



# Project Conference **Clusters of Excellence**

Welcome! Please sit next to  
someone you haven't met before

# Moderator



**Louise Gustafsson,  
Vinnova**

# Agenda

## **Welcome**

Darja Isaksson, Director General, Vinnova

## **Clusters of Excellence – Aim and vision**

Cecilia Sjöberg, Vinnova

Marika Edoff, Swedish Research Council

## **Inspiration and Learnings**

Kristian Åsberg, Alfa Laval

## **Analysis of Strategic Technologies**

Göran Marklund, Vinnova

## **Overview of Project Portfolio**

Emma Östmark, Swedish Research Council

## **Clusters of Excellence – The Plan Forward**


Cecilia Sjöberg, Vinnova

Marika Edoff, Swedish Research Council

## **Lunch**

## **Afternoon workshops**

- Pitch your project and connect in thematic groups
- Fika and networking
- Roundtable dialogues
- Information from, and questions to VR and Vinnova



# The Government Assignment **Clusters of Excellence**

Has started

# Moderator



**Louise Gustafsson,  
Vinnova**

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Marika Edoff, Swedish Research Council

**What are your thoughts on  
clusters of excellence?**

**Send input and reflections  
at any time during the day.**

Visit [Menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and enter the code **7393 1738**

# Speaker



**Darja Isaksson,  
Vinnova**

Director General



# Speakers



**Cecilia Sjöberg,  
Vinnova**

Director Industrial Technologies

**Marika Edoff,  
Swedish Research Council**

Secretary General Engineering Sciences



# **Clusters of Excellence**


## **- The Aim and Vision**

# Assignment Vinnova

Excellence clusters for groundbreaking and strategic technologies

Initiatives and Instruments for Breakthrough Technologies

- Investment in excellence clusters for breakthrough technologies
- New instrument for pre-commercial procurement (SPRIN-D)
- Further developed knowledge base – strategic technologies – analysis report
- Roadmaps for prioritized technology areas – strategic priorities
- Joint Program Office

**Regeringen**

**Regeringsbeslut**  
2025-05-28  
KN2025/01161

I:7

Klimat- och näringslivsdepartementet

Verket för innovationssystem  
Mäster Samuelsgatan 56  
101 58 Stockholm

Uppdrag till Verket för innovationssystem att genomföra insatser för samverkansbaserad forskning och innovation inom excellenskluster för banbrytande och strategisk teknik

**Regeringens beslut**

Regeringen ger Verket för innovationssystem (Vinnova) i uppdrag att inom sitt verksamhetsområde utveckla och genomföra insatser för samverkansbaserad forskning och innovation inom banbrytande teknik på för Sverige strategiskt viktiga teknikområden, med tillhörande finansiering, analyser och arbetsformer. Uppdraget är en del i genomförandet av satsningen på excellenskluster för banbrytande teknik som aviserades i regeringens forsknings- och innovationspolitiska proposition.

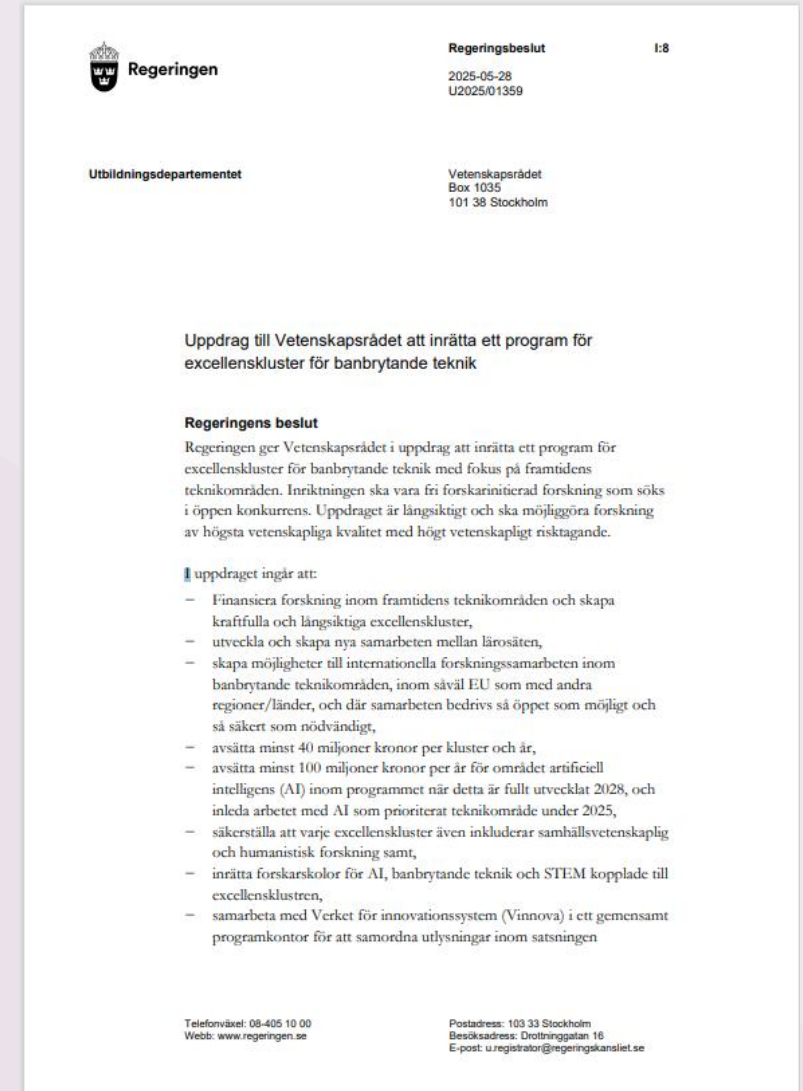
Syftet med uppdraget är att stärka och utveckla Sveriges befintliga styrkor inom viktiga teknikområden samt att utveckla nya förmågor inom framväxande teknik genom bransch- och sektorsöverskridande samarbeten. Uppdraget ska bidra till att säkerställa Sveriges relevans i globala värdekedjor för strategiskt viktiga teknikområden, främja Sveriges position som ett ledande innovationsland, stärka Sveriges nationella säkerhet, samt bidra till Sveriges långsiktiga konkurrenskraft.

