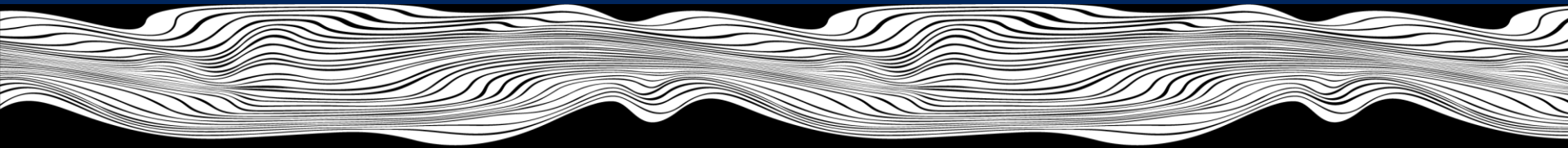


A Swedish perspective on the comparative study of Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands

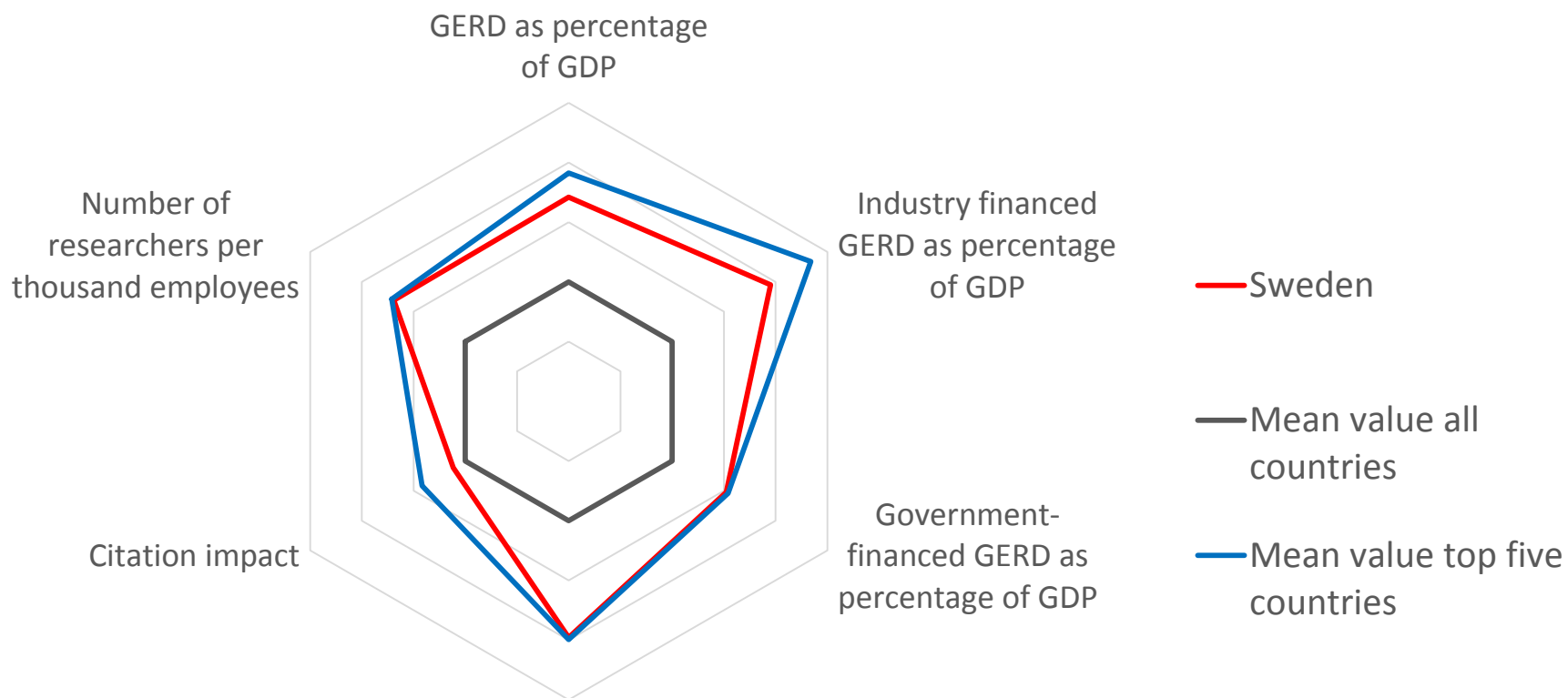
Sven Stafström
Director General,
Swedish Research Council



Do you fully recognize the picture of your country's research and research system as it appears in the report – or could you add nuances or perhaps feel need for modifications of details or conclusions?



