconfidence in political ability to identify leading research to produce quick results. The Government instead considers that it is important to create good and long-term conditions for researchers, and research, to develop the foremost research," says Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson.

The goal for research policy is for Sweden to be one of the world's foremost research and innovation countries and a leading knowledge nation, where

high quality research, higher education and innovation leads to society's development and welfare, the business sector's competitiveness and responds to the societal challenges we face, both in Sweden and around the world.

In the autumn budget, the Government announced an increase in the appropriations for research and innovation of over SEK 3 billion until 2020. The Government is continuing to strengthen Sweden as a knowledge nation by means of the measures proposed in the research policy bill.

One starting point of the bill is to safeguard free research, at the same time as research policy is linked to global and national societal challenges that are relevant to our society. Research on climate, health and life sciences, as well as digitalisation, will therefore be prioritised in the future.

The Swedish Research Council's research appropriation will be increased to focus on research in the humanities and social sciences, and special initiatives will be made to increase quality in schools through practically based research and an increased scientific foundation in teacher and preschool teacher education programmes.

To enable higher education institutions throughout the country to take greater and long-term responsibility for the development of research, the Government intends to gradually increase the basic appropriations to research and third-cycle education. Distribution of the increase in basic appropriations will take account of collaboration aspects.

The Government is strengthening gender equality with a number of measures, including new and more ambitious recruitment targets for professors. Conditions for young researchers will be improved and career paths more clearly defined to promote mobility. Career development positions will become more uniform and be advertised in open competition at national level and, where possible, also at international level.

"All Swedish higher education institutions must have reasonable conditions for conducting higher education on scientific grounds and building strong, research environments with distinctive profiles. By increasing the basic appropriations, the Government expects higher education institutions to take clearer responsibility and at the same time strengthen cooperation with the rest of society, improve the career paths for young researchers and link research and higher education more closely," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

To lay the groundwork for new, long-term and deeper interdisciplinary

cooperation and strengthened innovative capacity, the Government is also presenting a strengthening of strategic innovation areas, research institutions and testing and demonstration environments.

Also presented in the bill are a number of measures to give researchers, the business sector and the public sector as much access as possible to the best research infrastructure.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

# The Government and Stockholm City to invest SEK 180 million in Nobel Center

Published 25 November 2016 Updated 25 November 2016

The central government will contribute SEK 40 million per year to the Nobel Center's operations from the day it opens and the following three years. In all, with increased support from Stockholm City, the Center will receive SEK 60 million per year over a three-year period. This amounts to SEK 180 million the first three years. This was announced today by Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson and Stockholm's Commissioner of the City Planning and Culture Division, Roger Mogert.

In December 2011, the Nobel Foundation and Stockholm City signed an agreement in principle to work for the establishment of a Nobel Center on city-owned land in Stockholm. The idea is for this Center to house an expanded, modernised Nobel museum with premises for symposiums, seminars, school activities etc., and to form the base of a broad international operation.

The Government expects the Nobel Center to assume a significant role and have a positive impact on research and education throughout Sweden. The Center can also be expected to fulfil a central function for culture and science. A new building for the Nobel Center will provide better

opportunities to develop the museum's activities, represent an important tourist attraction and can be a national and international meeting place where focus is on science, humanism, literature and peace, in the spirit of Alfred Nobel. It is expected that activities conducted by new Nobel Center will be considerably more extensive than at present.

Activities conducted by the Nobel Center are of national interest and the Government therefore intends to increase its share of co-financing. In all, with increased contributions from Stockholm City, the Center will receive SEK 60 million per year over a three-year period. This amounts to SEK 180 million the first three years.

"The Nobel Prize plays a vital role in the image of Sweden as a leading research nation and the Nobel Center will be the base for the outward-looking activities, where the importance of research and innovation is highlighted," says Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson.

"The Government takes a positive view of contributing to operations, together with Stockholm City, at a new and prominent Nobel Center. Sweden should make better use of the Nobel Prize. Here the main focus is on the festivities in December, while the rest of the world concentrates on the prize winners. A Nobel Center can be a huge asset in helping Sweden attract investments, visitors and talent," says Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg.