Uppdraget ska omfatta följande för Sverige strategiskt viktiga teknikområden:

- artificiell intelligens och autonoma system,
- avancerad digital teknik, inklusive halvledare
- kvantteknik,
- energiteknik

# Assignment Swedish Research Council

- Excellence clusters for groundbreaking technologies
- Internationally positioned leadership
- Open for all research areas
- Researcher driven – bottom-up
- Strong perspectives from social science and humanities on future technologies included – also on national security
- Large investment in research – over-critical – attracting talent
- May also include investment in critical infrastructure
- Support for AI and research schools for AI
- Joint Program Office



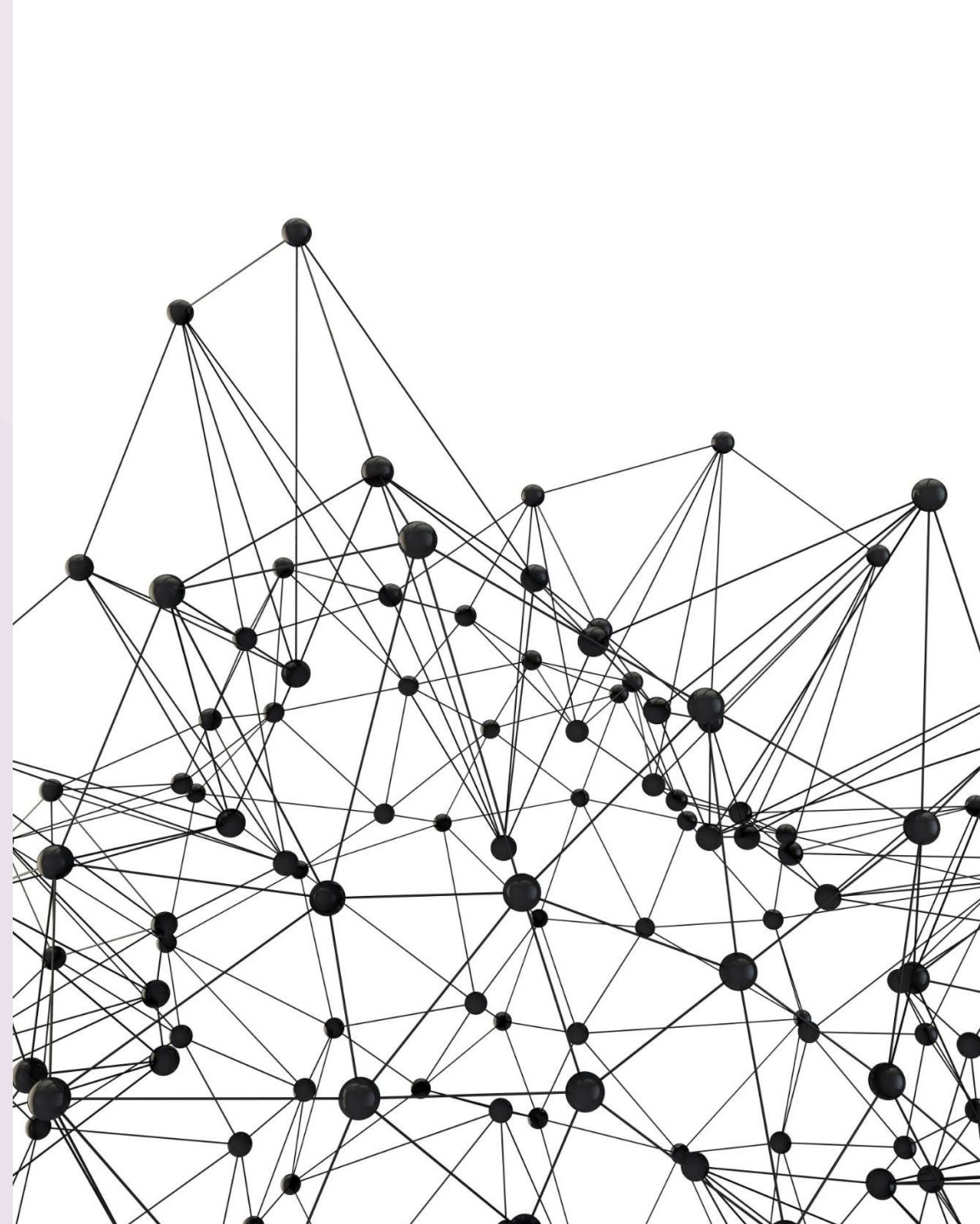
A crowd of people is visible in the background, many holding Swedish flags (blue with a yellow cross). The image is overlaid with a dark blue semi-transparent rectangle. Centered within this rectangle is the text "Government Investment over 1 Billion SEK per year" in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**Government Investment  
over 1 Billion SEK per year**



# Why now?

- Global race and massive investments in strategic technologies
- Need to accelerate innovation and breakthroughs through concentrated excellence and orchestrated collaboration
- Position Sweden as a leader in strategic technologies
- Strengthen International Partnerships
- Address Societal Challenges through technologies critical for sustainability and resilience



