

FAS

Annual Report

2007

Preface

A radical restructuring has been carried out in 2007 in regard to the research funded by the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research, FAS. Firstly, the decision was made to fund ten strong research environments, so-called FAS centres, which will receive at least SEK 5 million per year over a ten-year period. These centres are a consequence of the focus on long-term research funding that was stated in the Research Policy Bill in 2004 (2004/05:80) and the reinforcement of this that the Bill represents. The decision will mean new opportunities for long-term research to the benefit of working life, public health and welfare.

Secondly, FAS decided during the year to support a number of prominent research groups through sixteen programmes with financing over a six-year period and normally for SEK 2 million per year. FAS has worked with this form of funding since 2001 and has found it to be particularly applicable as long-term funding at an intermediate level. Another initiative to create a good platform for long-term research is FAS' funding of research positions.

Thirdly, it is an important challenge for FAS to find a constructive balance between long-term funding for prominent research environments and opportunities for individual researchers or groups to apply for project funding in competitive application processes. The biggest investment for FAS in 2007 was therefore funding for just over one hundred research projects, where one or two researchers freely formulate research ideas within FAS' area of responsibility.

Fourthly, FAS was also in 2007 given the task of allocating funds for a special area, namely research on women's health with SEK 30 million per year for a three-year period beginning in 2008. In 2007, therefore, a call was issued within the field and the preparation process was organised. Decisions in regard to the first grants will be taken in spring 2008.

Since it was set up in 2001, FAS has been able to increase its total research funding although only a very small part of the total application volume is awarded funding. The stringent review system with its increasing element of international experts, which is used by FAS, is the guarantee that the applications which are awarded grants are those that are the best in terms of quality.

Last but not least, the international aspect has emerged in part from the various initiatives that are now being taken with the EU. The newly-established European Research Council, which applies a search system with completely free applications where the researchers' own drafting of the research problems are decisive, has contributed to this. The discussion concerning profiling and differentiation that is being conducted in the Resource Committee (SOU 2007:81) in regard to research at universities and other tertiary institutions is a manifestation of the increasingly evident internationalisation and the competitive element of research funding. FAS' sorting and assessment procedures always consider the international connection and the international effect of the individual applications.

Research concerning Swedish conditions within working life, public health and welfare provides at the same time important contributions to the common, international knowledge bank within these fields. The variability that characterises these research fields, of necessity as they are a part of social life, places particularly high demands that the research is conducted

with scientific quality as its chief objective, in full accordance with the overall role assigned to FAS by the Swedish Government.

The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research will also in the future develop quality assessment so that the best research within working life, public health and welfare can be supported. Another central task is to develop information and social dialogue in regard to the issues that the Council funds. In addition, methods need to be developed for assessment and quality control in order to clearly channel FAS financing over time to research of high international class. This is particularly important in a time when the internationalisation of research is increasing and thereby also the contacts outside Europe.

Erland Hjelmquist
Secretary-General
Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research

1. Introduction – general objectives

In 2007, FAS' activities were influenced in many respects by the Swedish Government's Research Policy Bill and the decisions taken by the Swedish Parliament on the basis of this Bill. The Government's research policy decisions provided FAS with additional funding of SEK 40 million in total for the period 2006–2008. This sum will be distributed over this period with SEK 3 million in 2006, SEK 16 million in 2007 and SEK 21 million in 2008. The entire additional contribution is earmarked for specific purposes, the most significant of which is investment in strong research environments. In the Government's Policy for the Elderly Bill, FAS was allocated SEK 30 million for 2007 aimed at supporting the long-term development of research concerning the elderly, a sum that was increased to SEK 35 million for 2008. FAS has also been given the task by the Government in 2007 to initiate a research programme on women's health and has allocated SEK 30 million per year over a three-year period for this purpose. The closing of the Swedish National Institute for Working Life has also had a certain effect on FAS' prioritisations in 2007. SEK 4 million has been allotted from the special "reorganisation funds" to FAS in order to safeguard specific projects that FAS co-financed with ALI.

Since the agency was formed in 2001, FAS' operation in the area of 'Research Policy' has been guided by the objective laid down in the funding mandate issued by the Swedish Government, i.e. that *Sweden must maintain its position as a leading research nation which conducts research of the very highest scientific calibre.*

FAS contributes to this general operational objective by providing support to high-quality research. By making information available in a number of different ways, the council has tried to ensure that representatives of businesses within various sectors, the media and the general public have access to the research findings.

The Swedish government has set the following objective for the operational area of "Research and Development": *The national organisation for research funding shall be an effective tool in promoting the research policy goals, strengthening the Swedish system for research and development, and intensifying the contribution which research makes to the international competitiveness of Sweden and a sustainable development for society.*

The subsequent requirement for reporting stipulates that *FAS shall present a collective assessment of how the agency's operations contribute to the goal for the operational area.*

One of the aims of FAS' research funding is, within its area of responsibility, to provide opportunities for new research ideas to be realised and the opportunity for younger researchers to establish themselves. For this reason open competitions are announced each year for research project funding and post-doctoral grants. Decisions as to which applications shall be awarded funding are based on scientific quality and relevance to society. Just over half of all FAS research funding in 2007 was awarded in these two types of funding.

The other aim of the research funding is to give prominent researchers good opportunities to develop their research environments and make their research even more internationally competitive and visible. Programme funding and funding of research centres are forms of support that to varying degrees provide long-term basic financing for prominent research groups. Such funds are also announced and applied for in open competition and where here too the basis of selection is scientific quality and social relevance.

Social relevance has particular significance for a research council devoted to a specific area such as FAS. A particularly large need for knowledge within a specific area, manifested more often than not by assignments to FAS, results in specific calls for applications. The types of funding may vary but have mostly frequently been in the form of programme funding. It is important to note that irrespective of the nature of the project or form of support all research funding is allocated after calls for applications and thereby all researchers have the opportunity to apply for funding in open competition.

It is of course very difficult, if not to say impossible, to determine the significance that FAS' prioritisations and research focuses have had on the quality of the Swedish research that comes under FAS' area of responsibility. But with the aid of bibliometric analyses that FAS has had carried out, it can be established that Swedish researchers within these research fields are, compared with the world average, overrepresented at the top end of the most cited researchers. The assessments of more limited research fields or research environments that FAS has carried out also indicate good results.

