

December 2006

### **Press releases 2005–2006**

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This document contains the collected Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture press releases from the period 1 January 2002–6 October 2006. These press releases have previously been published on [www.regeringen.se](http://www.regeringen.se) and were removed from the website on 6 October 2006 when a new Government took office.

The contact information in the press releases has largely been deleted since press secretaries and other staff have been replaced.

Links contained in the press releases have been deleted.

The press releases in the document have been sorted by date, starting with the most recent.

In total, there are 12 press releases from this period.

### **How to search the document**

You can search the press releases in the document using the Adobe Reader search function. The search function is generally marked with a binoculars icon on the tool bar. You can search using any word of your choice, but to simplify your search the press releases contain the following key words:

- Minister
- Ministry
- Subject

In 2002–2006 the following ministers, ministries and subjects were referred to on [www.regeringen.se](http://www.regeringen.se):

#### Ministers

Göran Persson, Ann-Christin Nykvist, Barbro Holmberg, Berit Andnor, Bosse Ringholm, Carin Jämtin, Hans Karlsson, Ibrahim Baylan, Jan Eliasson, Jens Orback, Leif Pagrotsky, Lena Hallengren, Lena Sommestad, Leni Björklund, Mona Sahlin, Morgan Johansson, Pär Nuder, Sven-Erik Österberg, Thomas Bodström, Thomas Östros, Ulrica Messing, Ylva Johansson, Laila Freivalds, Gunnar Lund, Lars-Erik Lövdén, Lars Engqvist, Marita Ulvskog, Anna Lindh, Margareta Winberg and Jan O Karlsson.

#### Ministries

The Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education, Research and Culture, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Affairs, the Ministry of Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Environment and The Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union.

#### Subjects

Agriculture, forestry, fisheries  
Asylum, migration, integration, minorities  
Central, regional and local government  
Communications, IT  
Culture, the media, leisure activities  
Defence, emergency management and safety  
Democracy and human rights  
Education and research  
Employment and gender equality  
Environment, energy and housing  
EU  
Foreign policy and international cooperation  
Health care, health, social issues/insurance  
Industry, trade, regional development  
Legislation and justice  
National economy and budget  
Sustainable development

**PRESS RELEASE**

2006-09-14

Ministry of Education, Research and Culture

## Leif Pagrotsky signs education agreement with China

Today Sweden's Minister for Education, Research and Culture Leif Pagrotsky and Chinese Ambassador Lu Fengding signed an agreement to facilitate student exchanges between China and Sweden.

"China is a major actor in the global arena and it is important that we create opportunities for increased exchanges between our countries," says Mr Pagrotsky in a comment on the agreement.

The agreement aims to facilitate cooperation between Swedish and Chinese universities and colleges. On the Swedish side, responsibility for international cooperation is delegated to the individual higher education institutions, but the agreement will considerably simplify contacts with Chinese counterparts.

"Last year I signed a research agreement with China and now we also have an agreement on higher education in place. At present close to 200 Swedish students are studying in China and just over 900 Chinese in Sweden. I would like many more Swedish students to go to China and more Chinese students to come to us. Increased exchanges lead to increased knowledge and lifelong links and are of great benefit to Sweden," says Mr Pagrotsky.

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**CONTACT**

Pär Lager

**PRESS RELEASE**

2006-08-23

Ministry of Education, Research and Culture

## Report on museum of design completed

Today Minister for Education, Research and Culture Leif Pagrotsky received the report "A new museum of design". The report proposes the establishment of a new museum of form and design located on Blasieholmen.

"The ideas presented in the report are very exciting," says Mr Pagrotsky. "In a very short space of time, the Council for Architecture, Form and Design has produced a thorough analysis of the conditions for establishing a new museum of design."

"I know there is a strong desire in the Swedish design community for a museum of form and design and I feel it is important now that this process moves forward. It seems to me a natural step for us now to open a public debate on the issue."

The question of the museum's contents, location and organisation will be among the subjects taken up at the seminar on "Architecture and new museums" that will be held at Moderna museet on 29 August.

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Key word: 68234 Culture, the media, leisure activities Leif Pagrotsky

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**PRESS RELEASE**

2006-07-25

Ministry of Education, Research and Culture

## Clarification concerning European stem cell research

Yesterday, after a long and animated meeting, EU research ministers were finally able to agree on EU research policy for the period 2007 - 2013, the Seventh Framework Programme.