# Excellence Clusters - more than research projects

## Research Excellence



Photo: Imagebank Sweden

## Innovation Capabilities

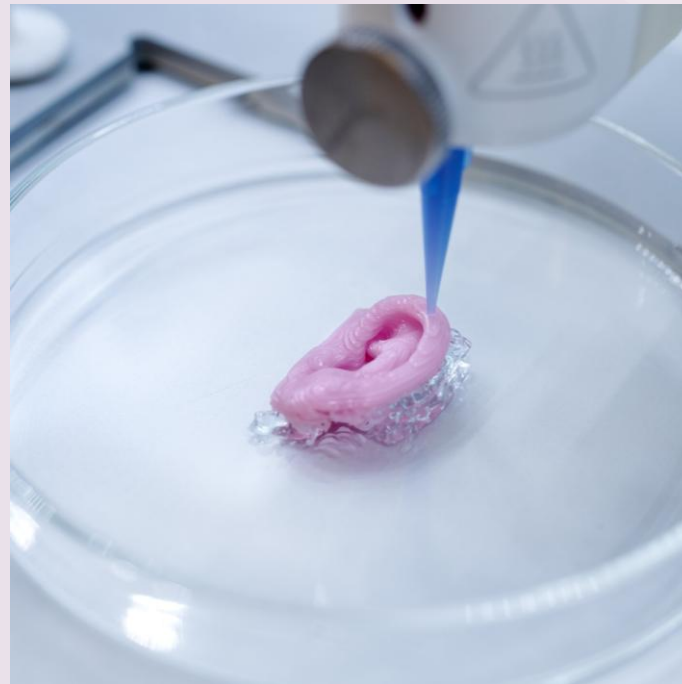


Photo: Imagebank Sweden

## Collaborations



Photo: Imagebank Sweden

# International Leadership

Bold Vision  
and Leadership

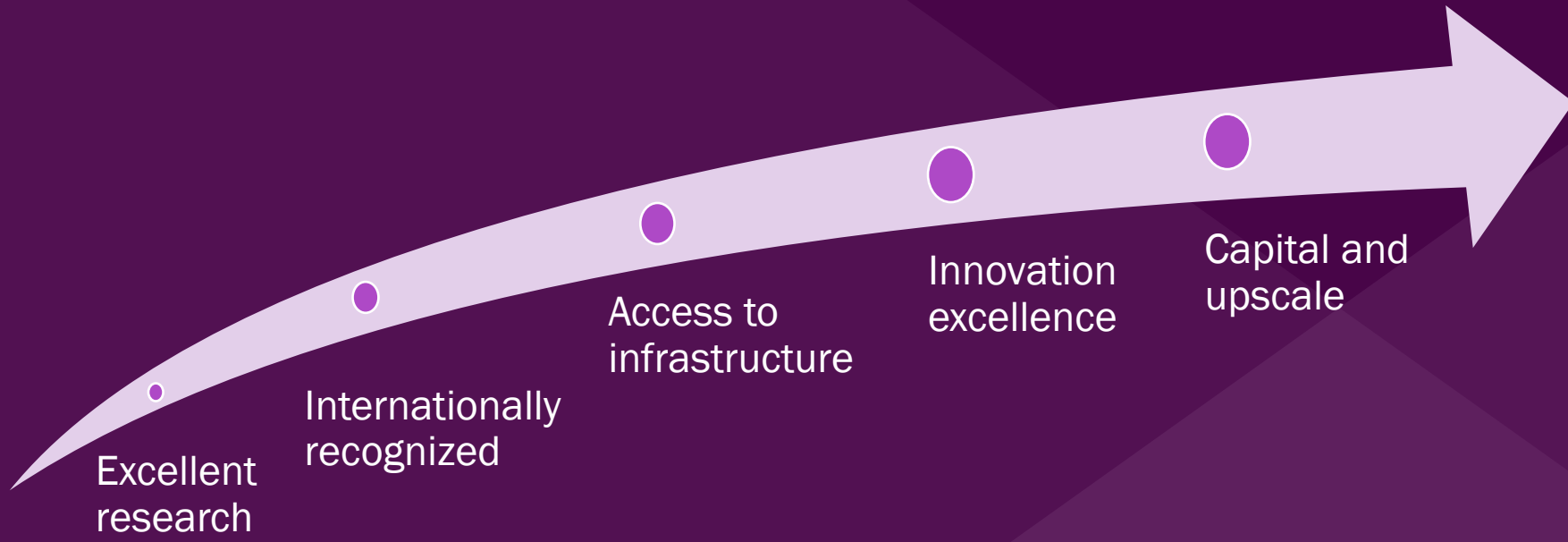
Major  
Investment

International  
Perspective

Flexibility  
and KPIs

Collaboration  
and Focus





# Key capabilities

Dedicated  
leadership team  
with bold vision

Research excellence  
with potential for  
ground-breaking  
technologies

Access to critical  
infrastructure  
- digital and physical

Internationally  
recognized with  
strong networks

Innovation ecosystems  
- identified and  
strengthened

Scale-up  
- attracting  
innovation capital

Innovation and  
entrepreneurship  
expertise

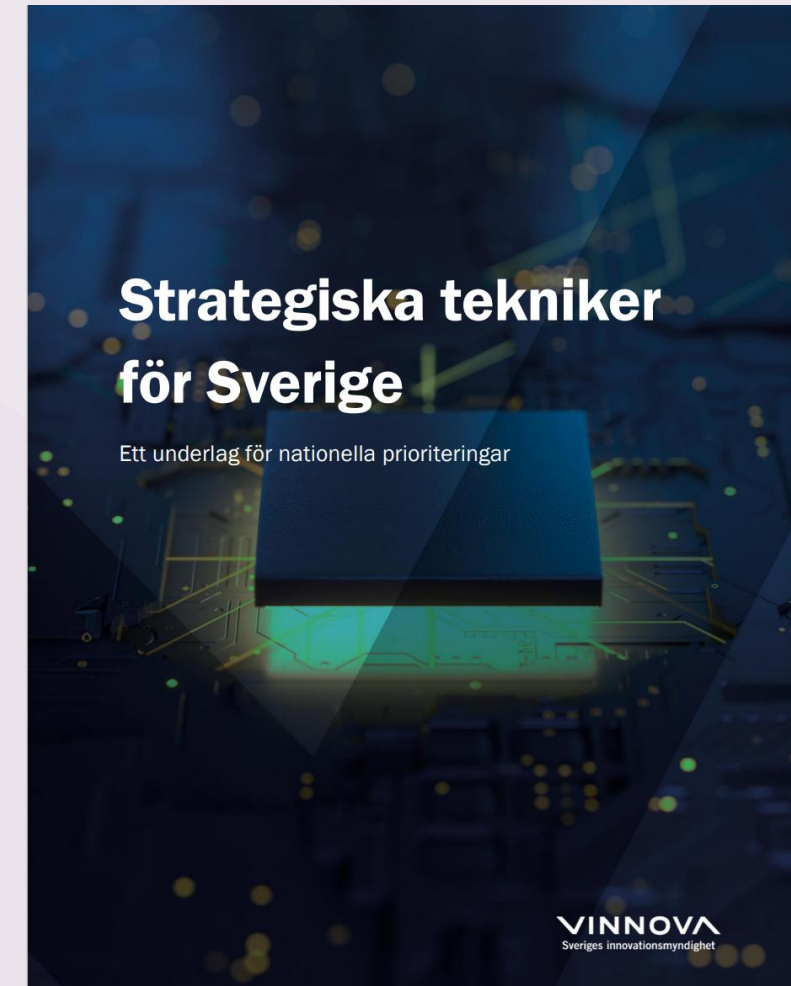
# A partnership between Vinnova and the Swedish Research Council

