Vetenskapsrådet
Swedish Research Council

# Building on our strengths

## Doctoral education in Europe the past 20 years and outlook for the future

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**Director General, Swedish Research Council**
Sweden’s largest governmental research funding body

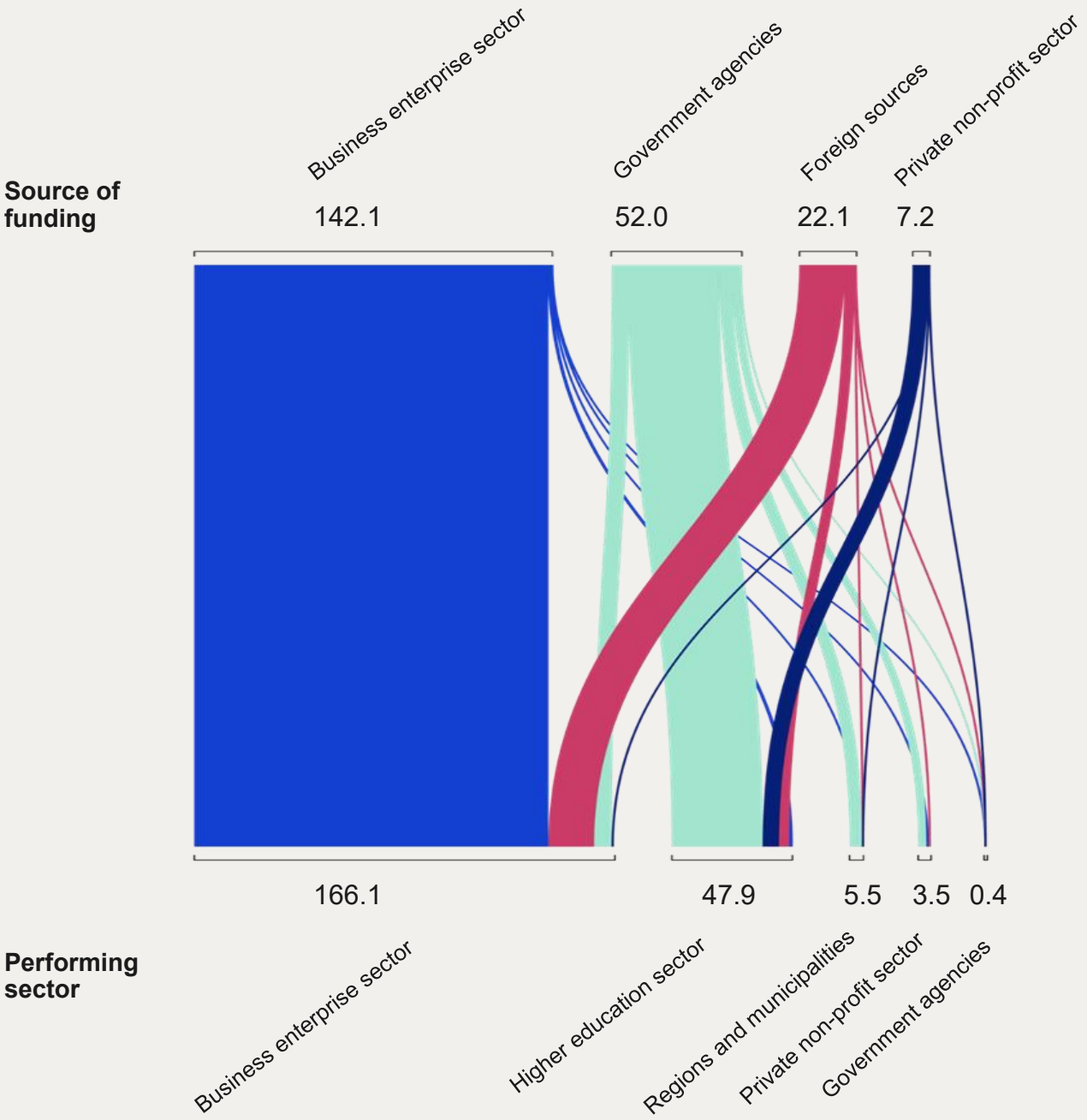
**2004–2005 university network coordinator**
EUA doctoral programmes project

# Funding providers for R&D in Sweden

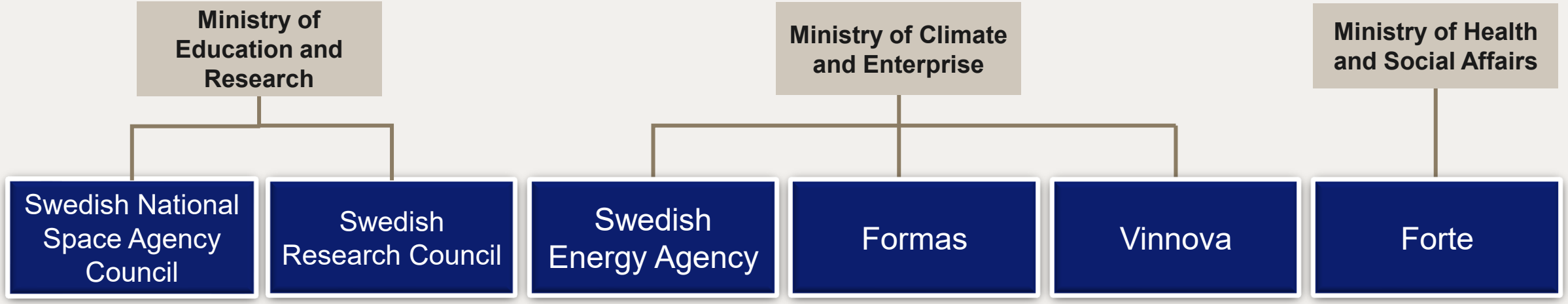
**Two large performers:**

- Business enterprise 74%
- Higher education institutions 21%

Total 223 billion SEK



# Governance of research and innovation funders



# Doctoral education in Europe the past 20 years

1.
The core component of doctoral training is the advancement of knowledge through original research

2.
Embedding in institutional strategies and policies

3.
The importance of diversity

4.
Doctoral candidates as early stage researchers

5.
The crucial role of supervision and assessment

6.
Achieving critical mass

7.
Duration

8.
The promotion of innovative structures

9.
Increasing mobility

10.
Ensuring appropriate funding

24
56%

# Prioritised topics for education

- Strategic priorities:
  - Internationalisation
  - Digitisation
- Main elements of education:
  - Research ethics
  - Integrity
- Skills training

# Internationalisation

**EUA Trend report 2024:**

- Doctoral education is increasingly global
- At 22% of higher education institutes, over 20% of doctoral candidates have mobility experience
- At 13% of higher education institutes, 50% of doctoral candidates have mobility experience

# Outlook for the future

# THE FUTURE OF DOCTORAL EDUCATION IN EUROPE

**INTERDISCIPLINARITY AND TRANSDISCIPLINARIY**

Joint programs and collaboration across disciplines

**OPEN SCIENCE AND DATA TRANSPARENCY**

Training in open access publishing and data sharing

**DIGITALIZATION AND REMOTE LEARNING**

Hybrid supervision and digital, research skills

**EMPHASIS ON TRANSFERABLE SKILLS**

Entrepreneurship, communication, and project management

**STRONGER INDUSTRY AND SOCIETAL LINKS**

Industrial doctorates and public-private partnerships

**MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING SUPPORT**

Mental health services and resillence training

**INTERNATIONALIZATION AND MOBILITY**

Joint doctorates and enhanced cooperation

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION**

Recruitment of underrepresented groups

# Thank you!

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