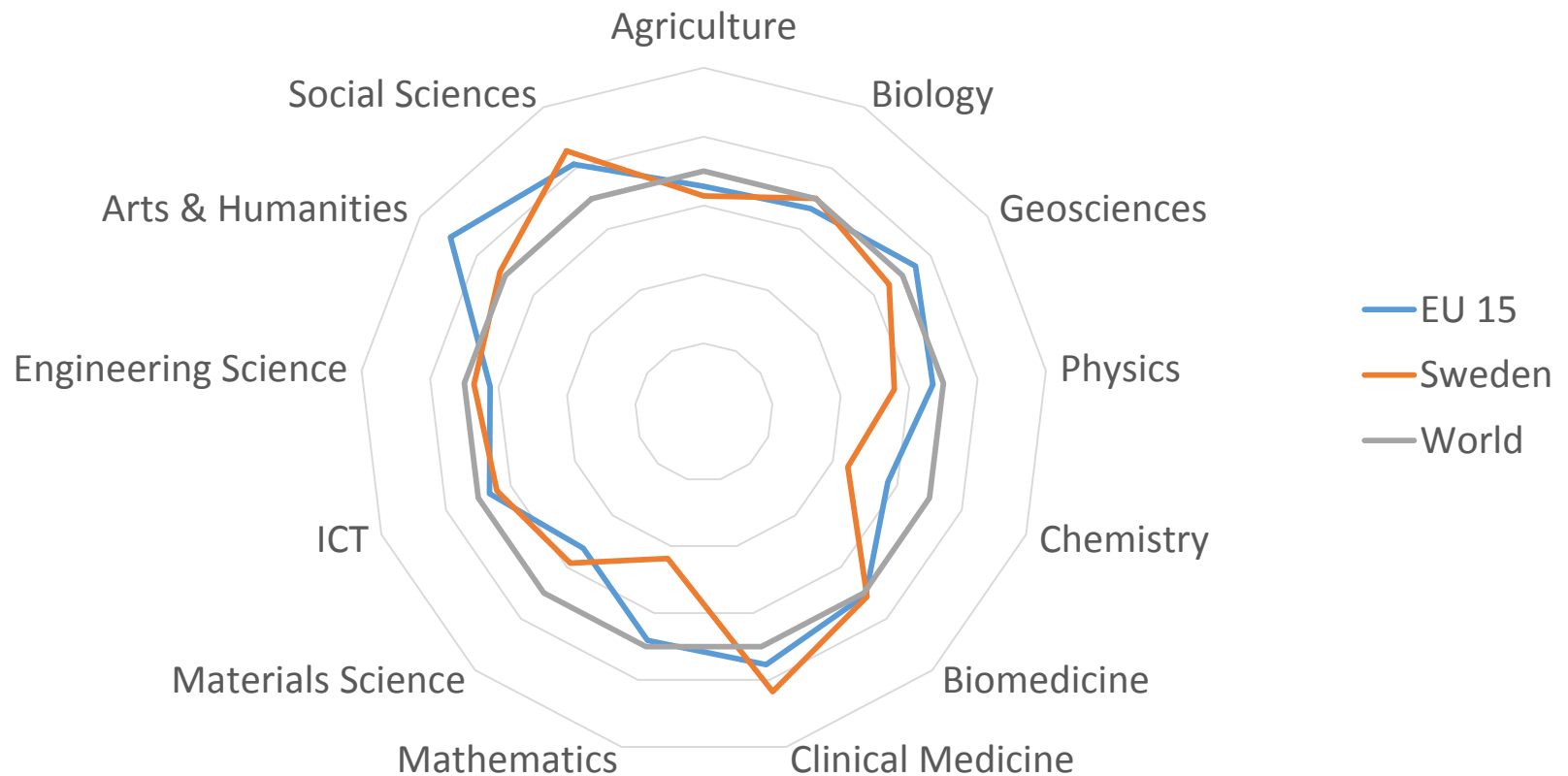
Swedish research in international comparison



Source: OECD 2013,
Thomson Reuters 2012-
2014

Swedish research activity

measured as Relative Specialisation Index (RSI)