- An open part financed by the Swedish Research Council
- A strategic part financed by Vinnova
- A joint programme office for coordination and evaluation
- Promote synergies between initiatives
- Utilise joint opportunities for international collaboration



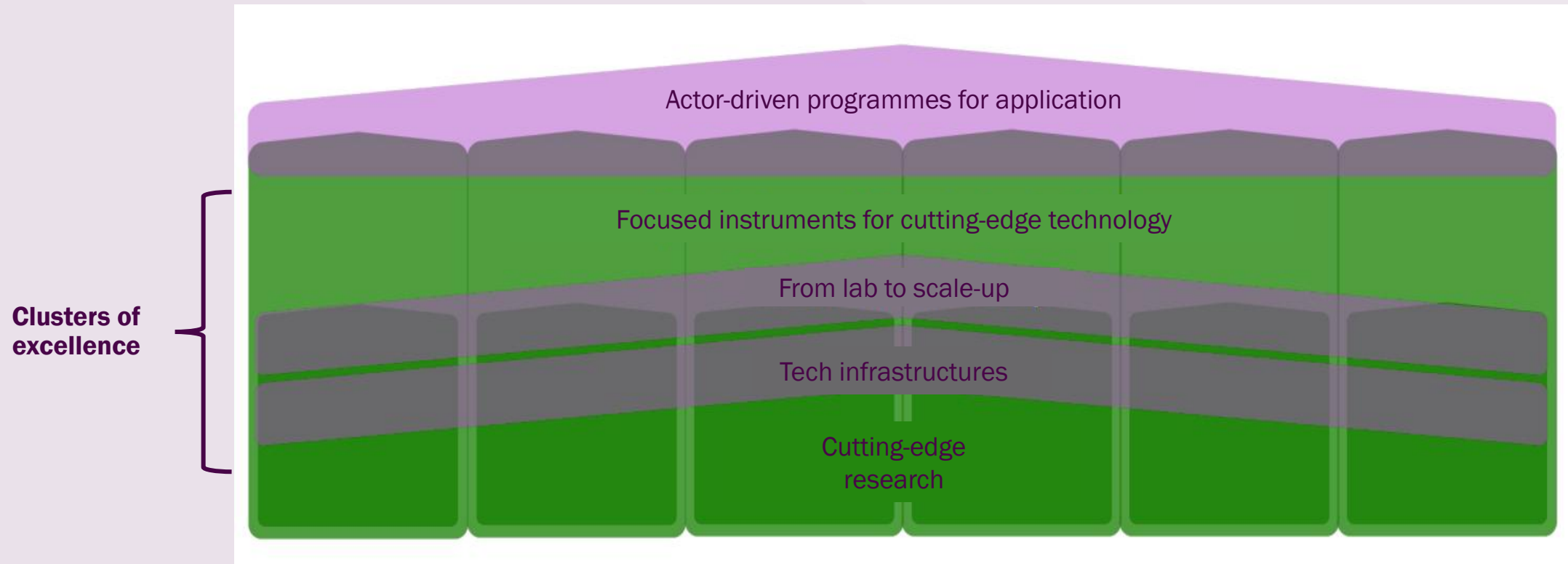
# Strategically Important Technology Areas

- Artificial intelligence and autonomous systems
- Advanced digital technology, incl semi-conductors
- Quantum technology
- Energy technology
- Material and production technology
- Biotechnology



Strategic techniques for Sweden - A basis for national priorities

# A Concerted Effort on Strategic Technologies



**A powerful concentration of resources and capabilities to establish a very strong global position in a field of technology**



# How?

- Staged funding call process.
- Open to everyone at each stage.
- Goal of having up to five world-leading clusters of excellence in Sweden by 2035.



# Speaker



**Kristian Åsberg,  
Alfa Laval**

Head of Triple Helix

# Speaker



**Göran Marklund,  
Vinnova**

Deputy Director General



# **Analysis of Strategic Technologies**

# Vinnova's Assignment

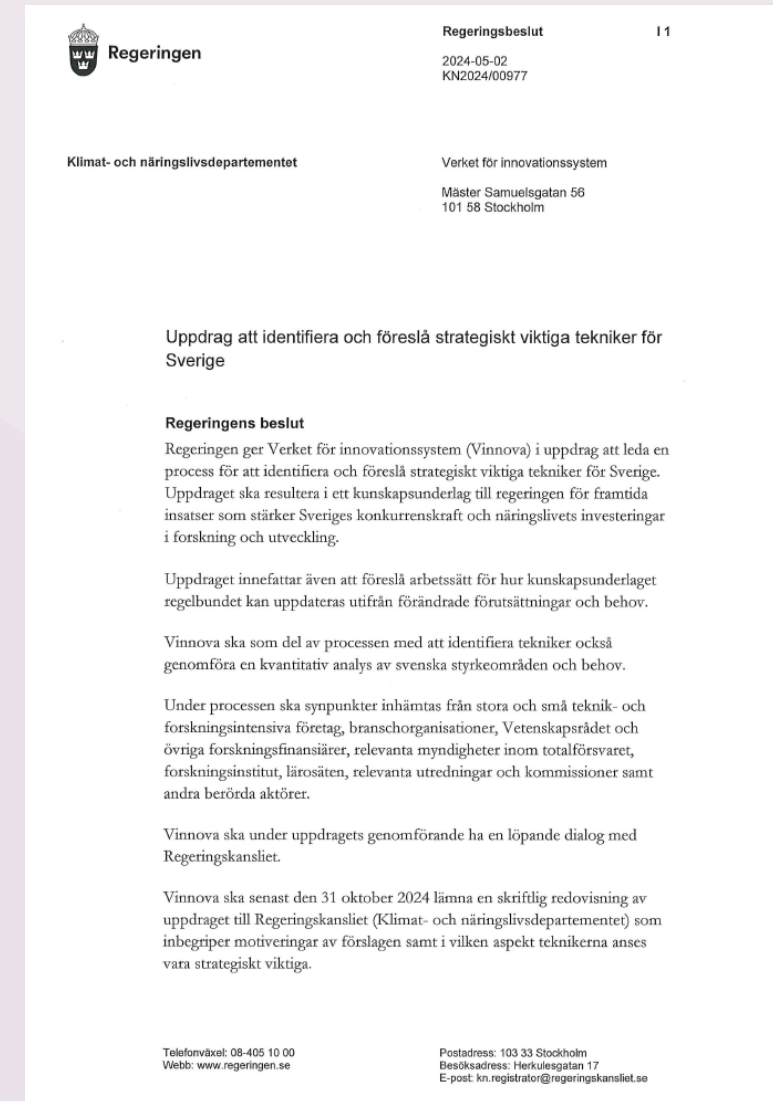
2 May 2024

Identify and propose 5–15 strategically important technologies for Sweden

The assignment includes:

- **A knowledge base for the government** – to support future initiatives that strengthen Sweden's competitiveness and business sector investments in research and development.
- **Proposing methods** for how the knowledge base can be regularly updated based on changing conditions and needs.
- Input should be gathered from industry, government agencies, academia, and research institutes.