"The Nobel Foundation and the Nobel Prize are among Sweden's and Stockholm's most important institutions. A Nobel Center, with a museum and the opportunity to present lectures and receive school visits, will be a great asset to Stockholm and its citizens," says Stockholm's Commissioner of the City Planning and Culture Division, Roger Mogert.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson to Washington to sign bilateral agreement on cancer research cooperation and take part in White House Arctic Science Ministerial

Published 26 September 2016 Updated 26 September 2016

On Tuesday 27 September, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson will sign an agreement on bilateral cancer research cooperation between the United States and Sweden in Washington DC.

In connection with the agreement, discussions will be held with Professor Greg Simon, appointed by Vice President Joe Biden to lead US work on President Barack Obama's Cancer Moonshot initiative. After the signing, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will also visit the National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, to discuss how cancer research can be advanced in the United States and Sweden through the partnership now being initiated.

"Sweden and the US are world leaders in medical research. Sweden is world-leading in several cancer research areas and the US has therefore been eager to increase cooperation with us. This is an opportunity for Swedish cancer research to forge even closer links with the US. The new agreement is extremely valuable in further strengthening the close cooperation between our countries," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

On Wednesday, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will take part in the White House

Arctic Science Ministerial, to be held in the White House under the leadership of President Obama's science adviser John Holdren. Research ministers from 24 countries will take part in the Arctic Science Ministerial, together with representatives of the Arctic indigenous peoples, to discuss how research on climate change impact on the Arctic can be augmented.

"Climate change is the defining issue of our time and is most evident in the polar regions. More research is crucial to tackle the threat of climate change. Sweden is therefore prepared to accept the US Government's call to increase focus on Arctic research cooperation."

Ms Hellmark Knutsson is in Washington on 26–28 September.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson travels to New York for talks on bilateral cancer research cooperation with US Vice President Joe Biden

Published 19 September 2016 Updated 19 September 2016

Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson is travelling to New York for discussions with US Vice President Joe Biden about an agreement on bilateral cancer research cooperation between the United States and Sweden.

During her visit to New York, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will also take part in the UN conference 'Coordinating Global Brain Projects' and the launch of the UN's 'International Brain Initiative'.

On Tuesday, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will visit the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and the Sloan Kettering Institute to discuss how cancer research cooperation can be promoted using the cancer research agreement between the US and Sweden.

Ms Hellmark Knutsson will be in New York between 18 and 21 September.





Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson in Capri

Published 14 June 2016 Updated 14 June 2016

Today, Tuesday 14 June, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson is on the Italian island of Capri to visit the Swedish culture institute, Villa San Michele, and the Castello Barbarossa. The purpose of the visit is to gain deeper insight into the activities of the San Michele Foundation, and its importance for Swedish research in the humanities.

"One of the major tasks of the Swedish research institutes in the Mediterranean region is linked, in fact, to their location – in Athens, Istanbul, Rome and Capri. Not least the sharp increase in migration and its causes around the Mediterranean Sea increase the need for the Swedish research institutes in the Mediterranean region," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

The San Michele Foundation was founded in 1950. The aim was to administer the property donated to the Swedish State by writer and doctor Axel Munthe. Villa San Michele, located on the island of Capri in Italy, acts as a guest house for scholarship recipients, and aims to promote cultural links between Sweden and Italy. Staffan de Mistura is the current director of the San Michele Foundation.

"Staffan de Mistura's different roles as UN Special Envoy to Syria and director of the San Michele Foundation are, in many ways, two sides of the same coin. On the one hand, a task to create peace and stability in the catastrophic situation in Syria, and on the other hand, a task to seek cultural

understanding and promote humanistic values in the long term through the activities at Villa San Michele," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

## Programme Tuesday

- A guided tour of Villa San Michele and its garden.
- Lunch with Mayor of Anacapri Francesco Cerrotta, university representatives, and others.
- A walk up to the ornithological station at the Castello Barbarossa.



Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson in Rome

Published 13 June 2016 Updated 13 June 2016

Today, Monday 13 June, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson is in the Italian capital, Rome, to visit the Swedish Institute in Rome's archaeological excavations in the Etruscan town of Acquarossa. The purpose of the visit is to gain deeper insight into the activities of the Swedish Institute in Rome, and its importance to Swedish research in the humanities.

