

SUHF

Sveriges universitets- och
högskoleförbund

The Association of
Swedish Higher Education Institutions
Higher Education Institutions
in Sweden

Astrid Söderbergh Widding
Chair
President, Stockholm University

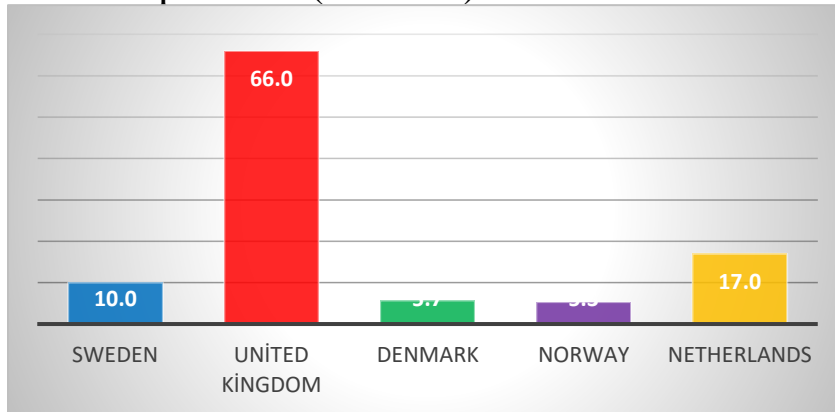


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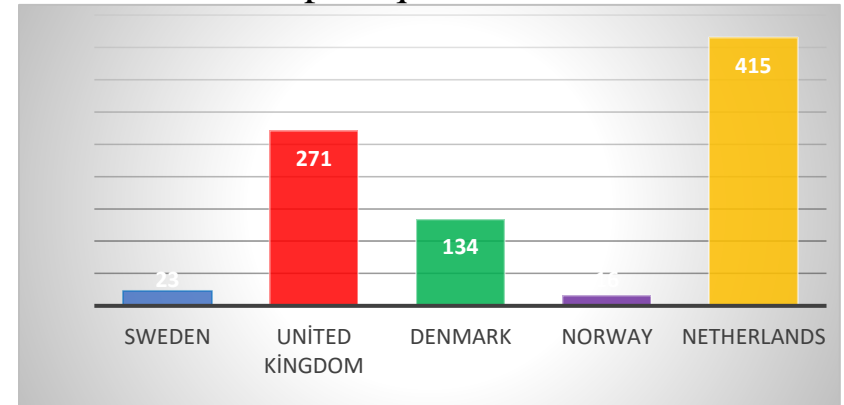
- Voluntary association, hosted by Stockholm University
- All 38 HEI:s with research activities are members
- General Assembly of VC:s and Directors of administration
- Secretary General & staff, totally 5 persons
- Platform for collaboration & promoting sector interests
- Expert groups (e.g. Facilities; QA; Employer issues)
- Fixed term working groups (e.g. Refugees)
- International knowledge overviews
- Member of NUS, EUA and IAU
- Leaderships programs for
 - Newly appointed VC:s
 - Deans, Heads of Dept, Directors of administration,
 - Senior administrative staff

Sweden - some comparative statistics

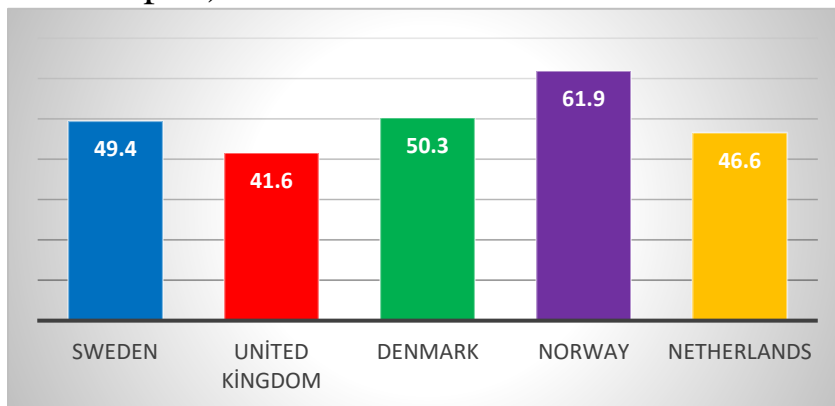
Population (millions)



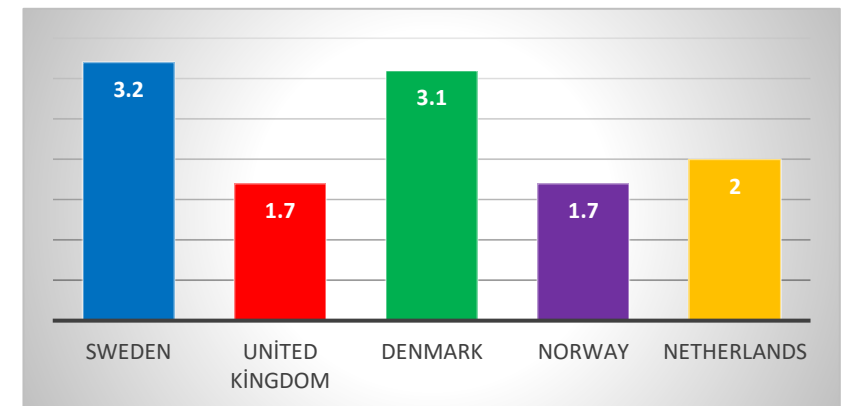
Inhabitants per sq.km



Gross National Income, (\$,000 per capita)



Research and development expenditure (2015, % of GDP)