To be reported by **October 31, 2024.**



**Report Published  
at [vinnova.se](https://vinnova.se)**

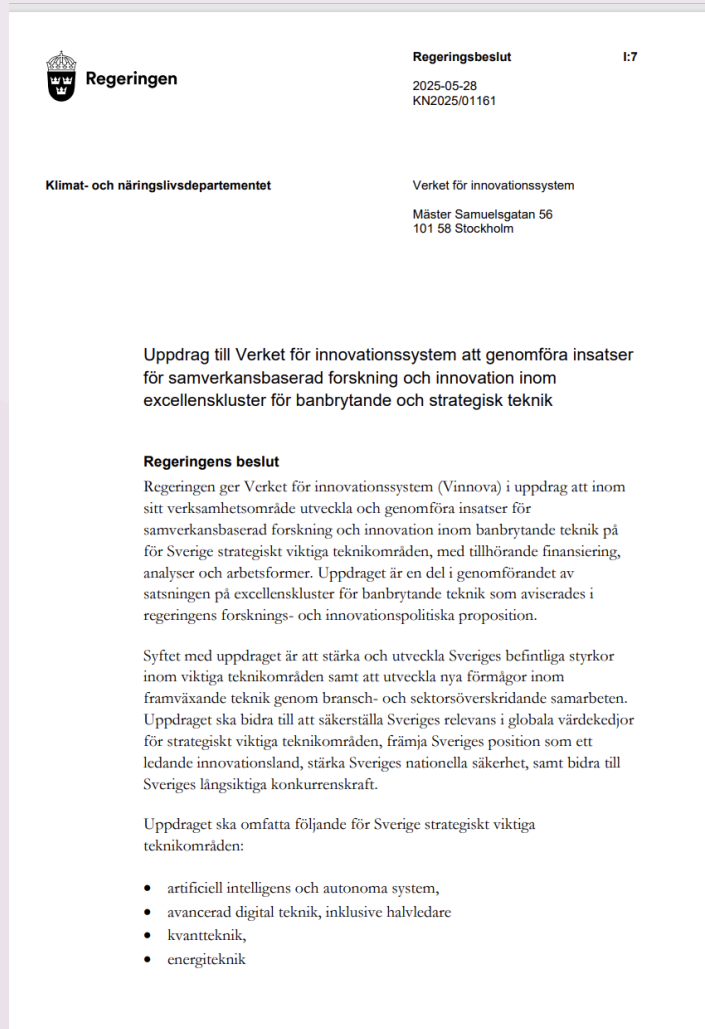
# Vinnova's Assignment

## 28 May 2025

Excellence clusters for groundbreaking and strategic technologies

Initiatives and Instruments for Breakthrough Technologies

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- Further developed knowledge base
  - strategic technologies – analysis report
- Roadmaps for prioritized technology areas
  - strategic priorities
- Joint Program Office



# Analysis Report

12 Dec 25

1. Global development – USA, China, EU
2. Swedish position and development – international benchmarking
3. Technology convergence and industrial value chains – implications for Sweden
4. Future perspectives – Swedish opportunities

