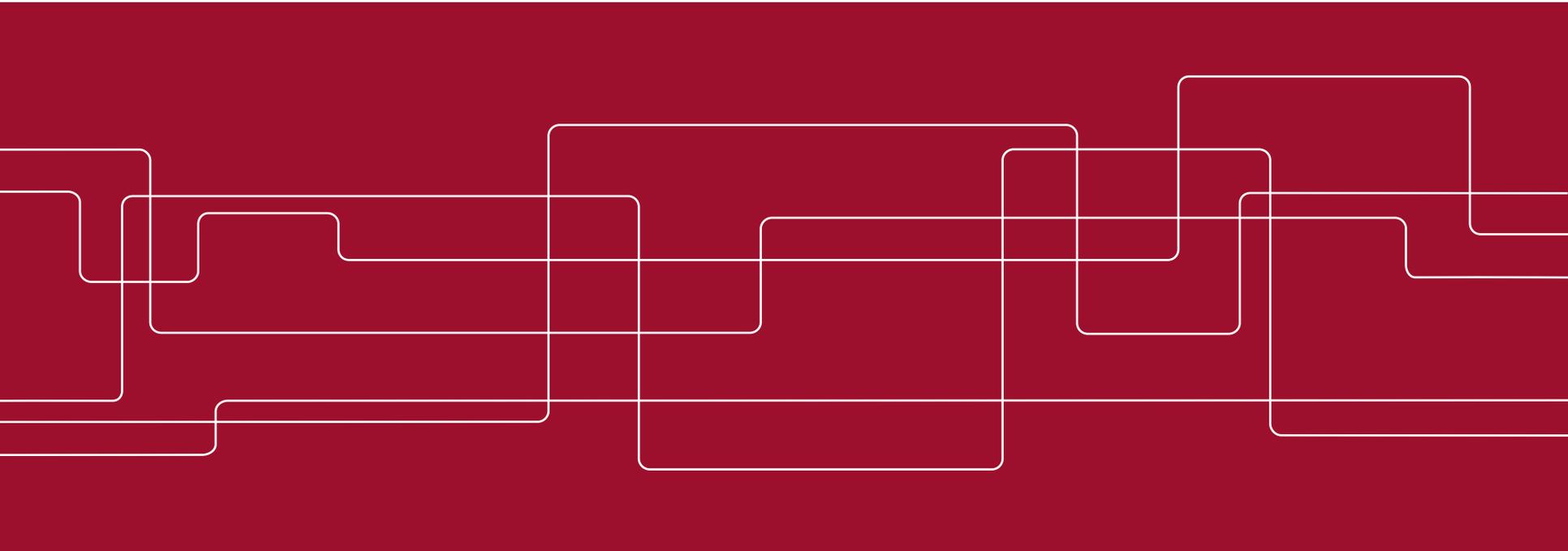




Research Aid Revisited

***– a historically grounded analysis of future prospects and
policy options***

David Nilsson and Sverker Sörlin





Outline

1. Introduction: what kind of study is this?
2. A short history of Swedish research aid
3. The changing global landscape
4. What is the future of Swedish research aid?



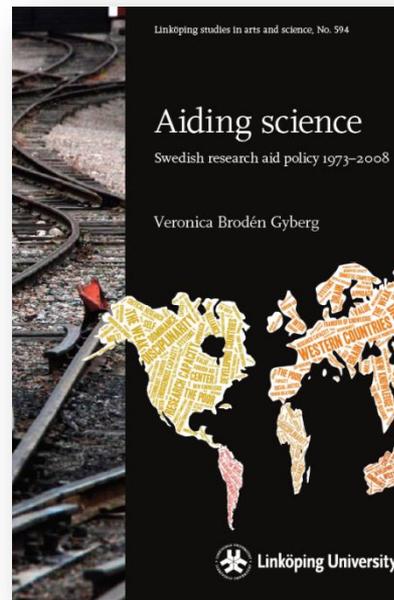
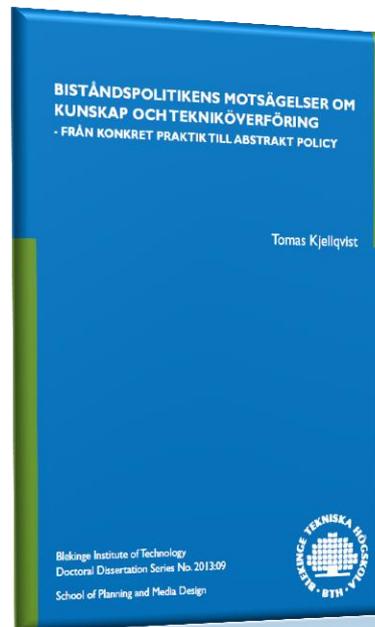
1. What kind of study is this?