As is stated in other parts of this annual report, FAS contributes in different ways to the attainment of the objective for research policy. Quality issues therefore permeate FAS's activities. Extensive resources are focused on the selection of research projects. The Council's board, composed of leading researchers from different disciplines and fields of knowledge as well as general representatives with broad experience of society and extensive knowledge within their special areas, is actively involved in this work. The board members form the main body of FAS' evaluation committees but are also complemented by external experts with the aim of attaining expertise within the entire area of responsibility of FAS. The evaluation committees also solicit views about the applications from external experts. In regard to long-term programme funding, assessment is carried out with the assistance of leading international expertise within the respective fields. By having clear quality criteria as the basis for the selection of applications for project and programme funding, the Council strives to raise quality awareness within the scientific community and thereby strengthen the Swedish R&D system.

2. The organisation

FAS' *Board* has complete responsibility for the agency. It comprises a chair, twelve members and twelve deputy members. A majority of the Board, seven members and their deputies are researchers elected by their research community in a delegate election process. The chair and the other members and deputies are appointed by the Swedish Government. Both the members and their deputies participate in Board meetings. The Board also has trade union staff representatives as of 2002.

The Board has appointed seven *Evaluation Committees* (ECs) charged with reviewing and assessing applications for project grants and post-doctoral project grants. The Evaluation Committees' task areas are Work, Environment and Health; Work, Daily Life and Health, Labour Market; Work Organisation; Public Health; Social Services and Social Relations; and Welfare and Social Insurance. These areas coincide essentially, though not fully, with the main areas into which FAS' area of responsibility is divided, as described in section 3. Applications are classified by main area, but the applications are allocated among the ECs on

the basis of the expertise in the EC and with consideration to conflicts of interest. The differences between the main areas and the EC's task areas are particularly prominent in terms of Work, Environment and Health and Work, Daily Life and Health.

The Work, Environment and Health EC assesses in particular applications that address chemical and biological health risks, physical health risks including electromagnetic fields, ergonomic strain injuries and the development of methods of measuring exposure and risk assessment.

The Work, Daily Life and Health EC assesses applications that address research on psychological and somatic conditions related to psychosocial factors in the working environment, stress, sickness absence and the work/family relationship. This EC is not associated to one and the same main area (as is largely the case for the other ECs) but deals with projects in all main areas. However, most of the projects in EC Work, Daily Life and Health come under three of the main areas, i.e. Public Health, Work and Health and Work Organisation.

As previously mentioned, all Board members and deputies are members of the Evaluation Committees. The Board has also decided to include external members in these committees. A total of 28 individuals, both researchers and general representatives, were appointed in 2007 for the purpose of ensuring a complete and qualified review of the applications by broadening the competence of those involved in the assessment process. These external members are appointed for a term of a maximum of four years.

The primary task of the *Gender Equality Committee* is to consider gender and equality issues arising in connection with the Council's work.

The Council also has a *Publications Committee*, which reviews grant applications for the publication of scientific monographs and journals, as well as applications for scholarships in journalism.

The agency has a staff of 24. Its operations are directed by a Secretary-General who is appointed by the Board. The agency's employees are to assist the Council's expert committees and contribute to the dissemination of knowledge and dialogue with society at large. The agency is organised into a Programme Unit, a Communications Unit and an Administrative Unit. In its activities, the agency collaborates nationally and internationally with other research-funding agencies.

Operations are divided into three operational sectors: research support, research information plus strategy and analysis.

3. The Council's main areas

The research supported by FAS is divided into six main areas with associated subareas. A general description of the research conducted within the six main areas is provided below.

Work and health

This area comprises research into health risks in working life and unpaid work. This extends to biological, chemical and physical factors and how these factors affect people and their significance to the incidence of allergy, asthma and cancer, cardiovascular diseases, stress injuries, vibration and noise injuries, as well as research electromagnetic fields. The area also encompasses research into psychological and somatic conditions related to the psychosocial factors in the work environment. Development of methods for exposure measurement and risk assessment is also included here.

Work organisation

Many problems in society originate from the manner in which businesses and organisations are organised. Most research in this field concerns the impact of work structure and organisation, workload, reorganisations, staffing issues etc. on the employees' working conditions and development. Other central aspects include competence, learning and occupational roles and the ways in which changes in technology, work conditions and production organisation affect the individuals concerned. Management, leadership and influence, as well as gender relationships, power structures and social hierarchies in the workplace are other areas of study, as are diversity, discrimination, harassment and exclusion.

Labour market

The main area concentrates on labour market policies, the working of the labour market, salary structures and structural changes. Certain research deals with issues such as labour laws, the relationship between social partners and labour market agreements. This main area of research also deals with obstacles to entry to the labour market, unemployment, work capacity and ways of entering and exiting the labour market. Other themes include segregation in working life, professionalisation, the ways in which occupations and professions are defined, developed and changed and how new qualification requirements arise. As internationalisation increases, the mobility of the workforce and the common European labour market are also becoming important areas of research.

Public health

Research in this area includes the importance of living conditions, environment, social conditions and the healthcare system to public health – both physically and mentally. It also focuses on the efficiency of the healthcare system and includes the importance of psychosocial factors on health problems, as well as the interplay between risk propensity, lifestyles and illness. Causes, prevalence and prevention of illness in the population are also studied, as is the distribution of illness by class, gender, ethnicity, age and education. Health problems in childhood as well as the ageing process and age-related diseases are other examples within this field. The research also includes disabilities and functional impairments, studies of the use and abuse of alcohol and other substances, and studies relating to injuries and prevention in various contexts.

Welfare

The main area encompasses research into goals, legislation and institutions of social policy and social insurance and how they affect welfare. Living standards and income distribution are key areas, as are studies showing how life opportunities are influenced by family circumstances and the conditions under which children grow up. The importance of the social security system to people's conditions and development is of particular interest. Welfare research also includes population and migration, and the study of special groups such as children and the elderly. Research into sickness-related absenteeism and the link to working conditions, health and social insurance is another important area of research.

Social services and social relations

Research into care services and social relations involves studying the interface between the citizens and representatives of various institutions within, for instance individual and family care, care for the elderly and childcare services or the conditions that apply to family carers. Social and ethnic relations in society and the relationship between family members and the outside world are also covered in this main area. It also includes research into developmental - psychology and socialisation and identity development, as well as harassment, violence and assault, cohabitation and sexuality. Research into disability policies and conditions for the functionally-impaired in society also come under this heading.

4. General description of FAS activities

FAS works with a range of different forms of support (types of grant), of which funding for research through project grants and programme funding lays claim to the most of FAS research funds. The various grant and funding alternatives are briefly described below.

Research project grants

This is the most important form of support for FAS and involves time-limited projects (generally no more than three years) with a clear focus on a specific research issue. Project grants are announced annually and subject to a two-stage application process.

Post-doctoral grants

One particular form of project grant is the post-doctoral grant, aimed at giving younger researchers, with newly-awarded doctorates, the opportunity to continue with a research career in close connection with their doctoral thesis. The grant is awarded for two years and is intended to cover a full-time salary.