Since reports have circulated in some of the media about new restrictions in stem cell research, the Ministry of Education, Research and Culture would like in this press release to clarify yesterday's decision in Brussels.

The countries that wanted to stop EU funding for stem cell research were sufficiently numerous at yesterday's meeting to achieve a blocking minority, thus preventing a decision.

However, after strong pressure from Swedish research minister Leif Pagrotsky and others, those who are in favour of stem cell research nonetheless managed to obtain the support of enough countries to reach a decision.

The decision means that the proposed text for the Seventh Framework Programme was adopted as it

stood. In addition, the Commission made a statement worded as follows:

"The European Commission will continue with the current practice and will not submit to the Regulatory Committee proposals for projects which include research activities which destroy human embryos, including for the procurement of stem cells. The exclusion of funding of this step of research will not prevent Community funding of subsequent steps involving human embryonic stem cells."

The effect of the research ministers' decision and the Commission statement is that stem cell research is eligible for funding out of resources from the EU's Seventh Framework Programme, which has a budget of some SEK 470 billion, in accordance with current practice under the present Sixth Framework Programme.

Research minister Leif Pagrotsky comments:

"Because our line has prevailed, more money than ever will be available to European research. The outcome of yesterday's meeting is a great success for research and for everyone who hopes that stem cell research can yield results in the fight against currently incurable diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and leukaemia."

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## CONTACT

Wille Birksten

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Key word: 68244 Education and research Leif Pagrotsky

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## PRESS RELEASE

2006-07-21

Ministry of Education, Research and Culture

# Pagrotsky wants European stem cell research

On Wednesday George W. Bush used his veto to stop support for stem cell research in the United States. Now German research minister Annette Schavan is demanding that the EU do the same at the European Council meeting in Brussels on Monday.

Swedish research minister Leif Pagrotsky is concerned about the opposition to stem cell research.

"Stem cell research is very important. It gives hope that it may be possible to find cures for currently incurable diseases such as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and diabetes."

On Monday the Council is to vote on the future research budget, and the question of whether to allow funding of stem cell research from Community resources is a hot issue.

Mr Pagrotsky is highly critical of the German minister's move.

"The opponents of stem cell research are hampering the fight to stop a great deal of human suffering, and they are doing it on subjective, religious and emotional grounds. I have consistently fought for free research in EU connections and Sweden will not back down on Monday."

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## CONTACT

Wille Birksten

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

2006-07-03

Prime Minister's Office  
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries  
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs  
Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU  
Ministry of Defence  
Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Finance  
Ministry of Sustainable Development  
Office for Administrative Affairs  
Ministry of Education, Research and Culture  
Ministry of Justice

## **Improved usability and accessibility on [www.sweden.gov.se](http://www.sweden.gov.se)**

In July 2006, some changes will be made to the design of the [www.regeringen.se](http://www.regeringen.se) and [www.sweden.gov.se](http://www.sweden.gov.se) websites. The new design is the result of a systematic effort to improve usability and accessibility. The changes are based on such things as user tests and validation of HTML and style sheets.

In connection with the launch in July, the text version of the website will be discontinued. Instead, the level of customisation on the entire website will be increased in accordance with WAI guidelines. Visitors to the website will be able to select their own preferences, such as choice of font or background colour.

Content on the websites is validated XHTML 1.0 Strict, and Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) 2.0. The website has a fluid design, which means that all proportions are relative to the text size used.

The changes being made will not affect the URL addresses; links to material on the websites will still work after the launch.

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## **CONTACT**

Webbredaktioner  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

2006-01-13

Ministry of Education, Research and Culture

# Comments concerning the death of Birgit Nilsson

"Few artists have left such an impression on their contemporaries as Birgit Nilsson," says Minister for Education, Research and Culture Leif Pagrotsky.

"Birgit Nilsson was one of the most celebrated singers of all times, with interpretations that became the model for other singers, and several generations of admirers throughout the world. Few people have meant so much in putting Sweden on the map internationally. Even fewer have had the privilege to acquire, at the height of their careers, the enormous legendary status that Birgit Nilsson actually gained.