- A historical study with a forward policy view
- It is NOT an evaluation
- It is NOT an organisational review

History: a source for learning

Recent historical studies of Swedish aid

- Kjellqvist 2011
- Brodén Gyberg 2013
- Bruno 2016





Purpose

1. analyse Swedish “research aid” as an element of development cooperation, and research policy, from the 1970s up to now
2. use the findings of the historical study to review policy options
3. a reflexive, open ended deliberation on possible redirections of Swedish research aid



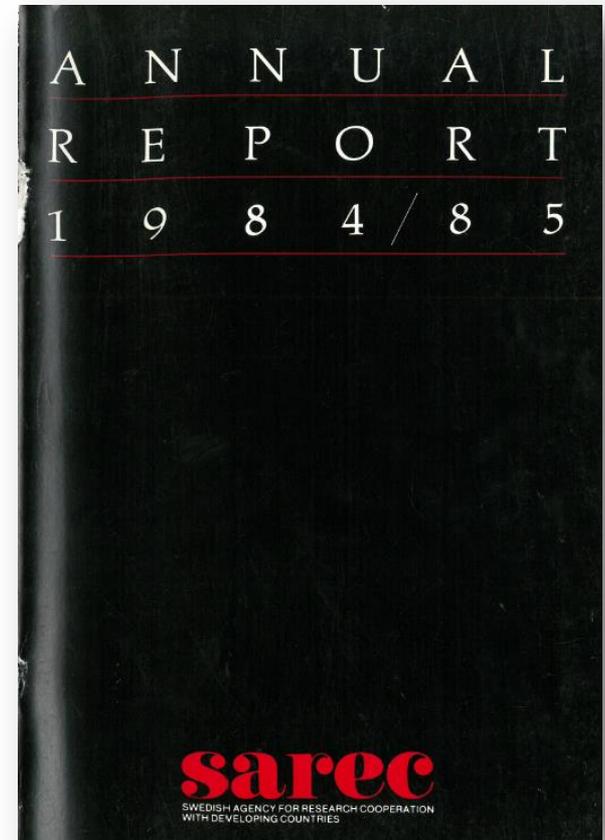
What do we mean by “Research Aid”

Activities funded by the special allocation for research under the government’s development aid appropriation