"Many of the major questions that relate to the development of society typically touch on many different areas of knowledge; they are embedded in political, cultural and social circumstances. The Swedish Institute in Rome can therefore contribute to ongoing development towards an important and much-needed internationalisation of research in the humanities, not least linked to the major global challenges in society that we are facing," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

The Swedish Institute in Rome is a foundation established in 1926 with the objective of spreading knowledge in Swedish cultural life about classical culture in the Mediterranean region. The aim of the Institute is also to promote Swedish research in the humanities and teaching, mainly in classical scholarship, classical languages, history, history of art, architecture and conservation.

## Programme Monday

- A tour of the exhibition on the Swedish Institute in Rome's

archaeological excavations in Etruria at the National Etruscan Museum in Viterbo.

- A visit to Mayor of Viterbo Leonardo Michelini.
- A tour of the Swedish Institute in Rome's excavation site at Acquarossa.



Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson to visit Swedish research institutes in Italy

Published 10 June 2016 Updated 10 June 2016

On 12–15 June, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson will visit Italy to visit the Swedish Institute in Rome and the San Michele Foundation in Capri.

In Rome, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will visit the Roman Forum, pay a study visit to the Swedish Institute in Rome's archaeological excavations in the Etruscan town of Acquarossa, and receive a presentation by Kristian Göransson, Director of the Institute, of the Swedish Institute in Rome's activities. During her visit to Capri, the Minister's agenda will include visiting the Swedish culture institute Villa San Michele, where she will meet the Director of Villa San Michele, Staffan de Mistura.

"In 2016, the Swedish Institute in Rome marks its 90th anniversary. Both the Swedish Institute in Rome and the San Michele Foundation play an important role in Swedish research in the humanities and in promoting cultural exchange between Sweden and Italy. At the Institute, not least young researchers are given the opportunity to develop their research in a completely new research environment and in a new country, and meet colleagues from around the world," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

The Swedish Institute in Rome is a foundation established in 1926 with the objective of spreading knowledge in Swedish cultural life about classical culture in the Mediterranean region. The aim of the Institute is also to promote Swedish research in the humanities and teaching, mainly in classical scholarship, classical languages, history, history of art, architecture and conservation. The San Michele Foundation was founded in 1950. The aim was to administer the property donated to the Swedish State by writer and

doctor Axel Munthe. Villa San Michele, located on the island of Capri in Italy, acts as a guest house for scholarship recipients, and aims to promote cultural links between Sweden and Italy.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson visits Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar

Published 22 February 2016 Updated 22 February 2016

On 22–25 February, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will visit Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar to meet representatives of higher education and research in the three countries.

She will also meet representatives from politics, academia and the business sector in the region during her visit with the aim of exchanging experiences and improving cooperation.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# The 6th Japan-Sweden Joint Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology Joint Press Release

Published 12 February 2016 Updated 12 February 2016

On February 12, 2016 in Tokyo, H.E. Makoto Katsura, Ambassador for Science and Technology Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan, and Dr. Jonas Björck, Director, Division for Research Policy, Ministry of Education and Research (MER) of the Kingdom of Sweden, co-chaired the 6th Japan-Sweden Joint Committee on Cooperation in Science and Technology, organized under the Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of Sweden on Cooperation in Science and Technology, which entered into force in 1999.

The Joint Committee Meeting (JCM) was held with participation of high-level representatives from a wide range of ministries, funding agencies and research institutions from both countries and the Embassy of the Sweden in Japan (EOS), prior to the visit of the Swedish Royal Technology Mission led by H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf to Japan from February 16 to 20.

In the JCM, both sides introduced current situation and exchanged views on the recent development of science, technology and innovation (STI) policies and key thematic areas of cooperation such as "Life Science (focusing on anti-microbial resistance)", "Aging Society", "Environment/Agriculture,



Forestry and Climate Change" and "Polar Research"; and "Framework for STI Cooperation" as well as specific agenda "Public & Academic Outreach"

In the discussion on the Science Technology Innovation (STI) policies, both sides emphasized the importance of STI policies as a backbone to realize sustainable growth and highlighted high ambitions of governments for innovation performance in both countries.