What is more, Birgit Nilsson - despite the "Jante law" in Scandinavia that tends to belittle greatness - came to be truly loved by her countrymen. Birgit Nilsson's artistry will also continue to fascinate future opera lovers through all the recordings she has taken part in. I for one will bear her art and voice - and particularly her fantastic laugh - with me for the rest of my life."

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## CONTACT

David Samuelsson

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Key word: 56151 Culture, the media, leisure activities Leif Pagrotsky

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## PRESS RELEASE

2005-12-20

Ministry of Education, Research and Culture  
Ministry of Finance

## Education leads to increased productivity and higher lifetime incomes

People with an education become more productive in their work and thus earn higher lifetime incomes. It is difficult to demonstrate on the basis of the research findings whether education contributes to increased economic growth, in addition to that resulting from the increase in lifetime incomes. Professor Anders Björklund and Mikael Lindahl Ph.D., both at the Swedish Institute for Social Research at Stockholm University, show this to be the case in a review of the research literature. Their findings are presented in the first of a series of reports, which the Expert group on Economic Studies (ESS) will publish.

Björklund and Lindahl discuss and analyse in their report "Education and Economic Development - What does empirical research show about causal inter-relationships" (ESS 2005:4) the latest findings in economic research on the relationship between education and economic development, and give as their overall conclusion that "the best studies indicate that the overall economic production effects correspond fairly closely to the aggregate individual income effects".

Apart from higher lifetime incomes, there are other empirically documented effects of the impact of education on individuals, such as better health, longer life expectancy and greater political involvement. In addition, education tends to be "inherited" in the sense that the children of parents with a higher education also get a higher education themselves.

The report identifies a number of gaps in our current knowledge. For instance, how growth in Sweden is affected by the major initiatives and investments that have been taken in education. In addition, relatively little research has been carried out into how the effects of education differ in relation to educational orientation. Neither have the positive effects that education is assumed to have on linkages to the labour market and transition to work been sufficiently well covered in the research.

In order to provide a broader social science perspective of our knowledge in macroeconomics, Albert Tuijnman, Professor in International Pedagogy has been invited to comment on and supplement this review of the findings.

The Expert Group on Economic Studies (ESS) is a working group in the Swedish Ministry of Finance co-operating with other parts of the Government Offices. This report has been initiated in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, Research and Culture. The main task of ESS is similar to the former Expert Group on Public Finance (ESO) to broaden and deepen the knowledge needed for policy initiatives in different socio-economic areas.

The report can be ordered from Fritzes

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Key word: 55412 Education and research National economy and budget Pär Nuder

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

2005-12-06

Ministry of Education, Research and Culture

# **Press information - research policy summit at Haga Palace**

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## **TIME AND PLACE**

Time: 10 December 2005, 13.30

Place: Haga Slott in Stockholm

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On 10 December, Minister for Education, Research and Culture Leif Pagrotsky will host an informal research policy meeting - Informal Summit on Science, "Present and Future Challenges in Science".

The summit will be held at Haga Palace in Stockholm from 10.00-13.30. Mr Pagrotsky has invited research ministers from those countries in the world investing most in research to the summit. Research ministers or other senior officials from the USA, Japan, France, India, Pakistan and Korea will take part.

Directly after the summit, at 13.30, the participants will assemble for a joint photo opportunity. Following that, the media will have the chance to conduct individual interviews with some of the participants.

Press credentials or pre-registration are required.

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## **CONTACT**

Thomas Johansson

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Key word: 54625 Education and research Leif Pagrotsky

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

2005-12-01

Ministry of Education, Research and Culture

# **Pagrotsky to host research policy summit**

On 10 December, Minister for Education, Research and Culture Leif Pagrotsky will host an informal research policy summit at Haga Palace in Stockholm.

"In my capacity as Minister for Research in one of the world's leading research nations, I have arranged to hold a unique summit on research issues," comments Mr Pagrotsky.

According to the OECD, Sweden ranks third in the world in terms of investment in research using public funds. If the investment made by the research-intensive Swedish business sector is also included, our world ranking moves up to second place.

Total global investment in research has increased in recent years. China and India provide the clearest examples of countries that have increased their investments in research.

"The fact that more and more countries are conducting research opens up new and exciting possibilities as to what this research can produce. But it requires more cooperation and we need to find new ways of thinking. The informal summit in Stockholm is a completely new approach where the world's leading research nations can meet. We will discuss how we can work together to make

use of the potential that science provides and so help mankind move ahead," Mr Pagrotsky concludes.