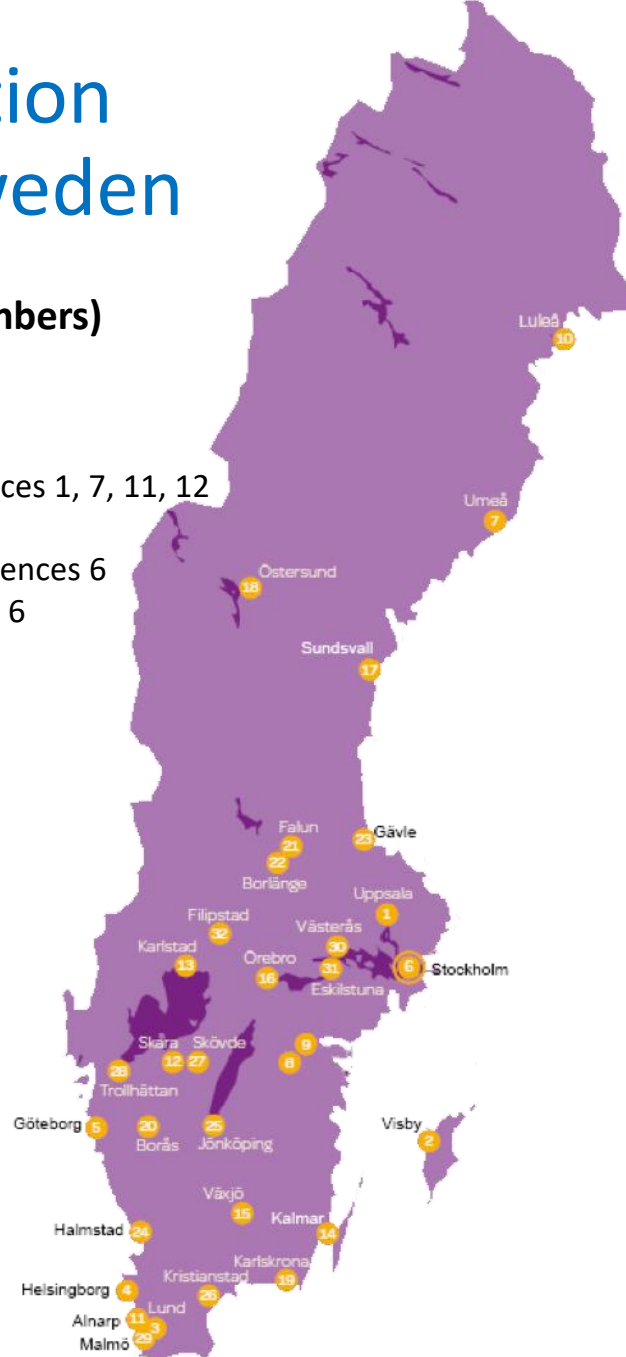


38 Higher Education Institutions in Sweden

15 specialized HEIs (by student numbers)

- KTH-Royal Institute of Technology 6
- Chalmers University of Technology 5
- Karolinska institutet 6
- SLU-Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences 1, 7, 11, 12
- Stockholm School of Economics 6
- GIH-Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences 6
- University College of Arts, Crafts and Design 6
- Swedish Defence University 6
- Royal College of Music in Stockholm 6
- Marie Cederschiöld University College 5, 6
- Swedish Red Cross University College 6
- Sophiahemmet University 6
- Stockholm University of the Arts 6
- Royal Institute of Art 6
- University College Stockholm 6

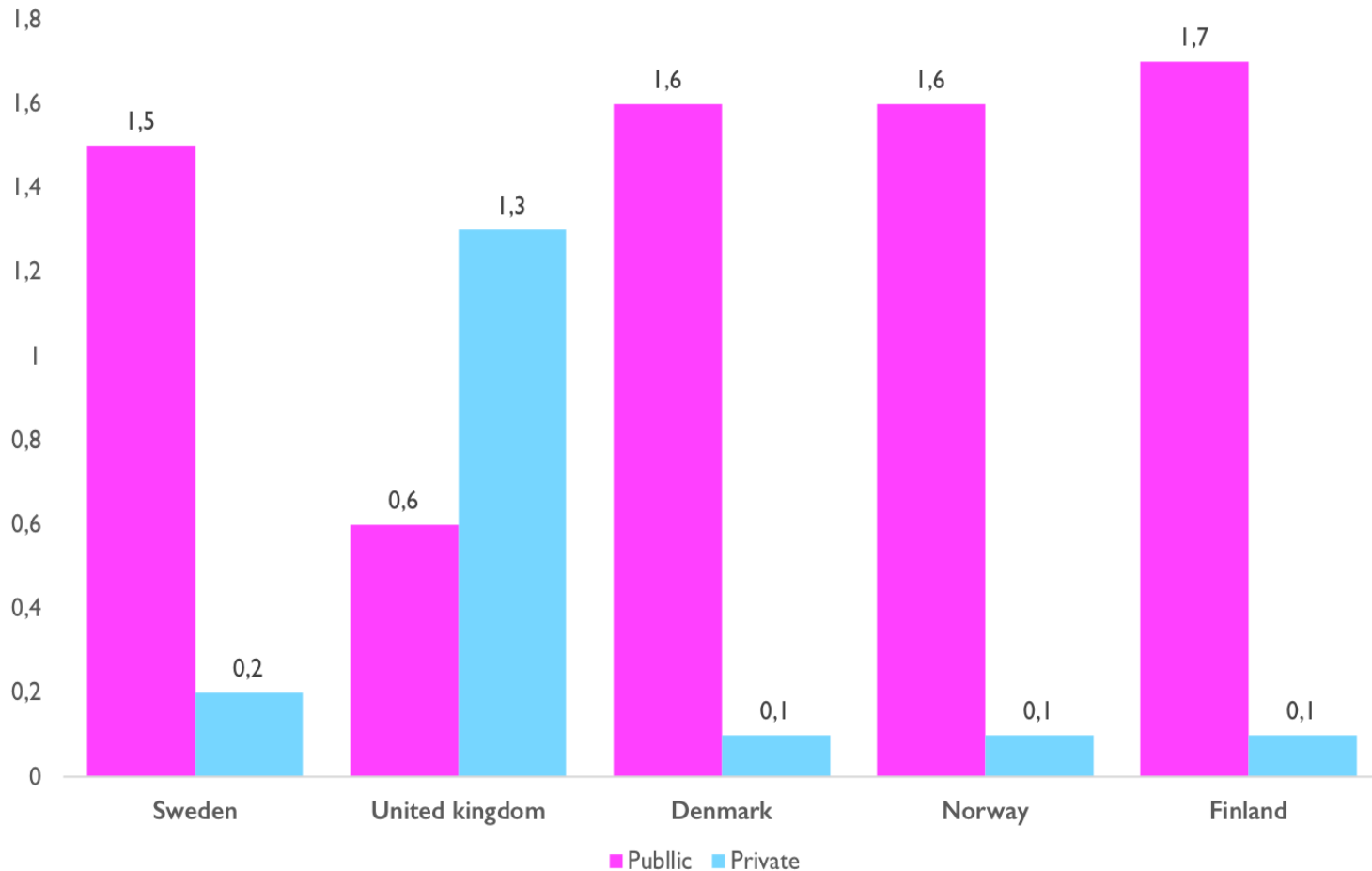
(Foundation or other independent ownership)



23 broad-range universities (by student numbers)