Programme funding

Programme funding is a grant for a research group with its own defined programme responsibility. Each grant amounts to SEK 2 million per year (including administrative surcharges), and is designed to reinforce and expand research environments in a long-term perspective that are considered especially important and where a sound research capacity is already in place. Applications for programme funding are submitted in response to specific calls for applications.

Research positions

Funding of research positions (professors, senior and junior researchers) is one way in which

FAS can provide long-term support to research and build up expertise, particularly in fields where there is a great need for knowledge but where research is seen to be neglected.

Strong research environments (centres of excellence)

FAS supports strong research environments in the form of FAS centres, which entails a grant of SEK 5 -10 million per year for a maximum period of ten years. Calls for applications for FAS centre grants are aimed at the FAS' entire area of responsibility but, within the framework of investments in geriatric research, a supplementary announcement of centre funding has been targeted to this field.

Research schools

FAS' support for research schools involves a grant for a maximum of SEK 1 million per year over a five-year period. The grant is intended to cover the costs of training initiatives and various types of other expenses. The grant is not intended to cover salaries or doctoral fellowships.

FAS fellowships

Fellowships are available to researchers who wish to spend 6-12 months at a research institution abroad in order to engage in research and further their qualifications. The scholarships are designed to promote both increased internationalisation and competence development within FAS' area of responsibility.

Grants to visiting researchers

The grants to visiting researchers are intended to inject expertise and competence of significance to research within FAS' area of responsibility into the Swedish research community. These grants are awarded for sojourns in Sweden for the purposes of research, consultations, lectures, seminars etc. Applications are submitted by the Swedish host institution.

Travel grants

Travel grants are available to researchers wishing to participate in scientific conferences held abroad, or to represent Sweden in international contexts of interest to Swedish research, or to plan international research partnerships.

Network grants

Network grants are designed to help develop contacts and the exchange of experience between researchers at different institutions or within different disciplines. The grants are primarily intended to cover direct overheads incurred in connection with research meetings.

Conferences and symposia

FAS offers support to international scientific conferences and symposia held in Sweden that fall within the Council's area of responsibility. The objective is to facilitate contacts and exchanges of experience between Swedish and international researchers, and to introduce new knowledge from the international research community into Swedish research.

Support for periodicals and publication grants

FAS supports the publication of scientific periodicals within the Council's field of operations as well as research information periodicals in the fields for which FAS has a special coordinating responsibility. FAS also offers grants for the publication of scientific

monographs, but not of doctoral theses. Support is primarily given for the publication of research that is funded by FAS.

Scholarships for journalists

The aim of these scholarships, which are awarded annually, is to create better conditions for journalists to write about research within FAS' area of responsibility and to cultivate contacts between the media and the research community.

5. Summary of activities during 2007

FAS' activities in 2007 are reported in the various sections of the annual report. A summary of the most important activities is given here. This summary shows that FAS has significantly increased its collaboration with both Swedish and international funding bodies. Building new alliances with other funding bodies in order to achieve powerful focuses is, in the view of the Council, more and more a strategic objective.

- FAS received 812 applications (outlines), of which 14 % were awarded funding. 90 applications for post-doctoral grants were submitted, of which 18% were awarded funding.
- A new board of directors for FAS was appointed for 2007 with Ambassador Lars Anell as the chairman.
- During the year, FAS has decided in favour of funding for two programmes in the field of insurance medicine, two programmes concerning obesity, nutrition and exercise, six programmes within the field of the elderly and ageing, and two programmes concentrating on research into health economics.
- Funds for research in regard to children's health totalling SEK 56 million have been allocated jointly by FAS and the Swedish Research Council. These funds support a total of four programmes and two research assistant positions.
- During the year, FAS has decided on the appointment of a professorship in insurance medicine and announced applications for a professorship in labour law.
- FAS has decided to fund ten strong research environments, FAS centres, with SEK 57 million per year over a ten-year period.
- FAS has granted funds to seven research schools linked to the FAS centres and to environments which have been allocated programme funding during the year for research into the elderly and ageing.
- The Swedish Government has allocated FAS SEK 30 million per year for a three-year period for a research programme on Women's Health. Funds for projects, visiting guest researchers and networks have been announced and just over 140 applications have been received. Decisions in regard to funding will be taken in spring 2008.

- In cooperation with the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation (Riksbankens jubileumsfond), FAS has announced programme funding for projects aimed at taxes and tax systems.
- FAS has announced a planning grant for researchers within FAS's area of responsibility intending to submit applications to the EU's Seventh Framework Programme (for Cooperative projects and the Marie Curie programme).
- FAS has decided on three three-year post-doctoral positions within FLARE (Future Leaders of Ageing Research). FLARE has been initiated within the framework of the European network ERA-AGE among bodies funding research concerning the elderly.
- FAS has decided to participate in the financing of projects within Hum-VIB, a new programme within EUROCORES, which is coordinated by the European Science Foundation. Hum-VIB concerns comparative analyses of the attitudes and behaviour of citizens in a social, economic and political context.
- The 2nd Sino-Swedish Science Week was held in Beijing in September within the framework of the research policy exchange between Sweden and China. FAS took part in the Swedish delegation and organised in collaboration with Vårdal Foundation and the Knowledge Foundation a workshop on public health, demographics and health care systems.
- Prior to the Swedish government's Research Policy Bill for 2008, FAS submitted decision-making documentation in the form of a research strategy for the period 2009–2012.
- The following assessments/studies have been presented to the Swedish Government during the year:
 - o the final report on the evaluation of Swedish research into the working environment
 - o a survey of Swedish research within the field of alternative and complementary medicine
 - o the fourth yearly report of the assignment to monitor research concerning hypersensitivity to electricity and other effects of electromagnetic fields
- A follow-up of the post-doctoral programme has been carried out during the year
- A study of young people, education and the labour market in the Nordic region has been carried out within the framework of FAS' coordination responsibility for research concerning children and young people.
- In collaboration with VINNOVA, FAS has carried out a follow-up study of researchers and research in connection with the closure of the Swedish National Institute for Working Life.
- The three-year methodology project initiated by FAS in order to reinforce researchers' opportunities to inform and communicate their research has been concluded and presented in a report.
- During the year, FAS has granted SEK 1 million to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences as support for research surveys and conferences concerning schoolchildren's psychological health.

- For the purpose of advancing the dialogue between researchers, politicians and practitioners, FAS has organised the following conferences in collaboration with other main parties: The Working Environment in a Global Context, in Stockholm, Exclusion – the Downside of the Welfare State, in Göteborg, Social Insurance – for all?, in Umeå, Ageing Well, in Stockholm and The Competent Workplace at Västerås.
- FAS participated at the Book & Libraries Fair in Göteborg with a seminar concerning the Council's popular science knowledge survey concerning inequality in health.
- The office's employees made study visits in June to the Research Council for Society and Commerce, the Research and Innovation Committee and the Social Research Institute in Copenhagen.