Mr Pagrotsky has invited the research ministers from those countries that invest the most in research to the summit.

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## **CONTACT**

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Key word: 54271 Education and research Leif Pagrotsky

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

2005-11-17

Ministry of Education, Research and Culture

# **Contribution towards return of totem pole**

The Government today approved a grant of SEK 200 000 to the National Museums of World Culture for the Haisla Totem Pole Repatriation Project. The grant is to be used to cover part of the costs associated with returning the totem pole to Canada.

According to the provisional timetable, the totem pole will be handed over in June 2006.

"The Government is now ensuring that an important part of the American Indians' cultural heritage can be returned," says Minister for Education, Research and Culture Leif Pagrotsky. "It feels rather grand that the totem pole will soon be back where it belongs."

The nine-metre-tall cedar totem pole at the National Museum of Ethnography in Stockholm was carved in 1872. The pole was commissioned by Chief G'psgoalux of the Eagle Clan, which at the time was part of the Kitlope people in British Columbia, Canada.

The totem pole in the National Museum of Ethnography is a memorial that tells the story of the difficult time in the 1870s when the Kitlope people were ravaged by severe smallpox epidemics and a large part of the population died.

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Key word: 54566 Culture, the media, leisure activities Leif Pagrotsky

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## PRESS RELEASE

2005-06-14

Ministry of Education, Research and Culture

# Important reforms for higher education

The Government's goal is for Sweden to be a leading knowledge nation characterised by high quality education and lifelong learning for growth and justice. In its bill New world - new university, the Government presents proposals aimed at making higher education in Sweden more international and more attractive.

A new degree structure that facilitates international comparison is proposed to make it easier for students to obtain employment both in Sweden and abroad. Fairer, clearer and simpler admission rules will send a signal to aspiring students that learning pays and will open up education to more people.

The Government has drafted the bill in cooperation with the Left Party.

"The proposals give our education system a higher quality profile from an international perspective," says Minister for Education, Research and Culture Leif Pagrotsky. "Sweden must be an attractive country for foreign students to study in. Our Swedish higher education graduates must be attractive in the labour market in Sweden and internationally."

"Our higher education will now be more comparable. This will lead to greater international and national mobility," comments Britt-Marie Danestig of the Left Party. "Furthermore, the Government Bill contains a number of measures to reduce the social bias in recruitment, such as simpler and clearer admission rules."

Some of the proposals in brief

- A strategy and a range of measures are presented to promote internationalisation of higher education.
- The structure of educational programmes and degrees will change, partly due to a division of higher education into three cycles and the introduction of a new two-year Master's Degree (masterexamen). The present Degree of Master (magisterexamen) will be retained. Higher education credits, but not grades, should be brought into line with the European model (ECTS).
- The Government considers that the Swedish Net University Agency should be given SEK 30 million, with instructions to support work by higher education institutions to broaden their recruitment base. Dedicated resources can bolster efforts by higher education institutions to recruit more broadly.
- The rules for admission to higher education are to be simplified and made fairer and more consistent. The regulations on basic eligibility will be changed so as to make the requirements for applicants from upper secondary school and applicants from upper secondary adult education more consistent. Higher education institutions can decide special eligibility requirements for programmes intended for beginning students that do not lead to a professional degree. Specific work experience can serve as an additional qualification within the framework of a local selection process covering no more than 20 per cent of the available places. Upper secondary courses in mathematics and in modern languages other than English will be given more credit in admissions to higher education.

### Strategy for internationalisation

The Government presents an overall strategy for the internationalisation of higher education, so as to bring about continuous and systematic efforts in this area. The objectives set out in the strategy are broad and long-term and express the fundamental positions taken by the Government.

The strategy makes it clear that higher education institutions must conduct active internationalisation efforts so as to enhance the quality of their education and promote understanding of other countries and of international relations. Obstacles to internationalisation must be eliminated, in Sweden and internationally. Follow-up of international activities in the higher education system must be developed and improved. The Government also presents a range of other measures to promote increased internationalisation.