Regarding Life Science, Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development (AMED) and Swedish Research Council (SRC) brought forward the issue of anti-microbial resistance (AMR), on which a European initiative is currently on-going. Both sides emphasized the importance of research on this matter and will keep contributing in this field through this initiative, taking into account the international attention on this theme.

In the area of Aging Society, both sides welcomed the progress made by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and The Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova) where they are preparing new joint calls based on MOU aiming at tackling the issues of our aging societies by combining expertise and resources of academia and industry in both countries in order to stimulate innovations with the potential to make community design and services better adapted to the needs of elderly people.

Environment/Agriculture, Forestry and Climate Change is a continuing agenda from past JCMs, and in concord with the broad scope of interests represented by the Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas), Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute (FFPRI) and National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), both sides shared insights on their research policies, statistics and researches on biomass utilization and proposed potential areas of cooperation. Both sides also took note of the potentials in the areas of forest ecosystem research and smart city design for low carbon society toward the future.

On the agenda item of Polar Research, both sides appreciated collaborative activities between the National Institute of Polar Research (NIPR) and SRC with a particular focus on plasma physics in arctic atmosphere and geospace environment observation promoted by the European Incoherent Scatter Scientific Association (EISCAT). A consensus was reached to continue cooperation toward realizing the upgraded EISCAT\_3D (The Next Generation European Incoherent Scatter Radar System) based on the great

interests of scientists in both countries. The possibility of utilizing the Swedish research vessel icebreaker "Oden" was also proposed for the dialogue for the future cooperation by SRC.

Under the session on Cooperation Frameworks, both sides encouraged continuation of utilizing the programmes for the researcher exchange and international joint research projects based on the MOU provided by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT), which contribute to foster the mobility of researchers and promote academic cooperation between highly qualified researchers of both countries.

Both sides also gave positive appraisal on the specific topic of Public & Academic Outreach with JSPS making a presentation on public outreach event "Nobel Prize Dialogue Tokyo" jointly hosted with Nobel Media AB, and EOS making a presentation on academic outreach event "Japan-Sweden University Presidents' Summit", both of which were held in 2015, and further addressed the holding of similar events to promote public and academic engagement in the field of STI.

Almost all of these key fields of cooperation were individually followed up by separate meetings held between relevant institutions which were held back to back to the JCM to further strengthening their collaboration.

Noting the extensive relations in the STI cooperation through this constructive JCM, the co-chairs reaffirmed the commitment of the both sides to intensifying cooperation in this field and expressed their hope for contributing to addressing global challenges by further expanding the future partnerships of our two countries with continuous exchanges of knowledge and expertise.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research, Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

# Billion kronor investment in next generation biologics

Published 14 December 2015 Updated 14 December 2015

Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Mikael Damberg and Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson presented a national programme for protein research, method development and biologics production.

The research programme, which aims to make Sweden a leader in the development and production of biologics, will be established at VINNOVA, the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems, which will run the programme in close collaboration with the Swedish Research Council. The research programme will extend over a period of eight years and state funding will total SEK 320 million.

The research programme is part of the Government's strategic investment in the life sciences that aims to improve health, meet societal challenges and strengthen Sweden's competitiveness in an international context.

"Sweden has a strong base in biologics production and we have a proud tradition of protein research that we want to build on. The research programme will strengthen Sweden's competitiveness in an international context," says Mr Damberg.

"Strategic and long-term investments in life sciences research are key to discovering and producing new medicines. In the long run, it is crucial for our well-being and for improving human health," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

"Collaboration between academia and industry, and between small and large companies, is essential to managing health-related societal challenges. Life sciences are a priority of the Prime Minister's Innovation Council and as such have the Government's full attention," says Mr Damberg, who like Ms Hellmark Knutsson, is a member of the Innovation Council.

"The Government is taking steps to strengthen Swedish research and innovation. This investment in next generation biologics is part of efforts to make Sweden a leading research nation. Sweden will not settle for less," says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

The Government is presenting the initiative jointly with the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation and AstraZeneca. At the same time, AstraZeneca will present its research collaboration on proteins and biologics.



Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson visits teacher education programme at Helsinki University

Published 20 October 2015 Updated 20 October 2015

Tomorrow, 21 October, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson will travel to Helsinki to meet representatives of the teacher education programme at Helsinki University. During the day, Ms Hellmark Knutsson will also visit one of the teacher education programme's field schools and meet staff, teacher students and pupils. Armi Mikkola, Counsellor of Education at the Department for Higher Education and Science Policy at the Ministry of Education and Culture will also take part in the visit to the field school.

According to figures from the Swedish Teachers' Union and Statistics Sweden, there is risk of a deficit of 65 000 teachers in Sweden until 2025. At the same time, only five per cent of Sweden's teachers consider that the teaching profession has high status and only every other teacher would choose the same profession a second time. In Finland, many people apply to the teacher education programme and the purpose of the visit to Helsinki University is to gain insight into and understanding of the attractive Finnish teacher education programme and its field schools.

During the period 2014–2019, a pilot project is under way in Sweden with field schools and field preschools at fifteen higher education institutions. The purpose is to help raise the quality of school-based teaching practice, for

instance by strengthening the quality of guidance during the school-based teaching practice and the contacts between a university college and a field school or field preschool.

### **Programme**

10.00–12.30 Visit to Helsinki University

Venue: Siltavuorenpenger 5 A

13.00–15.00 Visit to Viikki Teacher Training School

Venue: Kevätkatu 2



Press release from Prime Minister's Office

# Prime Minister Stefan Löfven to receive President Dilma Rousseff of Brazil in Stockholm

Published 16 October 2015 Updated 16 October 2015

On Monday 19 October, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will receive the President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff, in Stockholm. They are meeting to discuss economic exchanges between Sweden and Brazil, climate and sustainability, and defence.

During her visit to Sweden, President Rousseff will also participate with Mr Löfven in a business forum and a meeting with representatives of the City of Stockholm. She will also go to see Norra Djurgårdsstaden and visit companies in Kista and Linköping.

## Programme points, 19 October

### **09.30 Business Forum**

Mr Löfven and Ms Rousseff address a business forum at Grand Hôtel.

### **10.00 Reception by the Prime Minister at Rosenbad**

Mr Löfven and Ms Rousseff arrive at Rosenbad.

Photo opportunity at the entrance.

Discussions.

Photo pool – meeting room.

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll and Minister for Housing, Urban Development

and Information Technology Mehmet Kaplan will also take part in the discussions.

### **11.15 Press conference at Rosenbad**

Mr Löfven and Ms Rousseff hold a joint press conference in Bella Venezia.

The press conference will be webcast live on [www.regeringen.se](http://www.regeringen.se).

### **Lunch at City Hall**

The City of Stockholm hosts a lunch for Mr Löfven and Ms Rousseff at City Hall.

Photo pool.

### **15.50 Visit to Saab in Linköping**

Ms Rousseff and Mr Löfven visit Saab in Linköping.

## **Advance registration**

Advance registration and/or application for a place in the photo pool is required. Please register/apply via the International Press Centre at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs no later than 16.00 on 16 October. More detailed information about times and venues of meetings will be sent to media representatives concerned.

Advance registration/application for place in photo pool





Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Swedish Research Council to have more active role as host of the European Spallation Source

Published 16 October 2015 Updated 16 October 2015

The Government has tasked the Swedish Research Council with responsibility for a support function as Sweden hosts the European Spallation Source (ESS).

“Building ESS is incredibly important to enable Sweden to be a leading knowledge and research nation. This can become a hub for high-quality research,” says Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson.

The Government previously tasked the Swedish Research Council with stimulating Sweden’s participation in and use of ESS in research and industry.

The European Commission recently decided to establish ESS as a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC). ESS will become the new generation facility for neutron-based materials research. The facility is currently being built outside Lund and is expected to be fully operational in 2025. The European Commission has identified ESS as one of the largest, highest priority projects for research infrastructure in Europe.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Extension of space cooperation between Sweden and the United States

Published 07 October 2015 Updated 07 October 2015

In Washington DC last night Swedish time, a framework agreement was signed between Sweden and the United States to extend their space cooperation.

This new framework agreement means that the cooperative activities between Sweden and the United States in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes has been extended for an additional ten years. The first framework agreement, signed in 2005, has been successful and has made possible a number of joint projects between the Swedish National Space Board, NASA and industrial actors.