**Continuous webb publications**



# EU – Critical Technology Areas



**Advanced  
semiconductors**



**Biotechnology**



**Advanced  
Connectivity,  
Navigation & Digital  
technologies**



**Space & Propulsion  
technologies**



**Robotics &  
autonomous systems**



**Artificial intelligence**



**Quantum  
technologies**



**Advanced Sensing  
technologies or teknik**

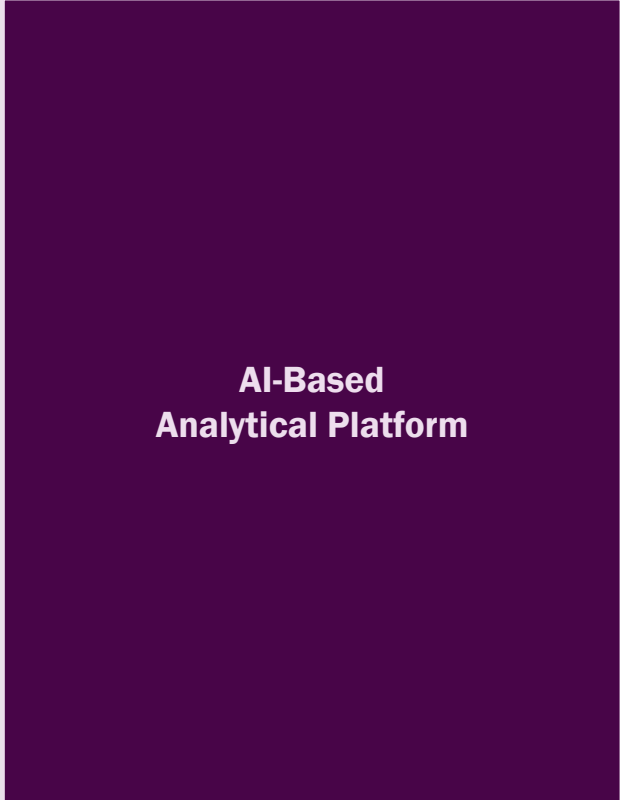


**Energy technologies**



**Advanced Materials,  
Manufacturing &  
Recycling  
technologies**

# Analysis – Methodological Approach



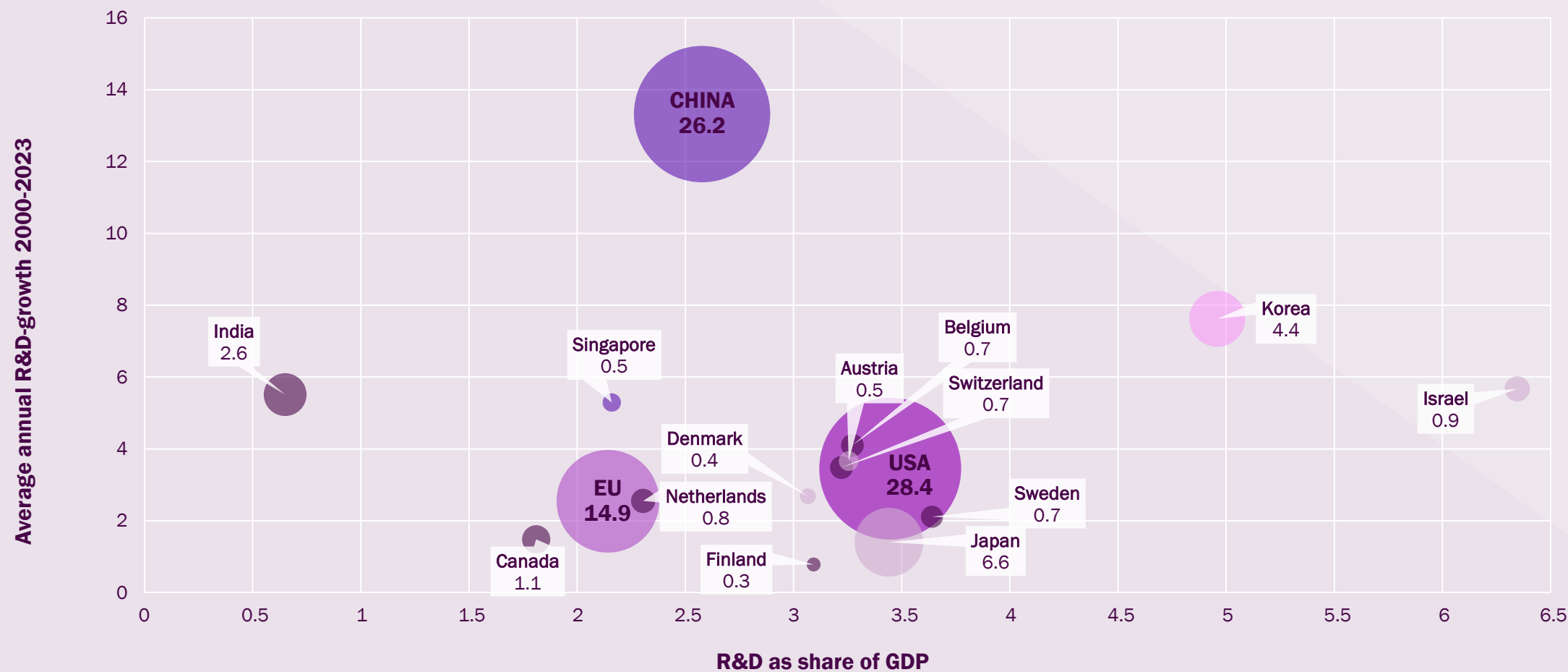
Quantitative Analysis
Bibliometrics
Patent Data
EU-data
Firm & Industrial Group Data
Startup & Scaleup Data
Market & Trade Data
News Data
Public R&I-funding Data

Qualitative Analysis
Documents
Dialogues
Seminars
Experts
Survey
International Collaborations OECD, EU JRC