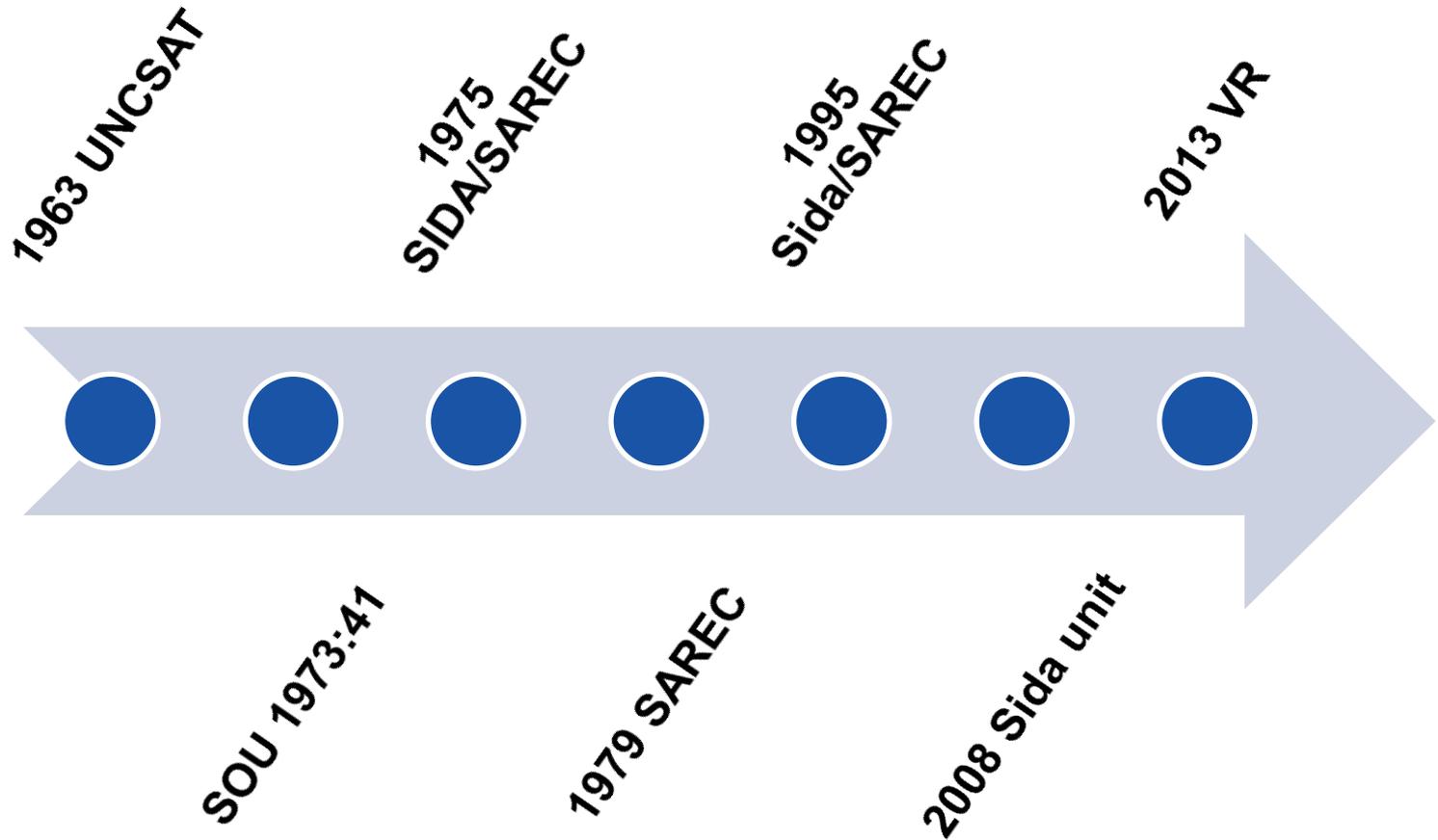


Method and sources

- Literature
- Open sources on the web
- SOU
- Government bills
- Government strategies
- Letters of appropriation
- Parliamentary committee
- International reports
- SAREC and SIDA/Sida reports
- Interviews (SAREC/Sida)
- EBA Reference group
- Author independence

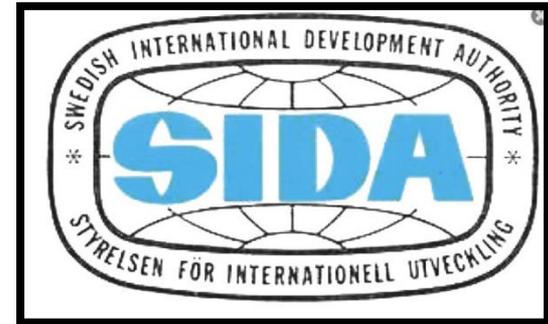


2. A short history of Swedish Research Aid



Rise of Sweden as an aid nation

- Aid in 1960 0.1% of GDP
- “Aid Bible” 1962
- SIDA formed in 1965
- Research collaboration with e.g India and Ethiopia
- FAO, EPTA, WHO
- Country programming