### New structure for educational programmes and degrees

In order to make Swedish higher education more comparable, more attractive and more marketable internationally, the Government proposes changes in the structure of programmes and degrees in Swedish higher education. This is being done, above all, in view of Sweden's participation in the Bologna process, which now encompasses 45 European countries.

The Government proposes a division of higher education into three cycles: undergraduate level, graduate level and postgraduate level. At each level, the education provided will presuppose and build on education at previous levels. It is proposed that the Higher Education Act should contain descriptions of each of these levels. All degrees should be awarded at one or other of these levels. The level of each course offered in educational programmes at undergraduate and graduate levels should be determined so as to assign the course to either undergraduate or graduate level. New descriptions of the anticipated learning outcomes should be prepared for all degrees. A special category of degrees should be introduced for artistic fields.

A new higher education credit system should be introduced that is compatible with ECTS (the European Credit Transfer System). This would mean that one academic year would be equivalent to 60 higher education credits. The Government does not propose any changes in the rules for higher education grades. Higher education institutions should continue to be able to decide on which grading systems to apply.

The present Degree of Master (magisterexamen) will be retained. It should be a one-year degree at graduate level. In addition, however, a new general degree, the Master's Degree (masterexamen), should be introduced at graduate level. This degree should comprise the equivalent of two years of full-time study, building on previous studies equivalent to at least three years of full-time education

leading to a degree at the undergraduate level. The option of obtaining such a degree will be an advantage to Swedish students intending to study or work abroad and will attract more students to Swedish higher education. A Master's Degree should be closely linked to education at postgraduate level.

Authorisation to award Master's Degrees should be given to universities and other higher education institutions that are approved for research in one or more disciplinary domains. Other higher education institutions and private education providers should be authorised to award Master's Degrees following application, assessment of scientific standard and approval.

The doctorate should continue to comprise four years of full-time study, although students pursuing education at research level should be allowed credit for studies in Master's Degree programmes.

#### Broader recruitment

One high-priority objective of the Government's education policy is to achieve greater equality in recruitment to higher education. The Government therefore presents a number of measures for further work towards broader recruitment.

The Government considers that recruitment action by higher education institutions needs a new national support scheme. The Swedish Net University Agency should be given SEK 30 million per year, with instructions to support work by higher education institutions to broaden their recruitment base. The Agency should also support teaching methods development and development work by higher education institutions in preparation for implementing reforms relating to the structure of educational programmes and degrees.

The Government will give special directions to higher education institutions to encourage an increased percentage of beginning students from working class families in longer higher education programmes where recruitment is most skewed. Universities and other higher education institutions should cooperate more widely with upper secondary schools from which a small proportion of pupils go on to studies in higher education, so as to stimulate interest in further study. Cooperation with compulsory (age 6-16) schools should also be encouraged. The Government will also direct the National Agency for Higher Education to follow up and evaluate the work of higher education institutions on broader recruitment.

#### Changes in rules for admission to higher education

As regards admission to higher education, the bill proposes changes in eligibility and selection regulations aimed at making the rules simple, fair and consistent. Basic eligibility is made equivalent to the upper secondary school certificate, i.e. at least 2 250 upper secondary credits, including a passing grade in the upper secondary certificate project. It is proposed that the same credit requirements should also apply for applicants coming from local authority adult education. The "25:4 rule" (25 years old with 4 years of work experience) will be kept.

Requirements for special eligibility for programmes leading to a professional degree will be set by the National Agency for Higher Education, as at present. For other programmes intended for beginners, each higher education institution will decide on the requirements that are to apply, within certain limits. Standard eligibility requirements will be phased out.

Universities and other higher education institutions will be allowed to decide the selection criteria to apply for a maximum of 20 per cent of the places in programmes intended for beginning students. The purpose of this is to draw on qualifications and experience that are particularly relevant to the programme other than grades and the national university aptitude test. The Government also takes a positive position on developing variants of the national university aptitude test for different educational areas. Credits for work experience will be eliminated in the category of applicants selected via the aptitude test. No quotas - in the sense of certain places being reserved for applicants from a certain group or a certain social or ethnic background - will be permitted.

In admissions to medical programmes and some other programmes, the choice between applicants with top grades in all subjects is currently made by drawing lots. Now higher education institutions

will instead be able to use the national university aptitude test, their own tests or interviews to decide between applicants with equally good grades.