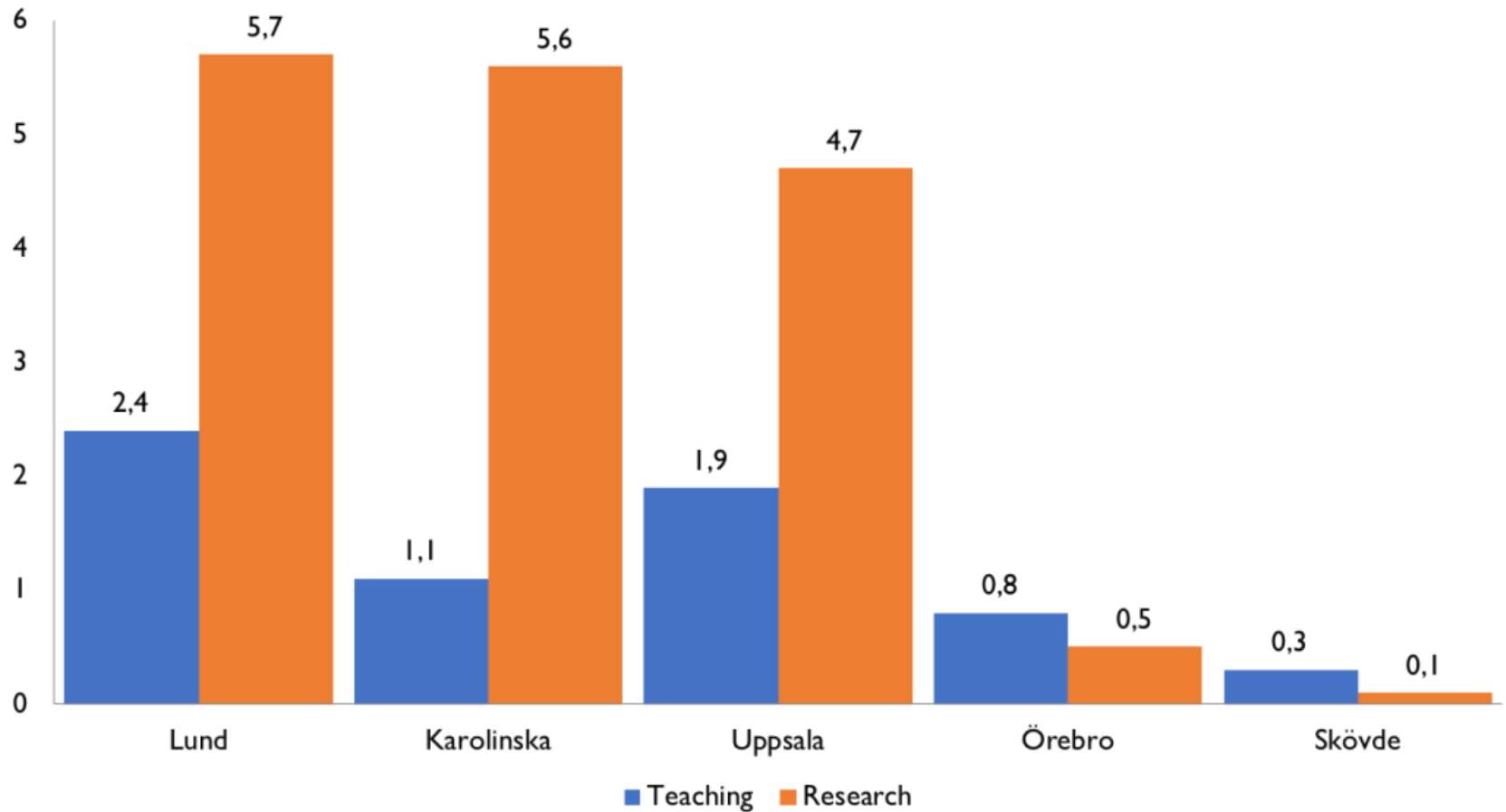
- Stockholm University 6
- University of Gothenburg 5
- Lund University 3, 4
- Uppsala University 1, 2
- Umeå University 7
- Linköping University 8, 9
- Linnaeus University 14, 15
- Malmö University 29
- Örebro University 16
- Mälardalen University 30, 31
- Karlstad University 13
- Gävle University 23
- Luleå University of Technology 10
- Mid Sweden University 17, 18
- Dalarna University 21, 22
- Jönköping University 25
- Kristianstad University 26
- Södertörn University 6
- Halmstad University 24
- Borås University 20
- University West 28
- Skövde University 27
- Blekinge Institute of Technology 19