Responses to consultation documents

During the year, the Council has submitted official comments on the following government reports etc.:

- Report from the study concerning specific procedures for citizens of third world countries to travel to and stay in the European community for research purposes (SOU 2006:93)
- Report: Integration's black book - Agenda for equality and social cohesion (SOU 2006:79)
- The national psychiatry coordinator's report: Ambition and responsibility – National strategy for development of society's efforts for persons with mental illnesses and functional disorders (SOU 2006:100) and Care and support for psychologically disturbed offenders (SOU 2006:91)
- The Responsibility Committee's final report: Sustainable social organisation with development power (SOU 2007:10)
- Report: Proposed Swedish UNESCO strategy 2007–2013
- Protection of personal integrity – survey and analysis (SOU 2007:22)
- Green book: New perspectives in the European research field
- Views on proposals as to how obstacles for increased Nordic research collaboration can be removed
- Views on the memorandum on dishonesty in research
- Reports on Labour immigration to Sweden (SOU 2005:50), Labour immigration to Sweden – proposals and consequences (SOU 2006:87) and An effective and flexible system for labour immigration (Ds 2007:27)

6. Research funding

The main criterion in the selection of projects for research funding is the scientific quality. This applies to research projects as well as to other forms of support. With the aim of safeguarding the *quality goal* in the long term, support is also given to promising recently-qualified researchers as well as basic support for strong research environments. For virtually all direct research support, funding is approved only after applications have been considered in competition by the Evaluation Committees or specially established expert panels, as well as external experts.

The most important instruments for *development and renewal* are project grants and post-doctoral grants. Just over half of research funding in 2007 was allocated to projects, normally

three-year projects. The percentage is lower than the previous year due to the fact that FAS carried out specific assignments during the year with programme or centre funding. This has been done through additional resource contributions, which is why the total scope for projects has not been reduced, rather the opposite, it has increased slightly. Applications for project grants are submitted first in the form of an outline, which is reviewed by the Council's evaluation committees. If the project proposal is considered promising and is ranked sufficiently high, the applicant is invited to submit a detailed application. Since the available funds for new projects in each budget year are limited, the Evaluation Committees must strictly limit their selection to the highest-ranking outlines. In recent years, this limitation has meant that a maximum of 30 per cent of outlines progress to a complete application. The Committees are then instructed to propose grants for a percentage of the total amount earmarked for new projects corresponding to the respective committee's share of submitted outlines. The detailed applications are then assessed in terms of quality and relevance, first by an external expert (sometimes two) and then by the Evaluation Committee. As a result of the sorting process in the Evaluation Committees, the applications can be divided into three groups: 1. those recommended for funding, 2. those recommended for rejection, and 3. those assessed as being worth supporting only to the extent that funds are available. Projects in the third group are ranked individually by the Evaluation Committees, and the ranked evaluations are weighed together into a common ranking. This is done at a meeting between the Chairs of the Committees and the Secretary-General of the Council. The Board takes the final decision on which projects are to receive grants.

The post-doctoral grant programme is one of the instruments for bringing about development and renewal and ensuring the recruitment of new researchers within FAS' area of responsibility. The purpose of this type of funding is to give younger, newly-qualified researchers the opportunity, in close connection with their doctoral thesis, to continue their research career. A post-doctoral grant amounts to SEK 680 000 per year including administration fees. The grant is awarded for two years and is intended to cover a full-time salary. Recipients of a post-doctoral grant can freely develop their research within the area defined in the research plan. The funds are to be managed by a Swedish university or comparable institution. Those entitled to apply for the grant in 2007 were those who took their doctorate in 2006. Applications for post-doctoral grants are also assessed by the Council's Evaluation Committees.

The post-doctoral grant was awarded for the first time in 2004 and a follow-up review was undertaken in 2007 in regard to the grants awarded so far. The review showed that many of the recipients have already demonstrated an impressive scientific production and that the support has been important for them in their continued scientific career.

FAS' instruments for *resource gathering and profiling* are employment positions, programme funding and centre funding, but naturally renewal also takes place among researchers and environments that receive these forms of support. During the year, FAS has awarded grants for three research positions, two junior research positions in adolescent research and a grant for a professorship in insurance medicine. FAS has also been involved in the assessment of two junior research positions in children's health together with the Swedish Research Council, which manages the funds. The announcement of funds for a professorship in labour law has been made during the year. This *announcement is based on a previous evaluation* of the field and the closure of the Swedish National Institute for Working Life. When funds are allocated for positions such as junior and senior research positions or professors, the Council follows the normal procedures for appointments at universities, i.e. by consulting experts within the

respective research field for evaluation of the applicants and with decisions taken by the Council's board.

Decisions in regard to funding for 16 research programmes were made during the year. Six of these have been awarded to research groups focusing on the elderly and ageing, four in children's health (evaluation was carried out in collaboration with the Swedish Research Council), two in health economics, two in obesity, nutrition and exercise and two in insurance medicine. FAS has also announced funding in collaboration with the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation (Riksbankens jubileumsfond) and the Swedish National Tax Board for research on taxation, and this is partly intended to finance programme funding.

After open announcements for programme funding applications, evaluation is carried out by specially-appointed expert panels groups which rank the best applications. To do this, programmed funding applications are sent for evaluation to two or more external experts, normally selected among researchers outside Sweden. FAS has been successful in engaging leading international researchers for these tasks. This is one of the measures that ensure that *research is evaluated from an international perspective*. Another is FAS participation in various ESF and ERA-NET programmes which are described in subsequent sections.

During the year, FAS has also allocated funds to ten FAS centres. The amount per grant awarded has varied between SEK 5 and 10 million per year for a ten-year period. Two of these centres carry out research on the elderly and ageing and are part of the focus that FAS has implemented in accordance with the specific task to concentrate on this area. These applications have been reviewed by an expert panel consisting entirely of international members. Each application has been evaluated by three external international experts whose evaluations form the basis for the expert panel's proposed ranking of projects. A decision-making group specifically appointed by the Board and led by the Chairman of the Board followed the drafting group's ranking when it decided on the size of the grant and the number of grants awarded within the financial limits laid down earlier by the Board.