# Snapshots

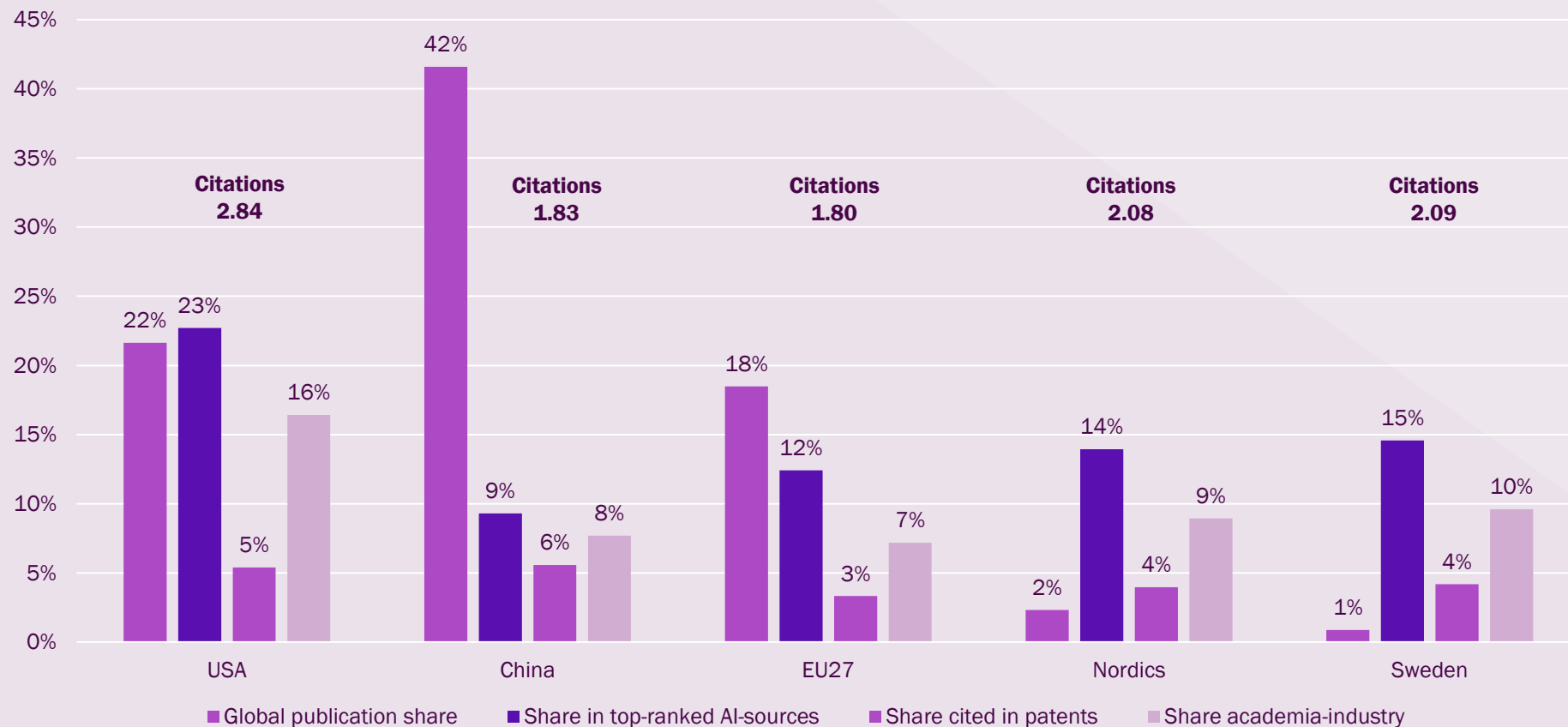


# Global R&D Development



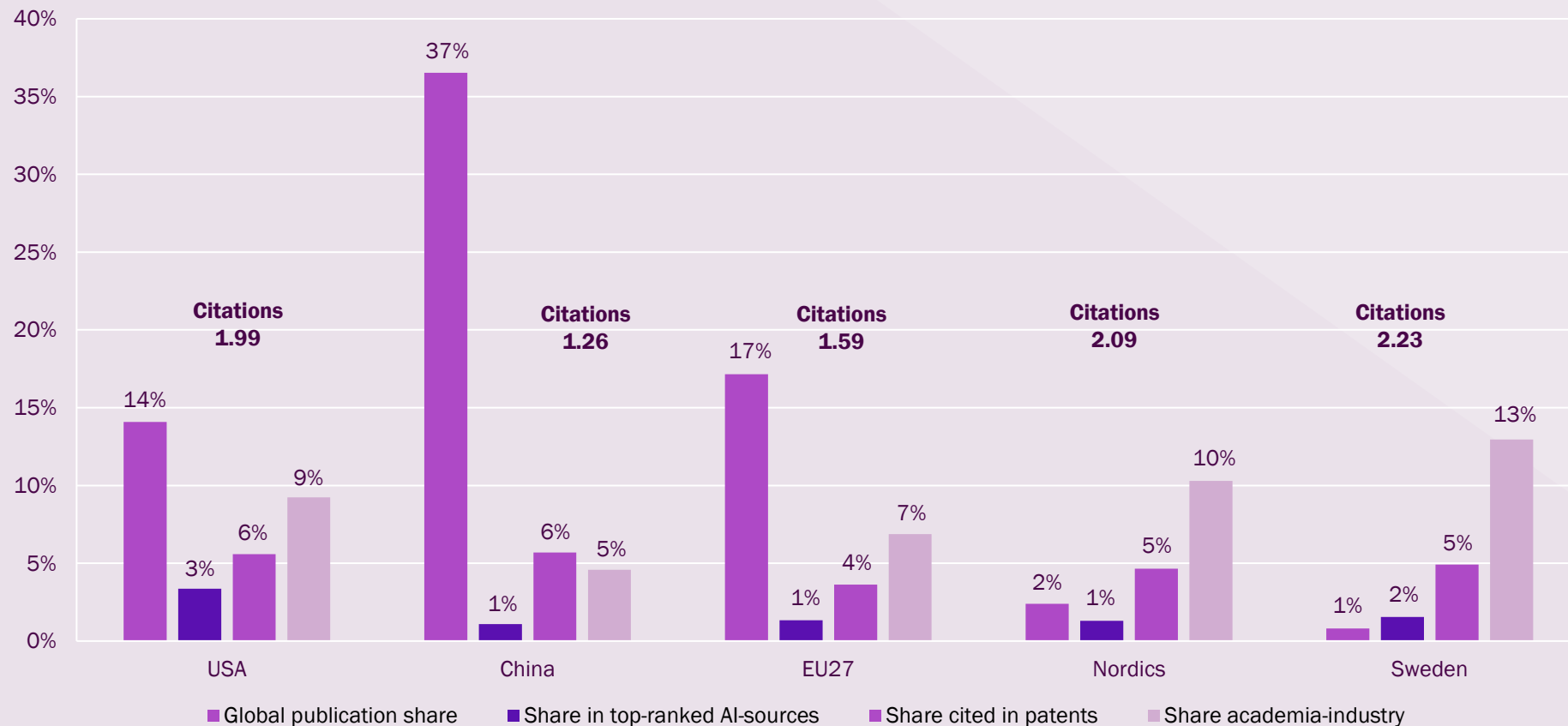
# Artificial Intelligence

## AI-Fundamentals



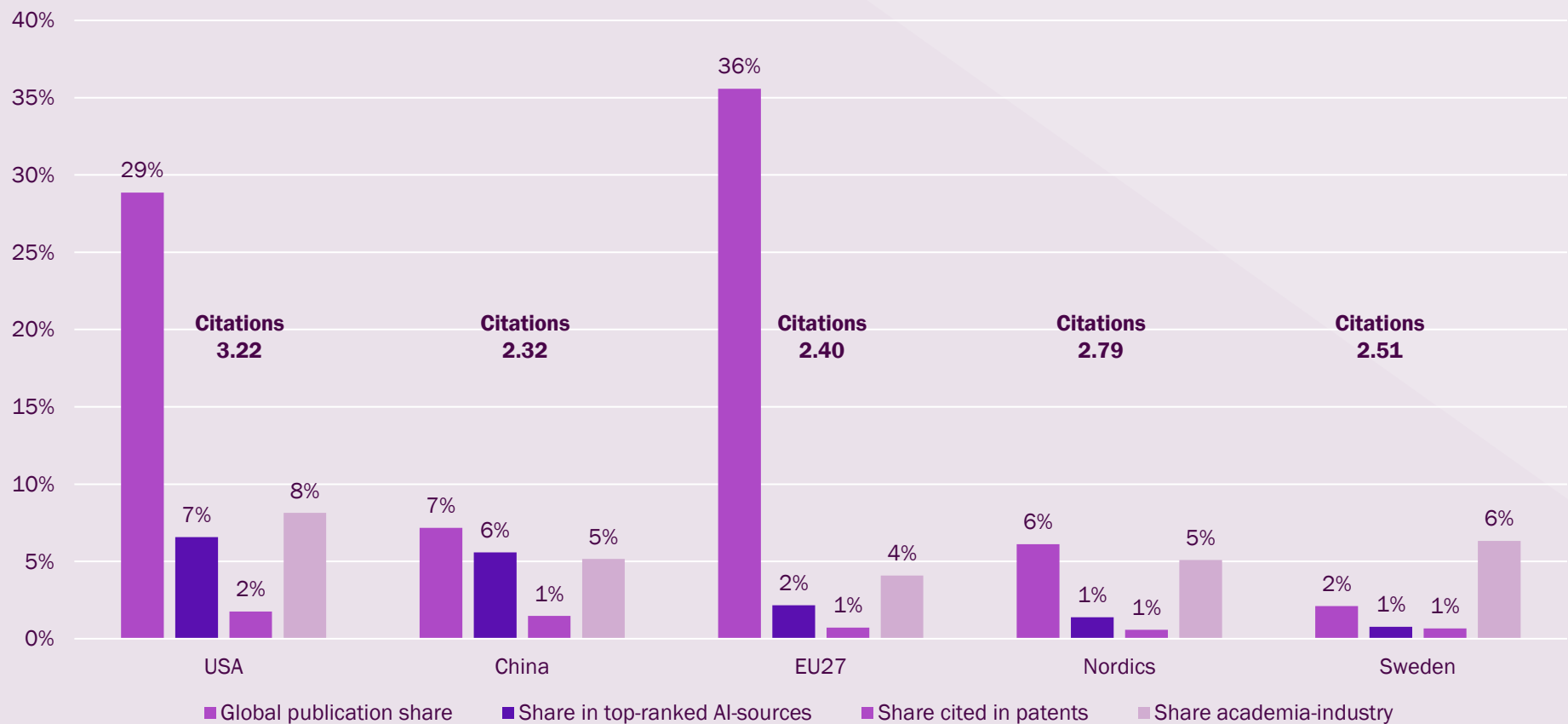
# Artificial Intelligence

## AI-Applications



# Artificial Intelligence

## AI-Reflections



# Qualitative Analysis

## Swedish Systemic Strengths

### Capabilities

- International integration in value chains
- Technologically advanced industry
- Leading capability in developing system solutions

### Collaborations

- Ability to collaborate across companies, sectors, and R&D actors
- Strong research and innovation environments
- Ecosystems of innovative start-ups

### Competences

- Well-educated population that quickly adopts new technology
- Leadership in environmental and climate issues
- Tradition of ethics and gender equality

# Speaker



**Emma Östmark,  
The Swedish Research Council**

Coordinator Engineering Sciences