Finance – public and private expenditure on HEIs as % of GDP

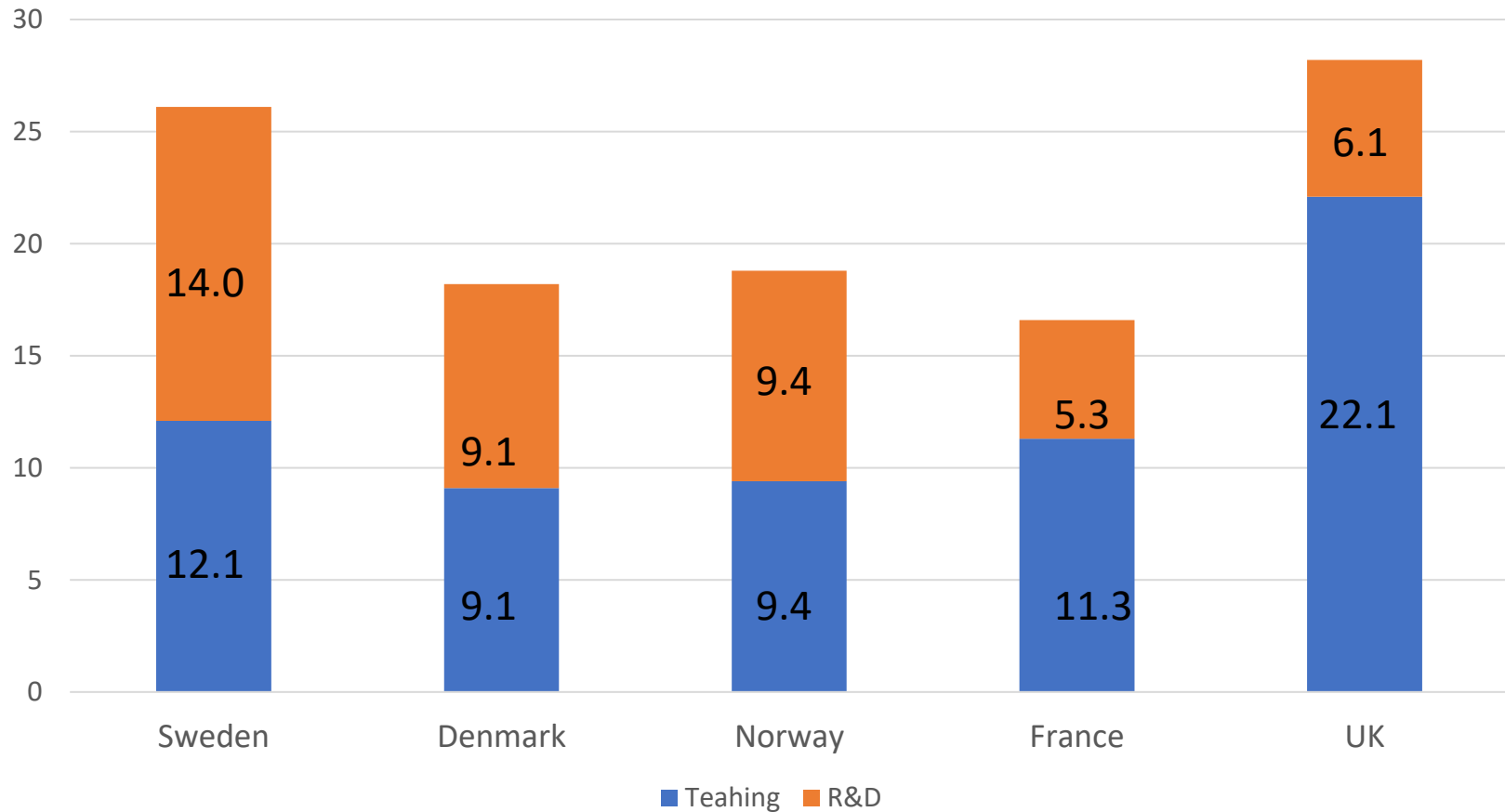


Large differences among HEI:s in the Swedish system

Volumes of teaching/research (SEK billions) - some examples