FAS was assigned a number of tasks in the Research Policy Bill 2004/05:80. All of these have been carried out. The Bill entails for FAS an additional resource contribution of SEK 40 million during the period 2006 - 2008 – SEK 3 million kronor in the first year, SEK 19 million in the second year and SEK 21 million in the third year. Of these funds, SEK 10 million is intended to boost research environments, SEK 5 million is for research schools and SEK 5 million is for the researchers of the future. The remainder of the additional funds are aimed at specific research areas; SEK 10 million is earmarked for research into children's health, and SEK 5 million is allocated for each of the two fields; obesity, nutrition and exercise, and insurance medicine.

The investment in *strong research environments*, termed FAS centres, was significantly more extensive than the additional funds allocated for this purpose. Firstly, funds were released for the new FAS centres when the financing of four centre structures was discontinued. Secondly, SEK 15 million was redirected from the specific funds for research into ageing and the elderly which was allocated to FAS for the financing of two FAS centres with such a focus and, thirdly, funds were taken from FAS' own budget in accordance with the Bill's intentions. Altogether, the announcement amounted to SEK 57 million per year. The announcement of funds for FAS centres was done in two stages: Firstly, a general announcement within the whole area of responsibility of FAS; A few months later, when FAS had received specific funds for research into the elderly and ageing, a specific announcement was made in regard to

this research field. The processing of both the announcements was coordinated. The result was a relatively good distribution of FAS areas but a classification according to main areas indicates a dominance of centres that focus on public health. But it is important to emphasise that all centres have a cross-disciplinary or multidisciplinary focus, which is why the majority of projects span over a number of disciplines and main areas.

FAS' investment in *research schools* was guided by the ambition both to link them to scientific environments where qualified research is carried on, and to focus them on particularly important areas. The announcement was therefore targeted at those environments that received centre grants from FAS and at those that received programme funding aimed at research into the elderly. Decisions to allocate funds to seven research schools were taken in 2007. Two of these focus on research concerning the elderly and have also been financed from the specific funds allocated to FAS for such research. Each research school receives SEK 1 million per year over a five-year period.

The investment in *researchers of the future* was in the form of five junior research positions and two senior research positions in areas where the need for such was deemed particularly important. Two of the junior research assistant positions were aimed at research into disability, two at adolescent research and one at children's living conditions and health. Both of the researcher positions are also focused on this research field. These positions amounted in total to SEK 7 million.

The task to focus on *children's health* was implemented in part by funding four programmes, and by means of the abovementioned research positions. This amounted in total to approximately SEK 10 million. Focus on *obesity, nutrition and exercise* and *insurance medicine* was achieved through the announcement of funding of one programme within each of the areas. A professorship in insurance medicine has been established, partly from specific funds transferred from the Swedish Social Insurance Agency. Fifteen projects aimed at obesity, nutrition and exercise have been funded in 2006 and 2007.

Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches

Research conducted within FAS' area of responsibility covers a broad spectrum of disciplines within medicine, natural sciences and social science, and to a limited extent, law and the humanities. Much of this research is multidisciplinary. Project funding is never allocated to a specific discipline but to FAS' main areas and in terms of programme funding and positions to a specific sub-area within this framework. Assessment is done in multidisciplinary evaluation committees or specific expert panels. The same also applies to the composition of the Board. This is a system that works well for the prioritisation and assessment of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research. It should also be noted that multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scientific research cannot reasonably be a goal in itself, but a large proportion, 38 per cent of grants for 2007, have been allocated to projects registered as being multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary scientific research in FAS' database.

The Council's opportunity to implement special initiatives to promote research into problems that require a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach lies primarily in announcing programme and centre funding. During 2007, funds were awarded to a number of programmes and centres (see the introduction to this section). During the year, a total of 16

programme and 10 centre funding grants were financed, many of which were allocated to multidisciplinary research teams.

It is very difficult to give an *overview of interfaces* that may exist. There is a whole range of different subject combinations among the 43 multidisciplinary projects that have been awarded funds. It may be possible to discern a few patterns. Combinations involving sociology, economics, social medicine, social work and in some cases political science occur relatively often within fields such as welfare, social care and the labour market. Other combinations may occur among psychology, education or a medical subject. Public health research is, perhaps more than is the case for other main fields, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary. Combinations of subjects such as epidemiology, psychology, psychiatry, nutrition, paediatrics, odontology and economics can be noted here. It can also be mentioned that subjects such as occupational and environmental medicine, occupational hygiene, psychology, epidemiology, medicine, toxicology, chemistry and statistics are to be found within the field of occupational health.

Young researchers

The Council's investment in so-called post-doctoral grants is aimed at promoting the research careers of applicants who have recently gained their doctorates. These funds are mostly awarded to relatively young people. Naturally, most applicants for post-doctoral grants are from young researchers and more are approved for younger researchers than for those who are older. In 2007 funds for two junior research positions and one professorship have been granted. The junior research positions are also aimed at the newly-qualified although the period between qualification and appointment here can be longer than for FAS post-doctoral grants. Just over half of those who were awarded project grants are over 50 and only 15 per cent are younger than 40, but it should be noted that the Council supports younger researchers in that newly-qualified researchers, and also doctoral candidates, are involved in projects funded by FAS. The same applies for those working in programmes and centres.

Gender and equality

Men account for 59 per cent of all project applications but as the percentage of successful applications has been somewhat higher for men than for women, their share of projects receiving funds is increasing. Behind this lie relatively large gender differences in terms of successful applications within the different main areas (diagram 1), which partly reflects the research fields' differences in gender and age composition, but it is also important to remember that the patterns shown in the diagram change quite considerably from year to year. Of those who apply for post-doctoral grants, 72 per cent are women. The success rate in terms of gaining grants is slightly higher for men than for women.

Table. Gender breakdown of applicants for and recipients of project grants, post-doctoral grants and new positions in 2007

Gender	Projects		Post-docs		Positions	
	Applicants	Recipients	Applicants	Recipients	Applicants	Recipients
Men	59%	62%	28%	31%	21%	33%
Women	41%	38%	72%	69%	79%	67%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Number	812	112	90	16	23	3