“The United States is the world’s most important space nation, while Sweden is at the forefront in a number of different areas in space research and technological development. Our agreement, which has been in place for ten years, has been profitable for both countries, and through this extension for an additional ten years we are securing the best conditions to enable Swedish space actors to continue advancing their cooperation projects with American partners. This in turn will provide opportunities for increased knowledge and new business deals, and may create more job opportunities,” says State Secretary Anders Lönn.

Mr Lönn signed the new framework agreement at House of Sweden in Washington DC in connection with the seminar ‘Swedish American Space Symposium – Space Cooperation for the Future’. The seminar was organised by the Swedish Embassy, the Swedish National Space Board and the Aerospace Industries Association, gathering representatives from the Swedish and American space industries.





Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helen Hellmark Knutsson to visit Kyoto University and meet Nobel laureate

Published 05 October 2015 Updated 05 October 2015

Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson is attending the high-level Science and Technology in Society (STS) Forum in Kyoto. The Minister will today meet Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President of the European Research Council, and Shinya Yamanaka, Nobel laureate in medicine.

Helene Hellmark Knutsson's programme, Kyoto, Monday 5 October:

- Study visit at Kyoto University, meeting with Shinya Yamanaka, Nobel laureate in medicine, and visit to the International Science Innovation Building and the Centre for iPS Cell Research and Application
- Meeting with Chiheb Bouden, Tunisia's Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research
- Meeting with Professor Jean-Pierre Bourguignon, President of the European Research Council
- Meeting with Dr Michinari Hamaguchi, President of the Japan Science and Technology Agency

Ms Hellmark Knutsson is visiting Japan and the STS Forum on 3–7 October.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson to attend the Science and Technology in Society forum in Japan

Published 01 October 2015 Updated 01 October 2015

Sweden's Minister for Higher Education and Research, Helene Hellmark Knutsson, will visit Japan on 3–7 October. The Minister will attend the Science and Technology in Society (STS) forum in Kyoto and her address will focus on gender equality in higher education.

“Sweden aims to be a leading knowledge and research nation. To get there, our higher education institutions need to be more gender equal. It's a waste of skills that so few women are professors – and we can't afford such waste,” says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

The STS Forum brings together politicians, researchers, government agency representatives and other actors from all around the world. Ms Hellmark Knutsson will have bilateral talks with Hakabun Shimomura, Japan's Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, and John Holdren, senior advisor to President Barack Obama on science and technology issues.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson to meet Cambodia's education minister

Published 25 May 2015 Updated 25 May 2015

Today, Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson will meet Cambodia's Minister of Education, Youth and Sport Dr Hang Chuon Naron. They will meet at the Swedish Ministry of Education and Research to discuss higher education and research.

Since the 1980s, Sweden has provided support to programmes for increased access to high-quality primary education for poor children. We have been one of the largest donors and have played a major role in the area of education in Cambodia. In the current strategy, Sweden has decided to increase its support to include upper secondary and higher education.

Dr Naron is visiting Sweden on 25–26 May along with a delegation from the Cambodian Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport.

The meeting will take place today at 15.00–16.00 at the Ministry of Education and Research.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson to meet Swedish Nobel laureate in New York

Published 22 May 2015 Updated 25 May 2015

Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson is in New York today. During her visit, she will be given a guided tour of Rockefeller University by Dr Torsten Wiesel, Swedish Nobel laureate and former president of the university.

Ms Hellmark Knutsson's programme in New York on Friday 22 May (NB. all times are local):

10.00 Meeting with representatives of the Institute of International Education

11.30 Meeting with representatives of New York University

14.30 Guided tour of Rockefeller University, led by Dr Torsten Wiesel, Swedish Nobel laureate and former president of the University



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Helene Hellmark Knutsson to meet John Kerry

Published 21 May 2015 Updated 25 May 2015

Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson is currently in Washington DC, as Sweden yesterday signed a new polar research agreement with the United States. Today Ms Hellmark Knutsson will meet US Secretary of State John Kerry at a reception for the Member States of the Arctic Council.