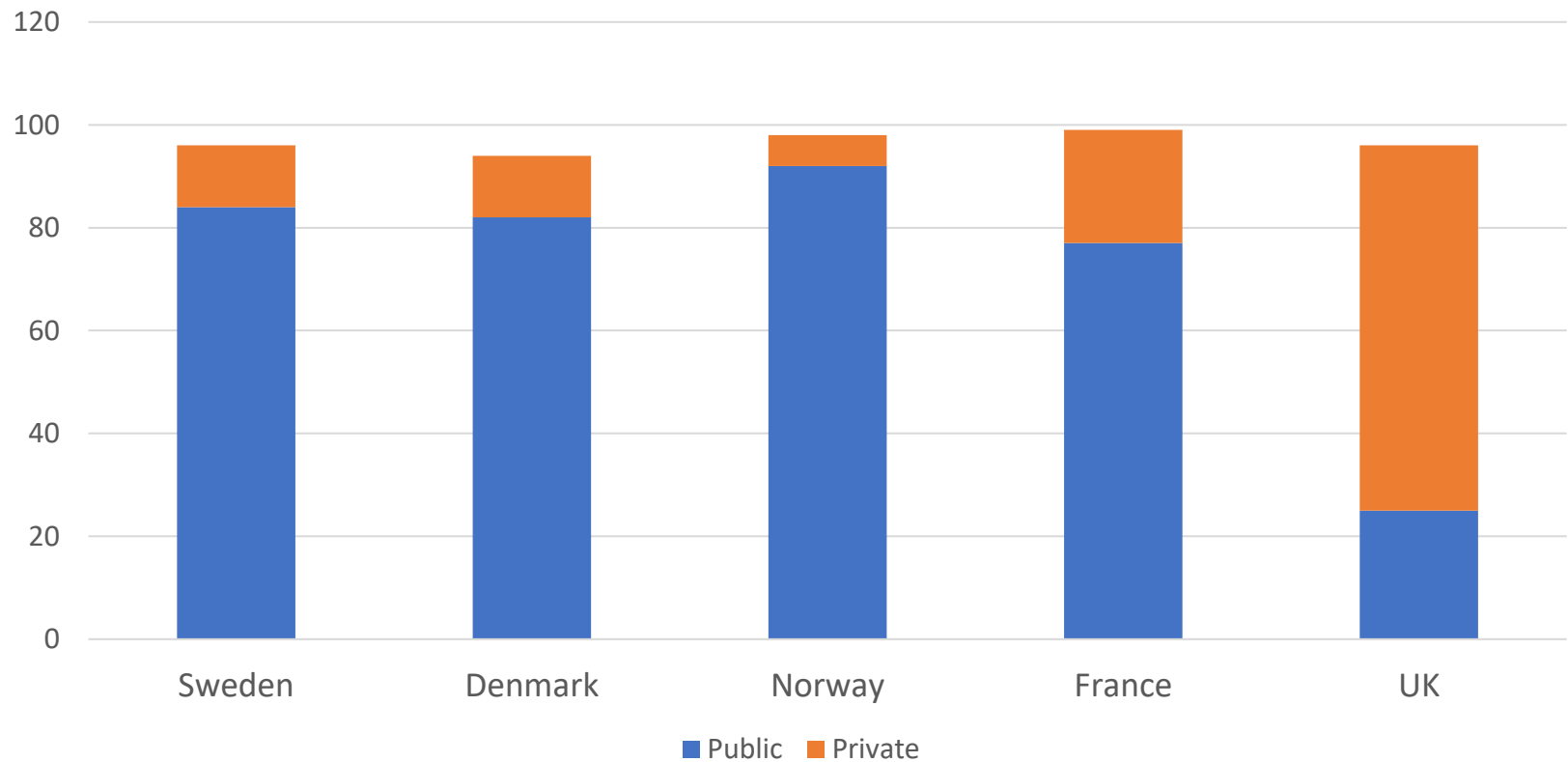


Expenditure per student in tertiary education (1,000 USD/stud.) OECD 2021

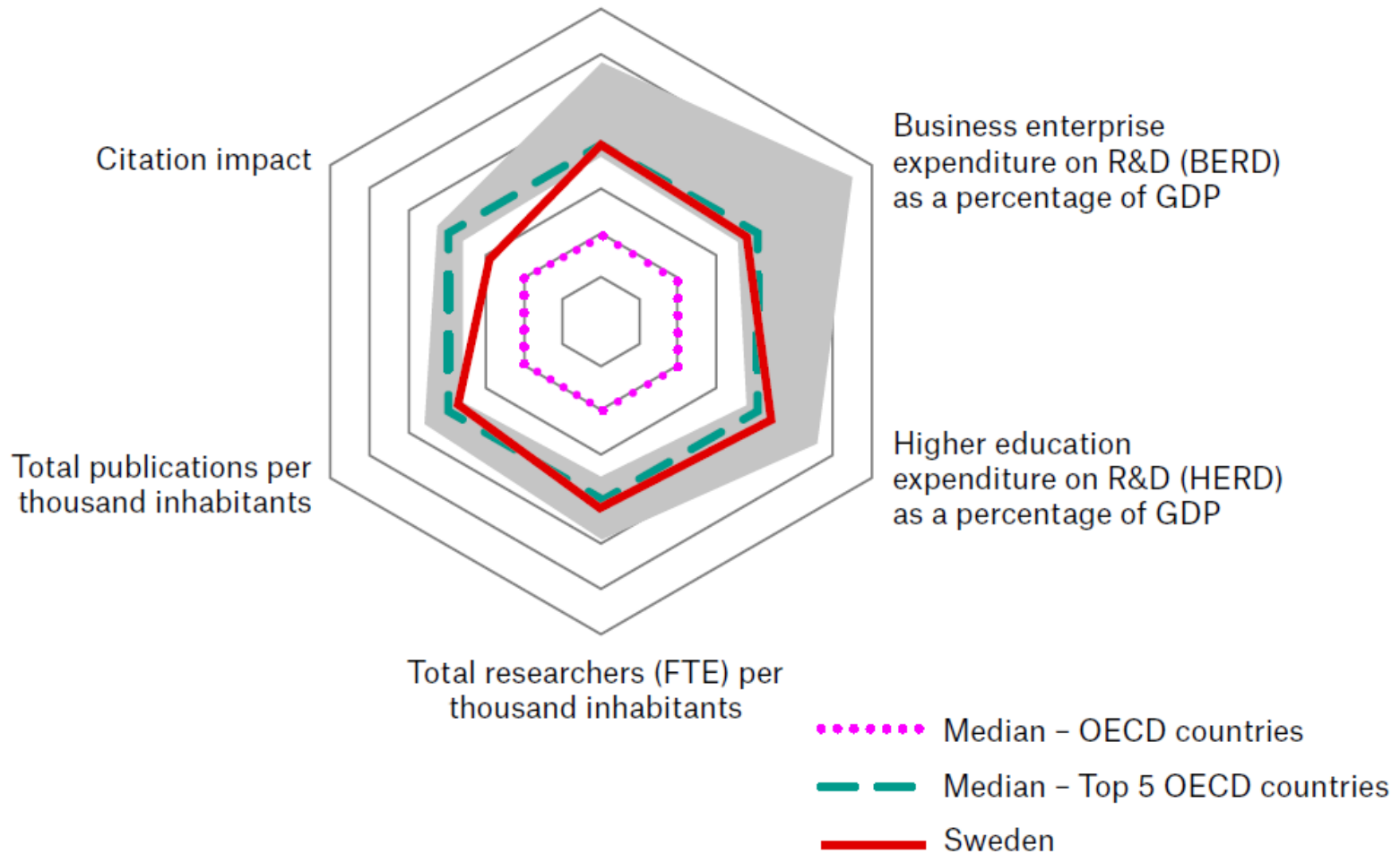


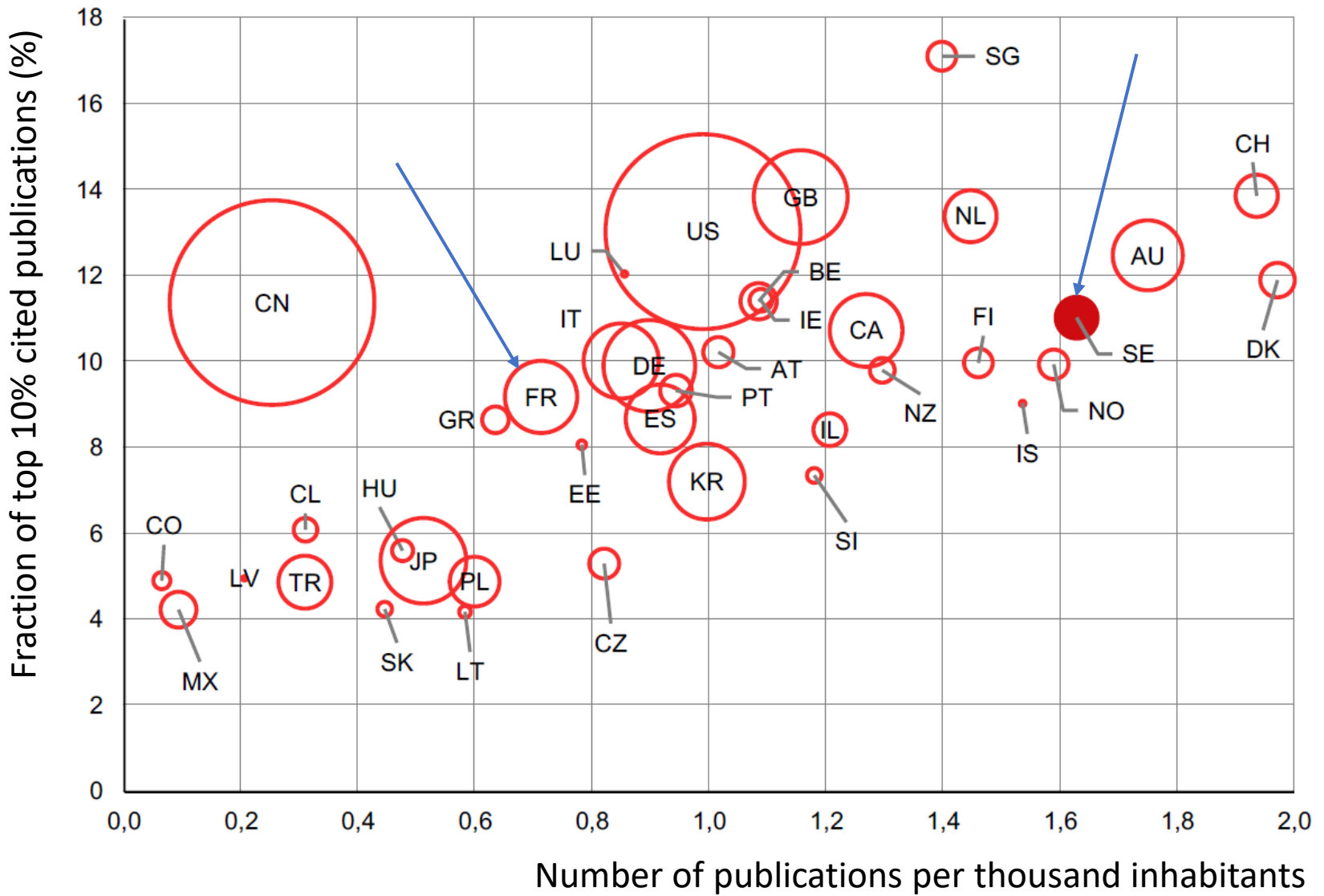
High percentage of public spending in Nordics