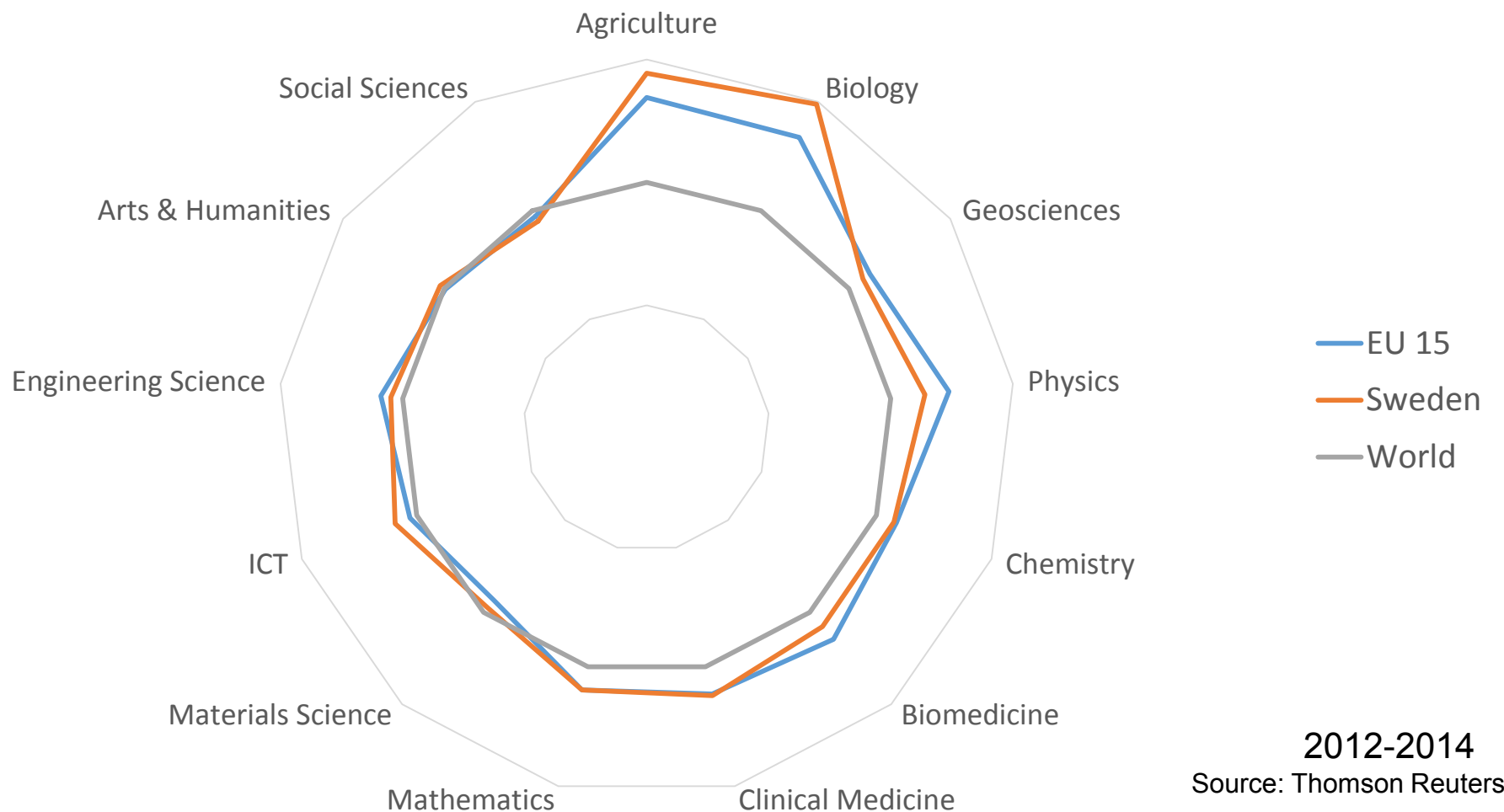


2012-2014

Source: Thomson Reuters



Citation impact Swedish publications – top 10 %

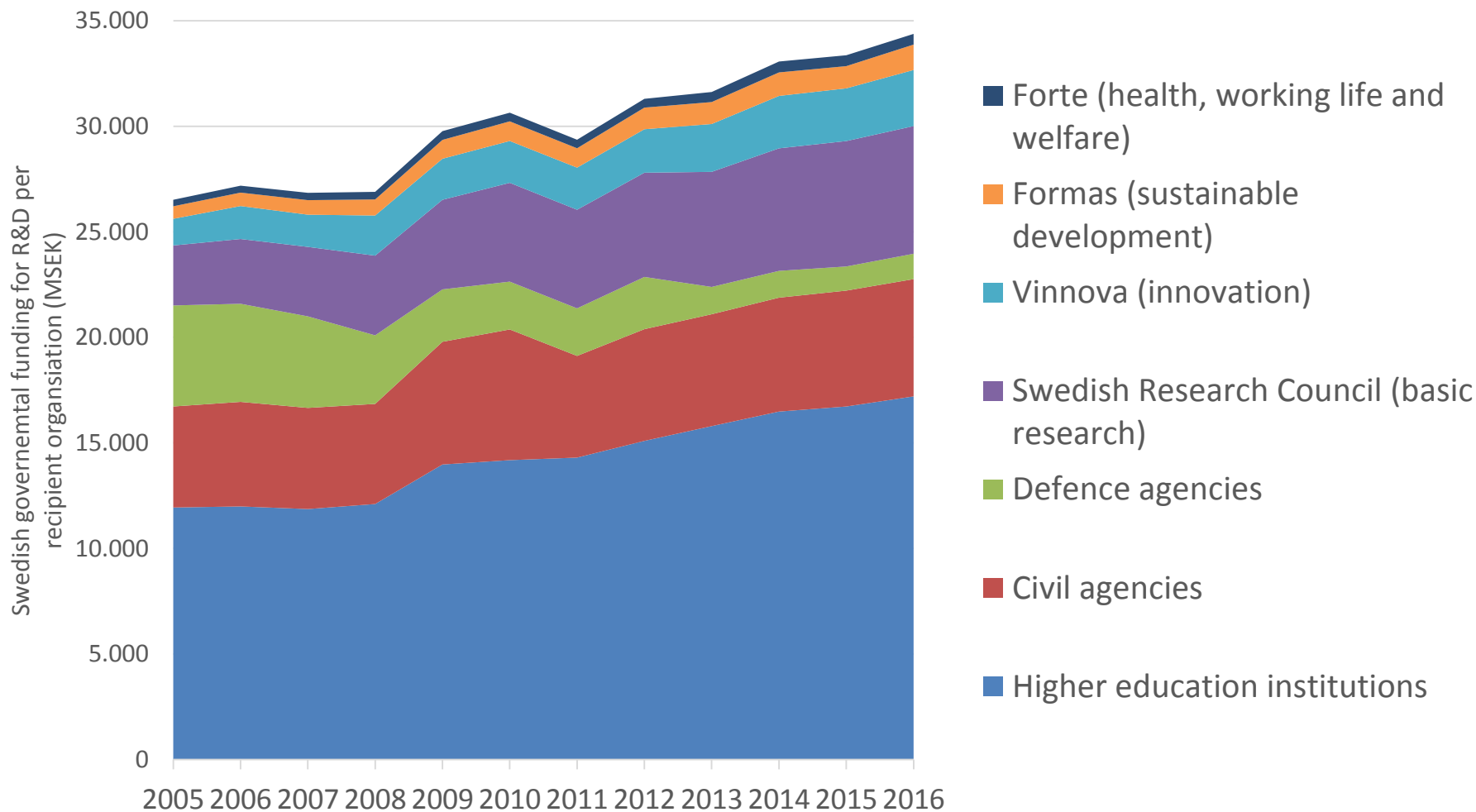


2012-2014

Source: Thomson Reuters



Distribution of Government research funds




Source: Statistics Sweden

Report: Key explanations to why Sweden has fallen behind Denmark and the Netherlands: Weakened quality culture

- Insufficient academic leadership
- Relative absence of collegial systems for internal quality control

Comment: The rapid expansion of the Swedish research system during the past 10 years has led to

- A large number of recruitments
 - High quality scientific output but relatively few outstanding contributions
 - Decrease in funding per researcher
 - Non-competitive research positions instead of competitive tenure track positions
- 

Balance issues

- Institutional funding / external funding
 - RPO:s need a “room to maneuver”
 - RPO:s and RFO:s need to agree on a “cost model”
- Individuals / research teams
 - Balance depends on discipline
 - Interdisciplinary research needs research teams
- Research / research infrastructure
 - Increasing costs – need for prioritization of both research and research infrastructure (at least in smaller countries)



Balance issues

- Young researchers / established researchers
 - Open and competitive recruitment
 - SRC: Starting – Consolidator – Distinguished professor grants
- Curiosity driven / challenge driven research
 - The national research system plays a crucial role for safeguarding diversity and curiosity as the main driver of seeking new knowledge
 - Alignment at the European level of national research programs focused on grand challenges
- Excellence / excellence



How do you transform your knowledge and understanding of excellent research and its importance to advice to your minister and government?



Research policy advice to the government - A process oriented approach with a four year cycle

1. Roadmaps based on disciplinary surveys and evaluations

- “Research Intelligence” (Forskningsbarometer)
- Research roadmap (Vägval)
- Research infrastructure roadmap
- National ERA roadmap

2. Dissemination of our findings

- Seminars
- Newspaper articles
- High-level meetings

3. Research bill, every 4th year