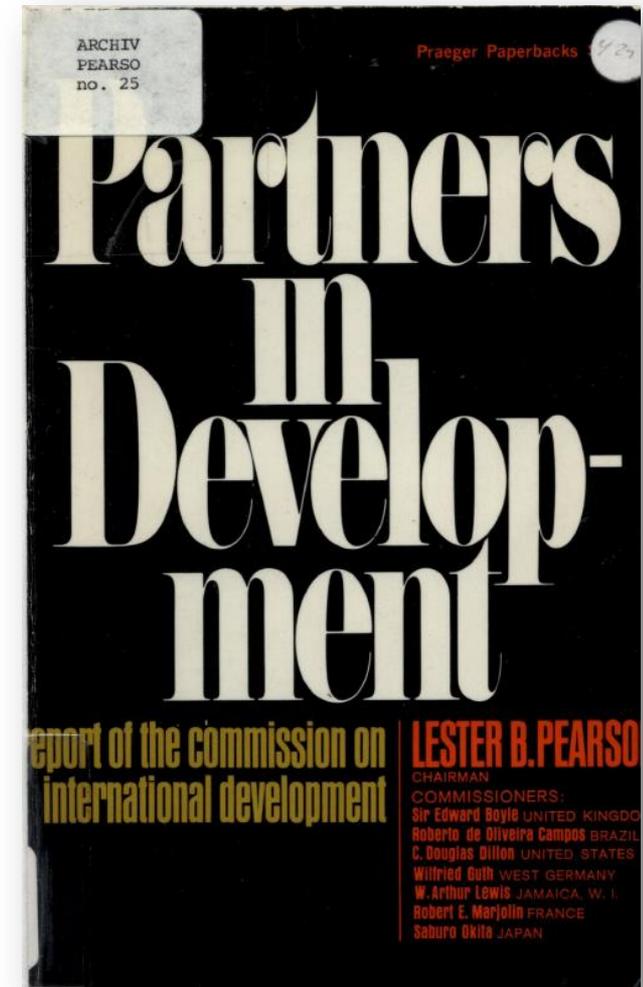


(CADU, Ethiopia) photos: www.sida.se 50
årsjubileum



The formation of SAREC – international trends

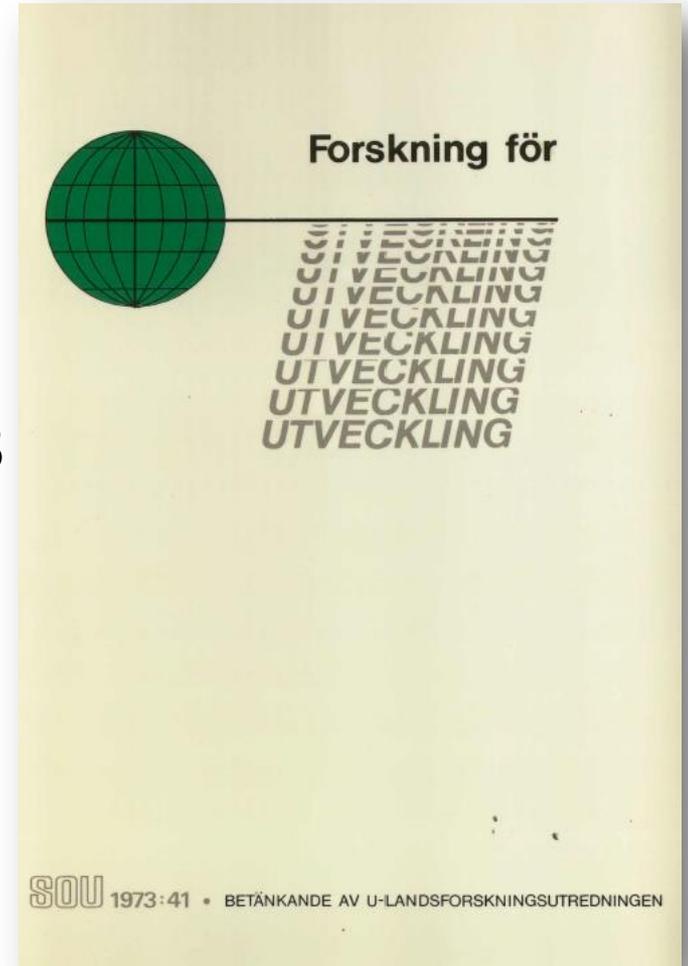
- UNCSAT in Geneva 1963
- The Pearson report 1969
- UN ACAST Plan of Action 1971
- OECD Science, Growth and Society, 1971