Public vs private spending on HE % (OECD 2018 or later)



The research barometer (Swedish Research Council)



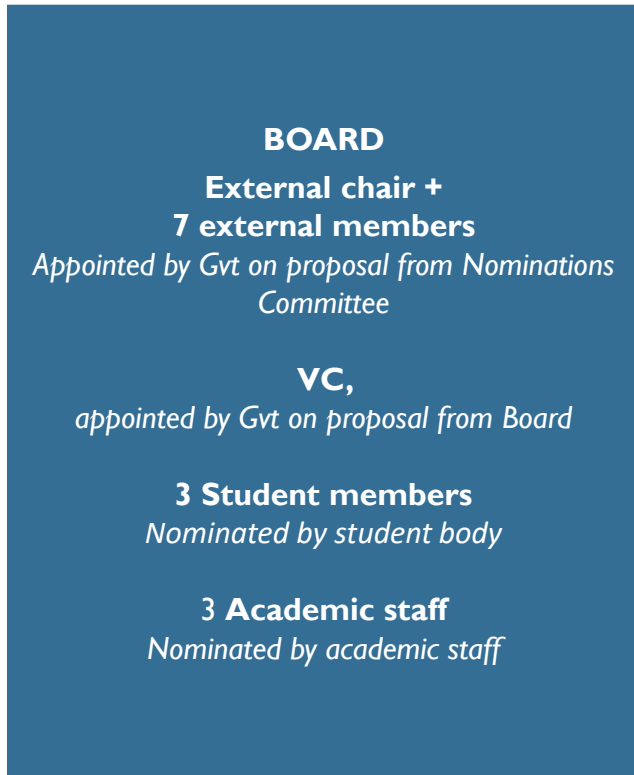


The Swedish context – some framing characteristics

- Separate income streams for education and research (block grants) from the ministry of education.
- Large portion of the total research funding is in the form of competitive grants (funding agencies). Required co-financing of external grants is a major issue for research intensive universities.
- Large number of different governmental, semi-private and private funding agencies.
- Income stream for education limits the number of students that can be accepted for a particular HEI. (Partly) large selectivity in accepting students in certain subjects/programs.
- State-own and independent HEI:s are basically funded in the same way.

Governance

State-owned HEIs
(agencies under the Government)



Pro-VC appointed by Board.

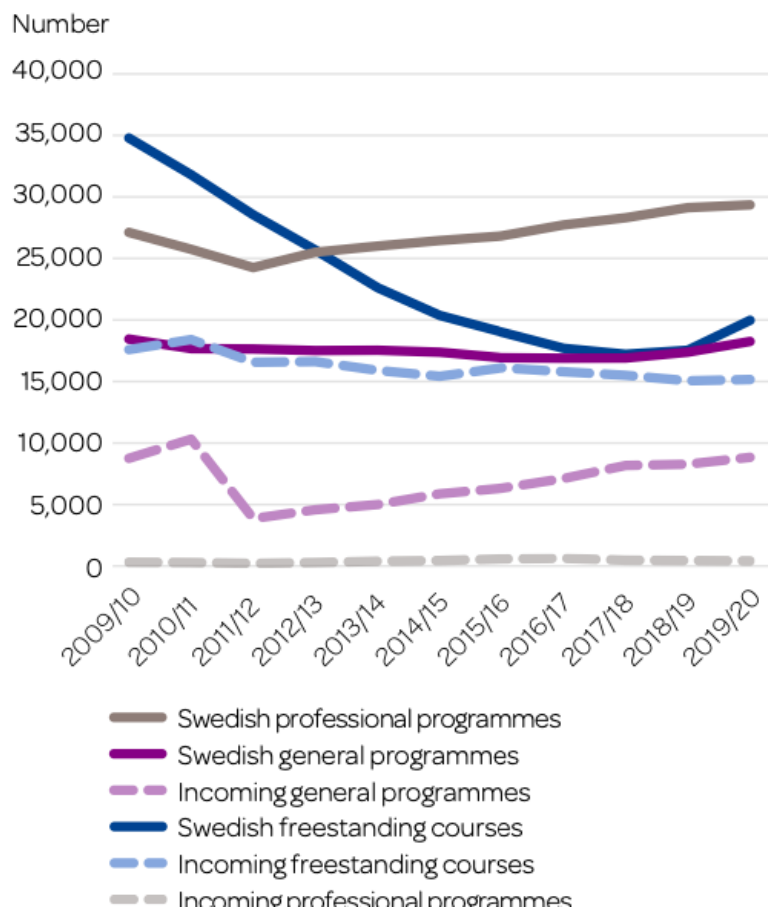
All other posts appointed by University.

- Awarding powers for professional degrees regulated by Government (in practice peer evaluation run by Swedish Higher Education Authority, UKÄ)
- UKÄ audits internal quality assurance procedures
- More autonomy in practice than in principle (but...)
- European University Association (EUA)
Autonomy Scorecard 2017:
 - High on Staffing autonomy
 - Medium high on Academic autonomy
 - Medium low on Organisational & Financial autonomy