Ms Hellmark Knutsson's programme in Washington DC, Thursday 21 May (local time)

09.30 Meeting with staff at the Swedish Embassy

11.00 Meeting with the American Association for the Advancement of Science

12.15 Meeting with the EU Delegation

14.45 Meeting with the Association of American Universities

18.00 Reception hosted by Secretary of State John Kerry





Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Sweden signs research agreement with the United States

Published 20 May 2015 Updated 25 May 2015

Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister for Higher Education and Research, is in Washington today, when Sweden – via the Swedish Polar Research Secretariat – is signing a new research agreement with the United States. The agreement will result in two major joint research expeditions to the Arctic and positive synergies for Swedish polar and climate research.

To mark the US assumption of the Chairmanship of the Arctic Council, the Swedish Embassy in Washington DC is holding a conference this week entitled ‘The Arctic – hot or cold?’ Ms Hellmark Knutsson will hold a keynote speech at the conference today to highlight that the United States and Sweden have decided to take a step toward greater cooperation in polar and climate research. In connection with the speech, the United States and Sweden will sign an agreement on a joint Arctic expedition this summer (2015) and a further expedition in the summer of 2017.

“Our collaboration means that we will get more research for our money. If more countries use the Swedish icebreaker Oden, it can do polar expeditions at more frequent intervals, more measurements can be carried out and the researchers can form new partnerships. This will benefit research and the climate, and create jobs,” says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.

Sweden is a world leader in polar and climate research. Thanks to the Swedish icebreaker Oden, which is equipped with research laboratories and sophisticated equipment, Swedish polar research has gone from being good to world-leading. Through increased collaboration with the United States, this research can further contribute to efforts to tackle climate change.

“Cooperation in the Arctic and in polar and climate research will be a clear indication of how closely we cooperate with the United States and an important contribution to efforts to address the defining issue of our time,” says Ms Hellmark Knutsson.



Government Offices of Sweden

Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Remains at Karolinska Institutet to be returned

Published 27 February 2015 Updated 17 May 2015

The Government today decided to return human remains from Karolinska Institutet to New Zealand and French Polynesia.

“The task of academics and politicians is not to hide embarrassing parts of our history; rather it is to ensure that they are never ever repeated. It is important that these remains reach the correct recipients who will take care of them with dignity. Any future cases must be dealt with more promptly by the higher education institutions in question,” says Minister for Higher Education and Research Helene Hellmark Knutsson.

In New Zealand the remains will be taken care of by the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, which was given a mandate by the Government of New Zealand in 2003 to establish a repatriation programme.

In French Polynesia the remains will be taken care of by Te Tupuna Te Tura, a non-profit organisation that is working to repatriate remains and that is familiar to some in Sweden, having previously received similar materials from Uppsala University.



Press release from Ministry of Education and Research

# Funding of Swedish research institutes in the Mediterranean region to continue

Published 18 November 2014 Updated 17 May 2015

Central government funding of the Swedish research institutes in Rome, Athens and Istanbul will continue and the proposed budget cuts indicated for 2016 and 2017 will not be implemented. This was announced today by Helene Hellmark Knutsson, Minister for Higher Education and Research, following a review of alternative funding sources for the institutes.

- “Today I am able to announce that the Swedish research institutes in the Mediterranean region will continue to receive central government funding. The advance notice given of reduced central government funding for 2016 and 2017 no longer applies following our review of alternative funding sources for the institutes. We value these institutes and their important activities. They are highly regarded from many points of view – cultural, historical and for their research,” says Ms Knutsson.

- “The proposal in the Budget Bill did not apply to 2015, but was rather advance notice for 2016–2017 and dependent upon finding alternative funding for the institutes. It was never the Government’s intention to jeopardise the future of the institutes. The Government has given priority to a review of alternative funding sources and has taken on board the misgivings that were raised in relation to these. We have therefore decided to continue with our funding of the institutes,” says Ms Knutsson.

The costs associated with the Swedish research institutes in the Mediterranean region include significant sums for the operation and

maintenance of their properties, which embody major cultural values. The direct operational grants provided by central government are partly used to cover some of these basic costs.

The Government will find an alternative way to finance the amounts involved (SEK 12 million in 2016 and SEK 22 million in 2017), which will be announced at a later date.