Upper secondary school advanced courses in mathematics and in modern languages other than English should be given more credit in admissions to higher education.

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## CONTACT

Thomas Johansson

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Key word: 46425 Education and research Leif Pagrotsky

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## PRESS RELEASE

2005-03-22

Ministry of Education, Research and Culture

# Strong commitment to Swedish research

In its bill Research for a Better Life (2004/05:80) the Swedish government presents its appraisal of how SEK 2.34 billion in new funding for research and development should be used with an eye to bolstering the position of Sweden as a research nation. The measures target both pure and needs-specific research and are geared to stimulate new Swedish innovations for growth and sustainable development.

The governments auxiliary parties, the Left Party and the Green Party, also support the bill.

This bill contains a great deal of new funding for Swedish research, says Minister of Education and Research Leif Pagrotsky. The government has chosen to highlight a few of the fields where Sweden is an international leader and where the stakes are high for both the public and private sectors. Sweden invests more than any other country in research and development, and in this bill my ambition is to further strengthen our international competitiveness.

The bill targets growth and employment in the form of a 50-percent increase in allocations to Vinnova (the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems), says Britt-Marie Danestig of the Left Party. Gender research will receive more than twice as much funding. We are also earmarking funds to make it possible for working teachers to pursue research.

The bill proposes a commitment to research for sustainable development amounting to SEK 210 million as one of the priority areas, says Mikaela Valtersson, member of parliament for the Green Party. This places the focus on crucial issues for the future like climatic change and sustainable development in the green sector where new knowledge is needed.

The government is focusing on three areas that are critically important to the future development of the country: medical research, SEK 400 million; technological research, SEK 350 million; and research in support of sustainable development, SEK 210 million. This funding should be allocated by the governmental research financiers: the Swedish Research Council (VR); the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research (FAS); the Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences, and Spatial Planning (Formas); the Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova); and the Swedish National Space Board.

Another SEK 300 million is being invested in research centers of excellence that are highly competitive in the international arena. Funding for a center of excellence should be available for a

period of up to ten years and comprise up to SEK 10 million per year. This support should be allocated by VR, FAS, Formas, and Vinnova. Universities, university colleges, research institutes, companies, and other interested parties are expected to commit considerable resources of their own to these strong research environments.

Direct governmental allocations to universities and university colleges should be increased by SEK 521 million. This expansion is designed to strengthen research and graduate education, to help provide employment opportunities for newly graduated Ph.D.s to enhance their resumes, and to bolster efforts at universities and colleges to take their research findings to market.

The government also wants to further intensify the opportunities for the researchers of the future. Therefore the research councils and Vinnova are also being provided with resources to create employment for new Ph.D.s and to stimulate the development of graduate education by funding national schools of research--joint centers for graduate education at key departments.

The government wishes to continue to develop R&D in collaboration with the business community. Vinnova should receive SEK 120 million for R&D programs in the vehicular sector and other fields essential to Sweden. Vinnova should also be given SEK 10 million for efforts that enable small and medium-size companies to access research.

Industrial research institutes and holding companies at universities and colleges play a vital role in the transfer of knowledge between academia and business. These holding companies should be allocated SEK 60 million to boost their capital. A mediator will be appointed to advise them on more efficient holding-company structures. Resources for institutes of industrial research should be augmented by SEK 110 million.

Moreover, the government wishes to provide the Swedish Research Council with a further SEK 42 million for research infrastructure. Allocations to the Swedish National Archive of Recorded Sound and Moving Images should be supplemented by SEK 5 million. Another SEK 20 million should be allocated for the conversion of collected material to new technological systems.

Furthermore, the government wants to see allocations for gender research increased by SEK 13 million and for education research by SEK 10 million. In addition, the Swedish Research Council should fund a national school of research in design in the amount of SEK 5 million.

#### New national organization for EU research collaboration

The Swedish organization for research collaboration in the EU should be updated to meet new conditions in order to provide those pursuing research in Sweden with early and pertinent information and support. The EU R&D Council will be dissolved and its activities transferred to Vinnova in the form of a secretariat charged with promoting Swedish participation in EU research collaboration by offering companies and academic researchers information, training, consultation, and legal assistance. Special attention should be paid to opportunities for small businesses to take part in EU framework programs for research and development.

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## CONTACT

Thomas Johansson