Independent HEI:s are differently governed

HE organised in programs & freestanding courses

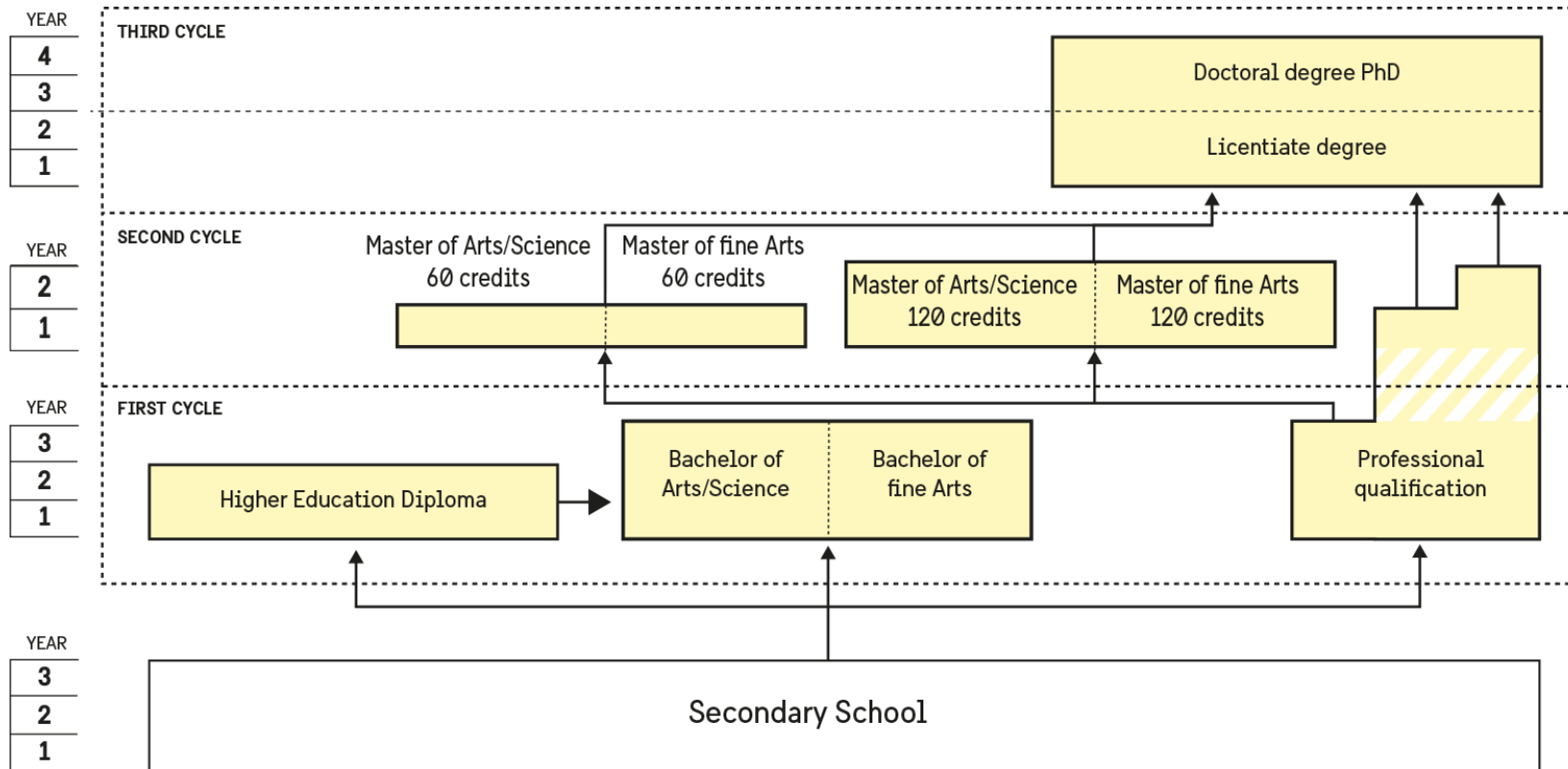
Figure 5. New HE entrants academic years 2009/10–2019/20, divided by form of study, and Swedish and incoming students.



- Approx 40% of all first-time students begin their studies on a free-standing course.
- Approx 40% of graduates return for further study in free-standing courses (30% of men, 50% of women)
- Number of students commencing freestanding courses almost halved last 20 yrs, but now increasing