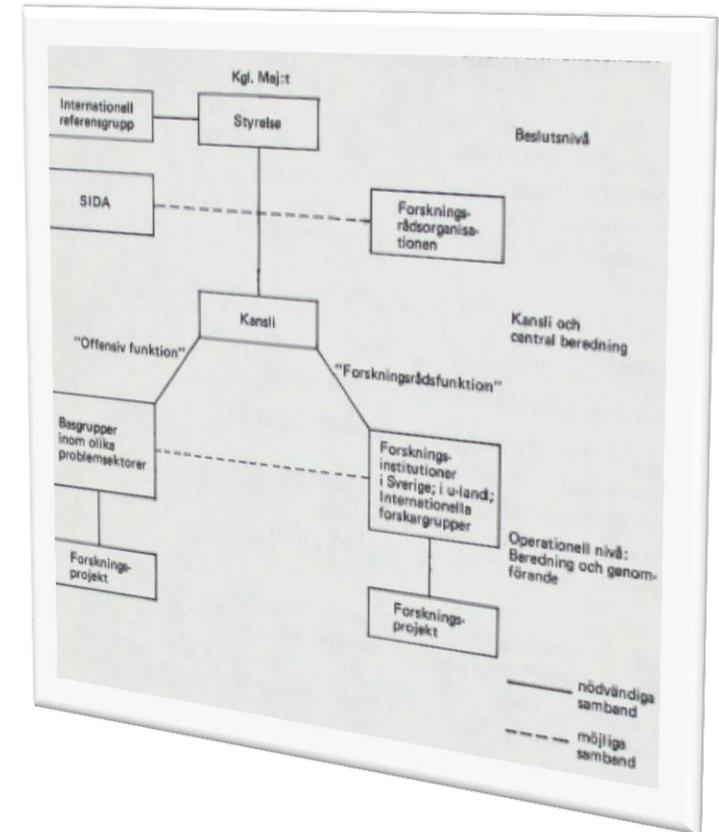
The formation of SAREC – a very Swedish process

- Expert group in 1965
- Science council group 1969
- Development research commission 1971-1973
- SAREC as a unit under Sida 1975
- Research council commission 1975
- Aid commission 1978
- SAREC an independent agency 1979



SAREC as a separate agency

- SOU1973:41 defied instructions and proposed a separate agency
- SIDA and other organisations against a free-standing SAREC
- weak demand for research aid
- SAREC did not have to follow “country programming”





SAREC as a protected niche

“Within the frames of the country programs research could not prevail in competition with other interventions, particularly not if the supply-side lacked a research-oriented organisation with outreach.”