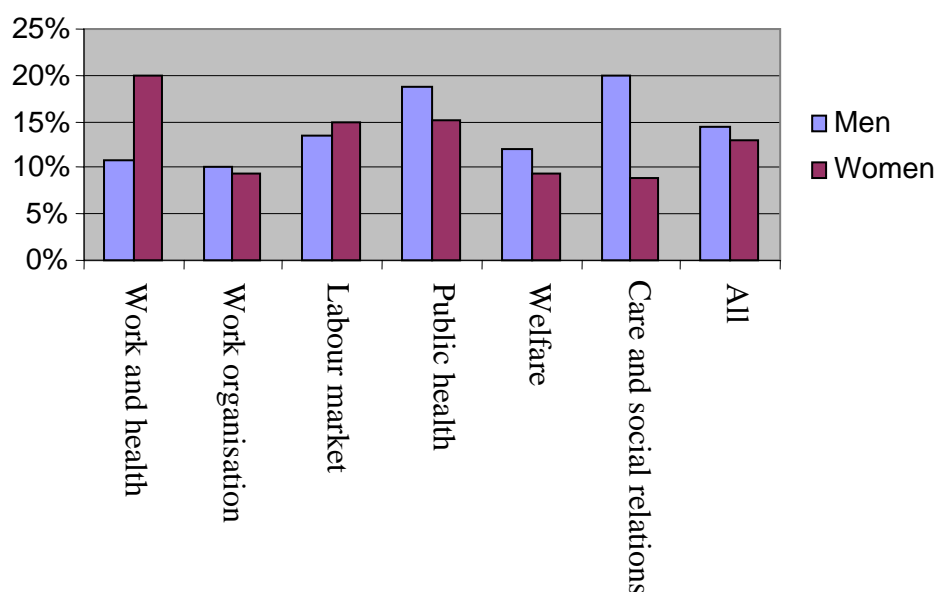


Diagram 1. Gender differences in grants awarded within different main areas as a percentage of project applications 2006

The Equality Committee that the Board appointed has in 2007 had a representative from each Evaluation Committee with the specific task of raising gender and equality issues. FAS' strategy for equality work has been developed in an equality plan that was revised in 2006. An important feature of this work is the analysis of the outcome of the review process in regard to gender, and feedback to the evaluation committees and equality committee for discussion and possible action. An analysis of the outcome in 2007 indicates that the percentage of successful applications was somewhat higher for men than for women. This is essentially explained by the fact that there are more male professors, who are the primary applicants, and the degree of success is generally higher for professors than for other applicants. But it can also be noted that the degree of success among professors is also higher for men than for women. Among associate professors ('docent' in Swedish) and Ph. D's, there is no difference in the success rate for applications between men and women. Results from equality analyses are always reported to Evaluation Committees and to the Board for discussion. The gender issue is raised in the Council's instructions to applicants and when evaluating projects and programmes the Council takes into consideration whether they contain a gender perspective where this is appropriate. The Council is not planning any specific measures beyond these.

FAS has a specific task to *ensure that a basis exists for analyses of whether gender, position or similar have been of significance in the evaluation of applications for research funding and research positions*. Information in regard to all of this is found in FAS' project database Klara for both applicants as well as those who were awarded funding. This information has also been used in analyses of gender and age outcomes from the evaluation process.

International issues

Many of the research projects and programmes financed by FAS in 2007 contain some form or other of international cooperation. Collaboration with researchers in the Nordic countries, North America and the UK is the most common. The low participation in EU-financed research programmes among researchers funded by FAS is largely related to the fact that framework programmes have to date allowed little room for research funding within FAS' area of responsibility. Opportunities have greatly improved in the Seventh Framework Programme. FAS is working with other national funding bodies with the aim of increasing this proportion, primarily through joint information initiatives. FAS has also provided opportunities for researchers to apply for planning funding in order to develop applications for EU projects.

Membership of international organisations

FAS is a member of the European Science Foundation (ESF), a coordinating body for several European research councils and academies. FAS incurs no direct membership expense since the Swedish membership fee is paid by the Swedish Research Council. FAS does however contribute financially to a number of ESF activities within its area of responsibilities, such as the European Social Survey (ESS), a comparative study of social conditions and perceptions in several European countries, which is also supported by the EU. FAS is also a partner in an infrastructure project within FP7, which co-finances the ESS database.

During the year, FAS has also participated in two of ESF's EUROCORES programmes, including the so-called ECRP programme (European Collaborative Research Projects in the Social Sciences). An ECRP project is a project within FAS' area of responsibility in which researchers from at least three European countries collaborate. ESF's standing committees evaluate the applications and the national research councils then decide on the funding of their country's applications. In 2004 and 2005, FAS funded three ECRP projects per year. Applications for 2006 and 2007 though were not favourably evaluated, and subsequently no funds were appropriated for this purpose in 2007. FAS has decided to participate in the provisional announcement of ECRP 2008.

FAS has also participated in a EUROCORES programme known by the acronym HumVIB, which concerns methods of analysing attitudes and behaviour among citizens in a social, economic and political context by utilising data in existing European databases, ESS for example, and developing new methods for enabling multi-level analysis. In 2007, two projects within this program have been evaluated positively and will be funded by FAS.

FAS also participated in three network programmes aimed at quantitative and qualitative process development and life course studies. In 2007, FAS has decided to join two further networks, Quantitative Methods in the Social Science (2) and the European Children Cohort Network. FAS also contributes to the costs of the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS), a comparative database covering income conditions in different countries first launched in the early 1980s. The purpose is to generate high-quality data to better describe and explain variations in income inequality, poverty etc, between countries. FAS has also supported the start up of a closely-related database on wealth, the Luxembourg Wealth Study. FAS is also a supporting member of the International Commission on Occupational Health, a collaborative body for researchers primarily within the work and health field. This membership was taken over from a previous organisation (RALF) in 2001, and FAS has not incurred any direct costs in 2007.

Collaboration with research funding bodies in other countries

FAS has contacts with research funding bodies in other countries through collaboration in the European Science Foundation and has participated actively in the Nordic ESF Group's effort to simplify the mobility of researchers within the Nordic countries. Excellent contacts are maintained with several European research funding bodies within the framework of the ongoing EU network activities among the research funding bodies in Europe (ERA-NET). ERA-AGE is one such collaborative venture that is active in the field of age. Another is WORK-IN-NET, concerning occupational research. FAS also participates in this field in the AMFORA Group, a combination of the Nordic research funding bodies for occupational research. FAS also contributes to the social welfare research programme of Nordforsk – a Nordic research funding body. Within the ERA-AGE collaboration programme 'Future Leaders of Ageing Research in Europe (FLARE)', FAS has decided to finance three post-doctoral positions where the applications were evaluated by an internationally-composed drafting committee but where the decision on Swedish grants was taken by FAS. In 2007, FAS has joined yet another ERA-NET within the field of working environment research (NEW OSH ERA).

ESF also has an instrument for knowledge transfer between member organisations (MO), so-called ESF MO Forums. During the year, FAS has joined two such forums: the MO FORA on Research Careers, and the MO FORA on Evaluation of Funding schemes and Research Programmes. In order to increase knowledge transfer at the Nordic level, FAS is a member of two NoriaNets (the Nordic version of ERA-NETS funded by Nordforsk), the Nordic-Asian NORIANet and Development of Peer Review in the Nordic Context.