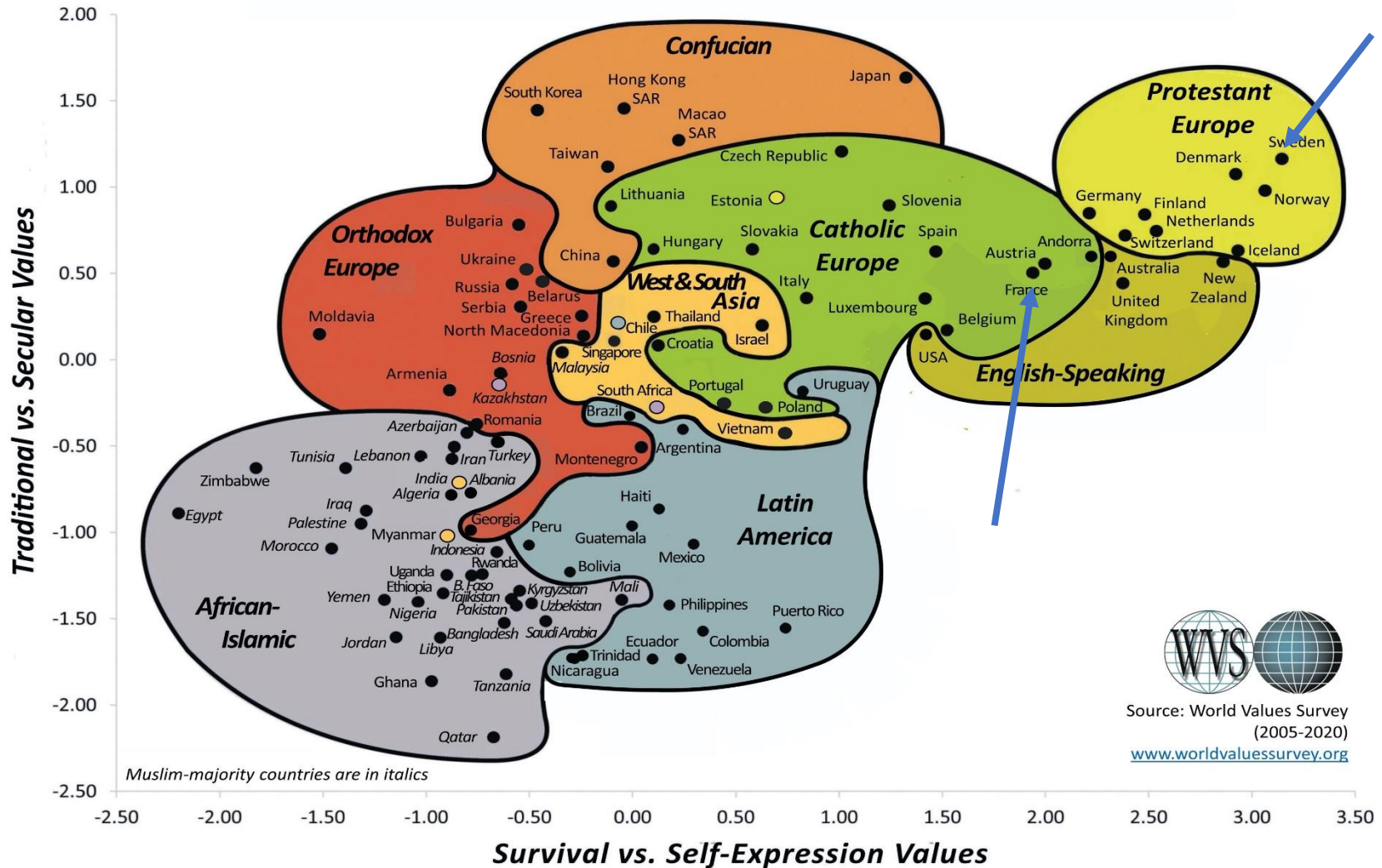
Connected Degrees

Credits transferable: between HEIs; between degrees in same cycle; throughout lifetime.



Extreme position in World Values Survey

The Inglehart-Welzel World Cultural Map (2020)



Some characteristics

- Late entry (22 yrs), late completion (28 yrs) (- but largely subject/program dependent)
- Open & distance learning integrated into all HEIs (– but some more than others)
- More independent & group study, less classroom time (- but subject/program dependent)
- Informal study environment, in general the Swedish culture is very informal.
- Less campus life, more city life (- but HEI/city dependent)
- Lowest income advantage of higher education among OECD countries

Gender ratios in Swedish Higher Education

Proportion of women among university leaders:

VC:s, pro-VC:s	40-45%
Highest admin post	49%
Professors	28% (2008: 18%)

Proportion of women among tertiary graduates

Sweden	62%
OECD	57%

First time students 2020/21

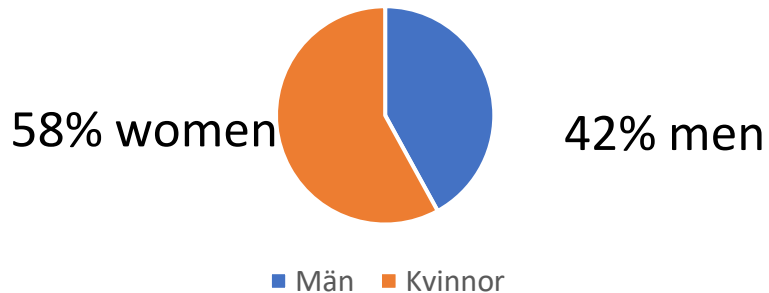
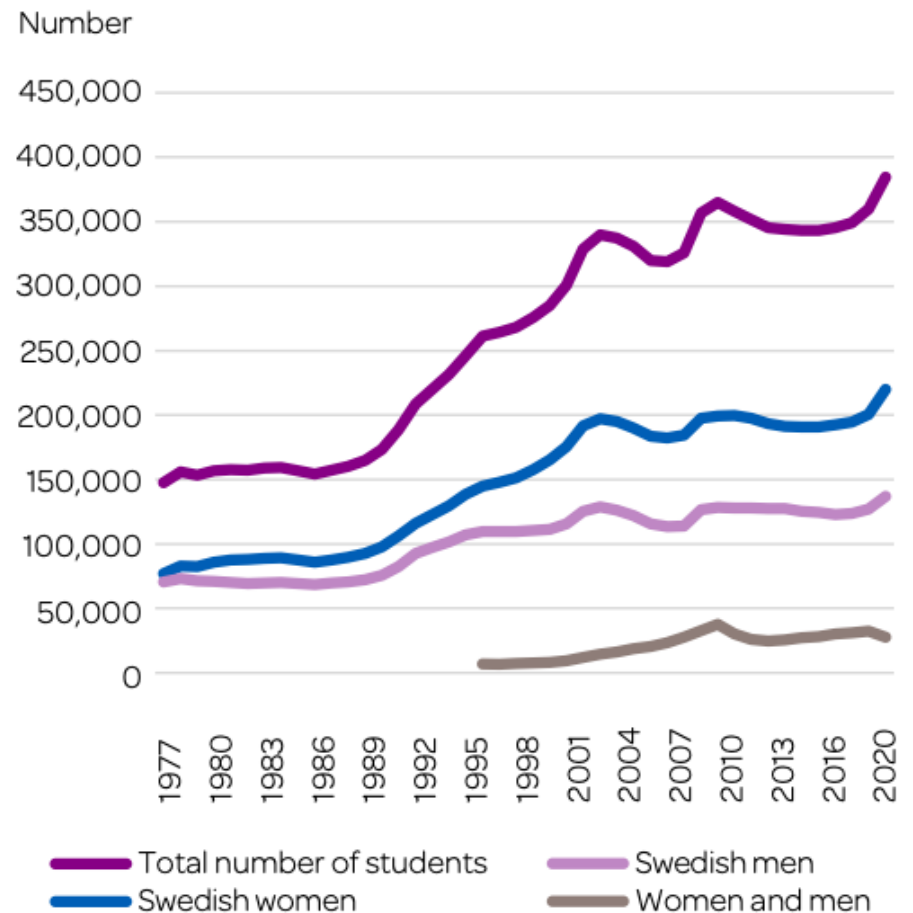


Figure 6. Total number of enrolled students in first- and second-cycle education autumn semesters 1977–2020, divided by gender and Swedish and incoming students.



Ratings and rankings

- 91% of Swedish students say their courses are good or very good
- High level of public trust in HEIs (83%)
- Global Innovation Index (2021) #2 of 132
- European Innovation Scoreboard (2021) #1 of 29
- Environmental Performance Index (2020) #8 of 180
- Universitas 21(university systems) (2020) #5 of 50
- Rankings
 - 12 Universities in major world rankings
 - THE, QS, Shanghai (ARW): 1-2 universities on top 100 per list (in total 5 universities)

High on the Swedish agenda

- Governance and funding (inquiry, control/trust, block grant/s, balance internal/external, management/collegiality.....)
- Internationalisation (fees, uncoordinated actors, non-fulfilled potential)
- Quality assurance (a long- and lasting story, an important experience)
- Admission, validation/recognition, life long learning
- Open Science
- Ethics (today and tomorrow)
- Metoo
- Autonomy/academic freedoms
- Our contribution to society (impact): work force delivery, Agenda 2030, the critical voice, economic growth
- 11 Swedish HEI:s are part of various European University Networks (EUI/EUN)