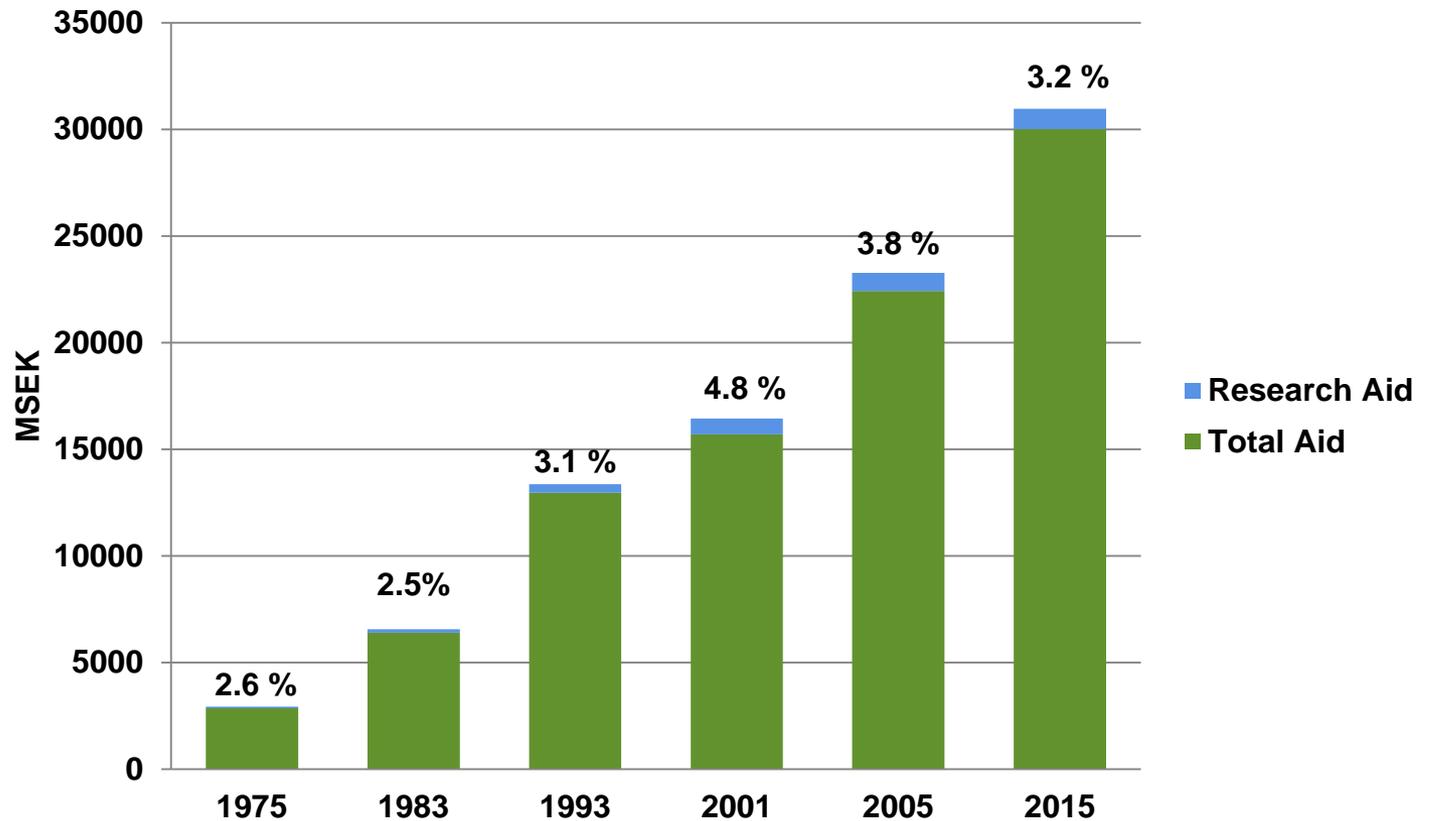
SOU 1978:61, Aid commission



The Swedish framework – since the 1980s

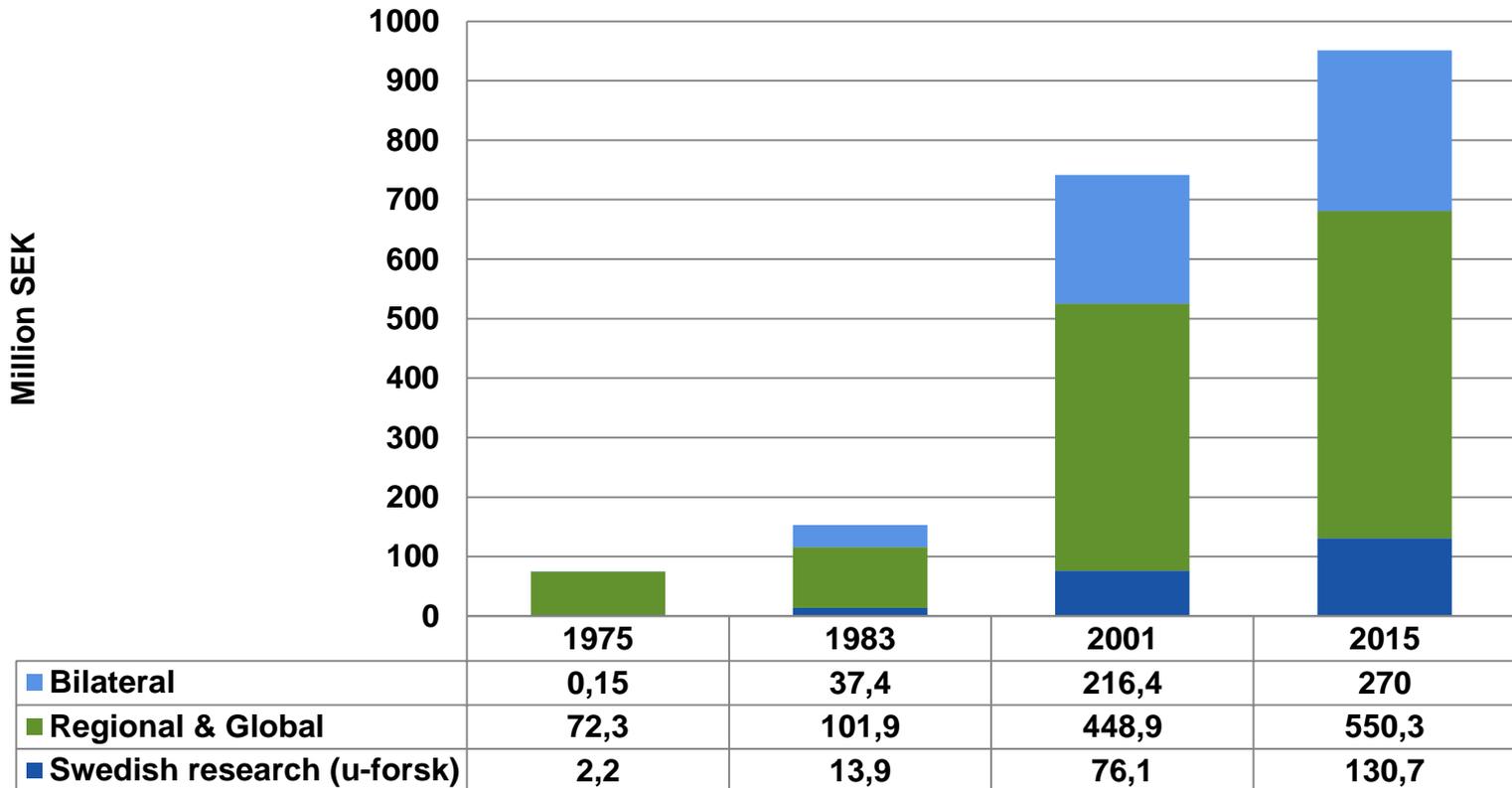
1. **Bilateral cooperation** for capacity building
2. **Global and regional research**, e.g. CGIAR, WHO, ISP and IFS
3. **Research in Sweden** through a science council function