Measures to promote international exchange

FAS' participation in the aforementioned ESF and EU programmes has served to promote international collaboration. With the launch of the EU's Seventh Framework Programmes, social science and humanities research has acquired its own thematic area and subsequently, an expanded budget. It is therefore essential that researchers can receive funding and thereby the opportunity to participate in projects within the framework programme. FAS' efforts in the international area have been intensified in recent years and a central task within this is to increase in various ways the degree of internationalisation of research within FAS' area of responsibility. A large part of this work concerns the EU's framework programme, and in 2007 FAS has carried out the following measures: actively worked in the reference groups for the thematic areas within Priority 1, Health and Priority 8, Social Science and Humanities (SSH), for the European Research Council (ERC) and for the People programme; actively worked on producing documentation for proposals in regard to WP 2009 for both Health and SSH; introduced a planning grant for EU applications (open announcement) for coordinators and leading partners respectively in EU applications, and also for certain Marie Curie projects; participated in information days with the research community as the target group, which were organised by the authority responsible (VR) within SSH and Health; participated in a Programme Committee (PK) meeting in Brussels within the SSH field. A website has also been launched for international announcements where the announcements of all framework programmes of relevance for FAS' area of responsibility are published. Regular information in regard to announcements has been conveyed to researchers through providing advice and by newsletters. To monitor the development process in terms of researcher mobility, FAS has also joined the Swedish network linked to the European research mobility portal (ERA-MORE).

Important forms of support that directly promote international collaboration include travel grants, overseas scholarships and grants to visiting researchers. Most of FAS' conference support and grants for publication also have an international or Nordic dimension.

During 2007, the work to design forms of funding in a "career path for researchers" has been commenced with significance for the international work. This work will be developed further in 2008.

7. Strategy and analysis

FAS has not carried out any major evaluations during the year but a few surveys and follow-up reviews of significance to FAS' operations should be mentioned. Firstly, a follow-up study has been carried out of those who have received post-doctoral grants since this form of funding was introduced in 2004. These grants were intended initially as a trial activity but the fact that the evaluation has indicated good results can be viewed as an important reason for FAS' decision to continue this focus. Secondly, FAS also ordered a bibliometric analysis of the research within the whole of FAS' area of responsibility. The analysis indicated that Swedish researchers within the field, the majority of whom received research funding from FAS, are overrepresented in the group of highly-cited researchers compared with the world average. This analysis has not warranted any specific measures. Thirdly, it can be mentioned that FAS, together with VINNOVA, has charted where the researchers formerly engaged at the now closed Swedish National Institute for Working Life are currently working. The conclusion is that a relatively large part of the research capacity that these researchers possess is only incidentally linked to a university. In view of this and the evaluation of working environment research carried out in 2006, FAS has made a case in its latest research strategy for more resources for this area. A proposal is also presented in this strategy as to how these resources could be used in order to reinforce specific working environment research.

The Council has no major evaluations in progress at present, but discussions on future evaluations are conducted in the Council. Research concerning alcohol and drugs and research on the psychosocial working environment are mentioned in the newly adopted research strategy as possible areas for evaluation.

The Secretary-Generals of the four public research councils meet regularly, approximately every two months, to exchange views and discuss matters of common interest. Within the framework of the cooperation, a number of groups with participants from the various funding bodies have developed and analysed various issues. In addition to this cooperation, meetings are also held with the heads of all major funding institutions, particularly research foundations, to coordinate the work between public and private funding bodies. As a result of the Research Policy Bill, priorities in the collaboration have largely addressed funding for research centres of excellence. As a result of the joint coordination, FAS has announced specific funding for FAS centres, which to all intents and purposes resembles the Swedish Research Council's arrangement with the Linnaeus grant, with FAS' call for applications coming out later than that of the Swedish Research Council.

Regular cooperation is conducted with VINNOVA for the purpose of exchanging information about respective agency's funding of research within the working life field. An important task for FAS is to, together with VINNOVA and other funding bodies and parties within the field, promote research excellence and the long-term accumulation of

knowledge. The need for more extensive collaboration has also been made more relevant following the closure of the Swedish National Institute for Working Life and the ongoing reorganisation within Swedish working life research.

During the year, the joint venture concerning research positions and programme funding within the children's health field has been concluded. Cooperation within the framework of the Swedish Research Council's Infrastructure Committee is also relevant in regard to funding for infrastructure, databases and registers. Furthermore, regular collaboration has been established among government research funding bodies in respect to methods for evaluation, analysis and general strategy issues.

In cooperation with the Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation (Riksbankens Jubileumsfond) and the Swedish National Tax Board, FAS has funded a research programme on taxation. The announcement of funds for major programme funding as well as project grants was made in 2007. Applications will be processed and decided on in spring 2008.

In 2007 the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences initiated a programme concerning the health of schoolchildren, the aim of which is to capture all the knowledge that exists within the field so that with this as the base, as well as with politicians and practitioners, to try to extract policy implications that can be derived from this knowledge. FAS is participating in this programme.

In 2007 FAS received SEK 90 million with the directive to focus these funds on research into women's health. FAS has collaborated with the Swedish Research Council's Scientific Council for Medicine in regard to both the design of the call and the evaluation process.

During the year, FAS has also cooperated with the authorities responsible for implementing the closure process as a result of the decision to close the Swedish National Institute for Working Life. In this connection, FAS received SEK 4 million to be used to conclude projects that FAS had earlier decided to co-finance with the Institute. Twelve projects were awarded a total of SEK 9.5 million in additional funding for this purpose.

8. Research communication

Activities during the year

FAS places particular importance on creating good conditions for the exchange of experience and results between researchers and relevant groups in society. Ultimately, it is the researchers' own responsibility to communicate the research funded by FAS and other research funding institutes to the world outside the scientific community. The Council's role is to stimulate and complement the forms of this work and to facilitate dialogue between researchers and practitioners within administration, organisations and the media. It is important not least to reach out to decision-making politicians with research findings that have significance for the development of society. FAS has therefore contributed during the year to several meetings between politicians and researchers (e.g., Rifo seminars and the SAMspråk event in Almedalen) and has organised the conference *Aging well – a challenge for politics and research* in the autumn.

Experience from a three-year methodology project aimed at boosting the abilities of FAS' researchers' to inform and communicate their research has been compiled in the report

Developing researchers' communication skills. More than thirty research projects have participated in a test group and in a control group. The results indicate, not unexpectedly, positive effects for the researchers who were offered training and supportive measures in their work to disseminate information to relevant groups, the media and the general public.

FAS currently allocates a relatively large part of its budget to the dissemination of knowledge by means of networks, guest researchers, study visits, conferences and publications and also for the Council's own research communication. The latter includes the website, popular science overviews, reports and newsletters as well as conferences where researchers and practitioners meet.

The website had 8 300 unique visitors during the month of November 2007. During the year, FAS, FORMAS and the Swedish Research Council have had their respective websites evaluated with the aid of external assistance. The primary aspects evaluated were the quality of user friendliness, information, design/navigation and the opportunity of contact for visitors to the website. The result for FAS indicated on average the mean values stated. The messages left on the website include important views to take into consideration in the continued development work. FAS will therefore continue with the follow-up work through interviews in a number of focus groups.

During the year, a number of researchers funded by FAS have been interviewed on the website under the heading *Researchers' Stories*. This now includes interviews with over 60 researchers. Interviews with the researcher leaders of the ten FAS centres that received funds in 2007 have also appeared on the website.

Two new summaries in the Council's popular science pocket series were published in 2007: *Inequality in health* and *Obesity – our new national illness*. The summaries, which are aimed at a broad readership, have been marketed in the daily press and scientific press and were also presented at various seminars, including at the Book & Libraries Fair 2007 exhibition in Göteborg.

Four issues of the information newsletter "Research and Results", with brief notes on ongoing research and results, have been published during the year. FAS' Newsletter, which is aimed primarily at the research community with information about calls for funding, conferences and international issues, has been published five times. In order to promote international contacts and the exchange of experience, the Council has published three issues of its newsletter in English.

The dialogue conference Social Services Forum was organised for the twelfth time in Göteborg in collaboration with the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, the Central Association for Social Work and the Swedish National Board of Health and Welfare. This year's theme was *Exclusion – the Downside of the Welfare Society*. The 2007 Social Insurance Conference in Umeå with the Swedish Social Insurance Agency and Central Association for Social Work dealt with the topic of *Social Insurance – for Everyone?* In collaboration with Mälardalen University, the Swedish Research Council and VINNOVA, FAS organised a conference in Västerås on the theme *The Competent Workplace*. In May, FAS organised a youth research conference on the theme of *Are Young People Important in Our Society?*

FAS has for the sixth year announced scholarships to enable journalists to undertake in-depth study in the fields of working life and social science at a Swedish scientific institution. Four journalists were awarded SEK 30,000 each. They will follow research projects concerning differences in health among different socioeconomic groups; about patients on long-term sick leave and their diagnoses; how changes in care for the elderly affect their lives, their relations and care personnel, and research concerning how unregulated working conditions affect people's health.

The trial period for the programme series the Science Country on Swedish Television's Knowledge Channel has evolved into an extended cooperation agreement for 2007–2009 between the Science Country, University TV in Göteborg and a number of research funding bodies, including FAS, and the majority of Sweden's tertiary education institutes. After 2009 the programme series is expected to stand on its own legs in a collaboration between the Swedish Education Broadcasting Company (UR), colleges and universities. Almost 500 features on Swedish research have been produced so far. A viewer study is planned for spring 2008 involving measurement of how the coverage has been received.

Cooperating with other research funding institutes and bodies is important in order to strengthen FAS' own resources for information and communication. In this way, the Council reaches out to a wider audience and consumers obtain a better overall view and more complete knowledge in a variety of different areas. Examples of such collaboration are the websites www.research.se and www.arbetsmiljööpplysningen.se, and the annual Research Forum at the Book & Libraries Fair.

Grants for periodicals and publication

FAS provides grants to scientific periodicals and monographs to facilitate Swedish researchers' scientific publication and dissemination of research findings. The Council also has the opportunity to support research-informing periodicals within the areas for which FAS has a particular coordination responsibility (research concerning the elderly, disability, international migration and ethnic relations, social scientific alcohol research and children and young people). The following publications received funding from FAS in 2007:

Arbete and Hälsa, publisher Dept. of Medicine, Social Medicine and Public Health, Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Göteborg University, SEK 200 000

Arbetsmarknad and Arbetsliv; publisher Faculty of Economics, Communication and IT, and Work Science, Karlstad University, SEK 145 000

Arbetsliv i omvandling, publisher Dept. of Social Science, Växjö University, SEK 200 000

European Journal of Public Health; publisher Dept. of Public Health Science, Karolinska institutet, SEK 325 000

Forskning och Framsteg; publisher Stiftelsen Forskning&Framsteg, SEK 325 000

Handikappforskning pågår; publisher Centre for Disability Research, Uppsala University, SEK 235 000

Hygiea Internationalis, publisher Dept. of Health and Society, Linköping University, SEK 60 000

International Journal of Social Welfare; publisher Dept. of Social Work, Stockholm University, SEK 110 000

Invandrare & Minoriteter; publisher Invandrare & Minoriteter, Stockholm, SEK 300 000

Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research, publisher Dept. of Education., Stockholm University, SEK 74 000

Scandinavian Journal of Public Health; publisher Dept. of Public Health and Clinical Medicine, Umeå University, SEK 280,000

Socialvetenskaplig Tidskrift; publisher Dept. of Social Work, Göteborg University, SEK 300,000

Äldre i centrum; publisher Stiftelsen Stockholms Läns Äldrecentrum, SEK 200,000

FAS publications

FAS published the following in 2007:

- o Annual Report 2006
- o Ungdomar, utbildning and arbetsmarknad i Norden – lika men ändå olika (Young people, education and the labour market in the Nordic region – equal yet different)
- o Den ojämlika hälsan (Inequality in health)
- o Public health and equity in Sweden
- o Fetma – vår nya folksjukdom (Obesity – our new national illness)
- o Vart tog dom vägen? En uppföljning av forskare och forskning vid Arbetslivsinstitutets nedläggning (Where did they go? A follow-up study of researchers and research after the closure of the Swedish Institute for Working Life)
- o Att utveckla forskarnas kommunikationsförmåga (Developing researchers' communication skills)
- o Utanförskapet – välfärdssamhällets baksida. Socialtjänstforum 2007 (Exclusion - the downside of the welfare state. Social Services Forum 2007) (pdf)
- o Research Strategy 2009–2012: Research on people's work, health and living conditions

Evaluation reports:

- o Utvärdering av svensk arbetsmiljöforskning (An evaluation of Swedish working environment research)
- o Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM)
- o Kartläggning av svensk arbetslivsforskning (A survey of Swedish working environment research) (pdf)

Research summary:

- o Forskning om elöverkänslighet and andra effekter av elektromagnetiska fält (Research concerning hypersensitivity to electricity and other effects of electromagnetic fields). Fourth annual report.

Ten FAS centres

During the year, FAS has allocated funds to ten FAS centres. This funding is a supplement to the universities' basic resources and enables a long-term and strategic focus on research that has the capacity for scientific renewal.

The purpose of the FAS centres is to support research that is of the highest quality and which can compete with international research. A condition for funding is that the universities themselves contribute to the financing and thereby prioritise this research.