Overall aid finance 1975-2015



A relatively stable pattern

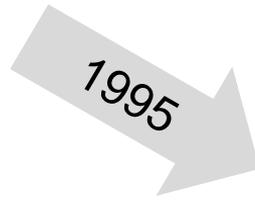
Research aid allocation 1975-2015





Organisational changes

SAREC, Swedcorp, BITS, SIDA



1. **Bilateral cooperation**
2. **Global and regional research**



3. **Research in Sweden**



Change vs. Continuity

- Major organisational changes
- New themes including early challenge-driven research
- Increased focus on institutional capacity
- New partner selection routine
- More focus on scientific quality
- Three-tier framework
- Stable finance, slow decline
- Weak links with national research
- Strong belief that science can deliver “development”
- A capacity/knowledge gap
- Problem is still located “over there”

2. The changing global landscape





Politics and Knowledge shifts

GEOPOLITICS

- Cold War and Sweden's North-South axis
- Realignment 1989-2008: Effectiveness and "Policy Aid"
- Post-Lehmann Brothers

KNOWLEDGE REGIMES

- State-led Science, from War to the "Endless Frontier"
- Competitiveness, Mode 2
- Grand Challenge era



Research and the World Commons beyond 2030

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Paris Agreement under the Framework Convention on Climate Change (UN-FCCC).

These two much celebrated events marked the confluence of three political-economic and ideological processes that have shaped - and increasingly will shape - the path of humanity: **fighting poverty; safeguarding the environment; and combatting climate change.**



Global transformations – regime shifts

There is now a shift towards “responsible innovation” and an increased recognition of the state as key agent and funder (Mazzucato), an increased interest in involving civil society – citizens, organizations, business – and a balancing of national interests with universal needs.

Other key concepts are “transformation” and “transition”, following in the wake of the United Nations’ Sustainability Development Goals and the Paris COP 21 climate agreement, both in 2015. The call has already been out for a few years that research should support and sustain such transitions. (ISSC Transformations report 2012)



4. What is the future of Swedish Research Aid?



Photo: Richard Croft



Eight propositions

1. *Challenges and problems are shared.*
2. *Global challenges are local.*
3. *Wealth is becoming a greater problem than poverty.*
4. *Research agendas should be formed in dialogue.*
5. *The knowledge base is widening.*
6. *Institutions remain essential.*
7. *Change of scale is required.*
8. *Research aid should be linked closer to knowledge and research policy at large.*



The time is right to re-think research aid

- Balls are already in motion
- Research bill addresses global challenges
- Revival of PGU launched in 2016
- Carin Jämtin starts at Sida today