# **Project Proposals Analysis for Network and Vision Grants**

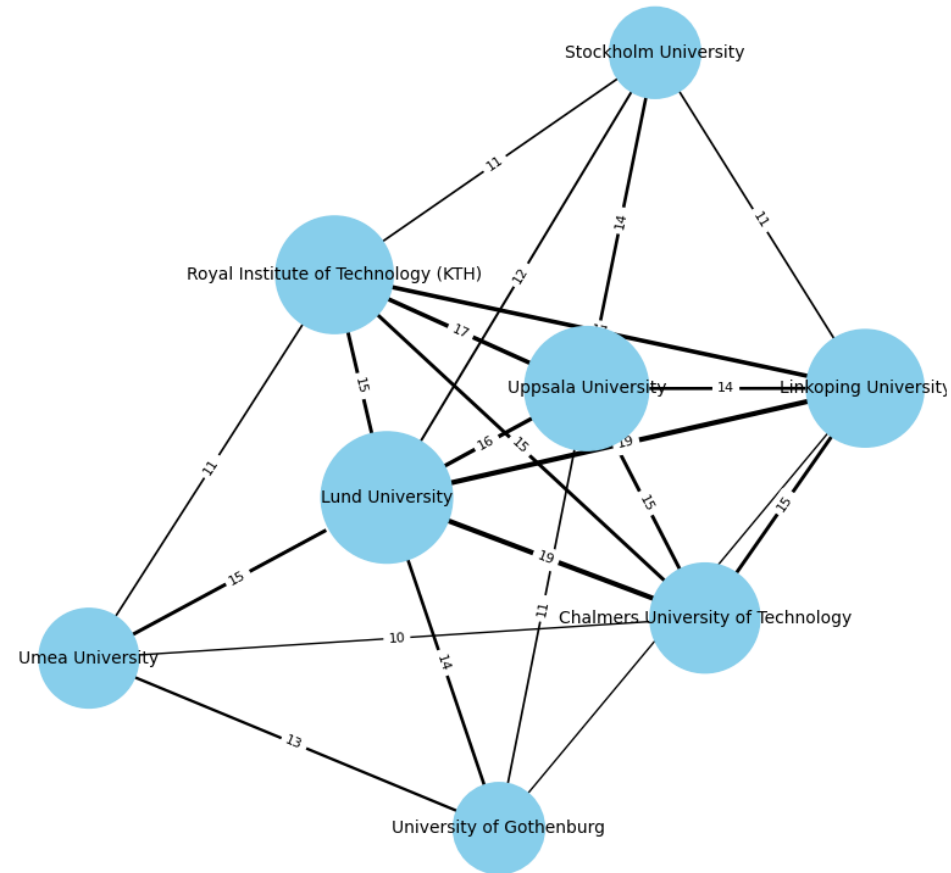
# Swedish Research Council's Network Grant Call in Figures

- 191 submitted applications
  - 40 approved (1.2 MSEK each)
- 1177 applicants (project leaders + participating researchers)
- Of the 191 project leaders, 133 are men ( $\approx 70\%$ ) and 58 are women ( $\approx 30\%$ )
- Of all 1177 applicants, 799 are men ( $\approx 68\%$ ) and 378 are women ( $\approx 32\%$ )
- Main applicants come from 17 host HEIs

Host HEI	Submitted	Approved
Lund University	30	8
KTH Royal Institute of Technology	28	8
Uppsala University	25	3
Karolinska Institutet	24	4
Chalmers University of Technology	21	5
Linköping University	16	5
University of Gothenburg	13	4
Stockholm University	11	2
Luleå University of Technology	8	1
Umeå University	6	-
Other	9	-
<b>Sum Total</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>40</b>

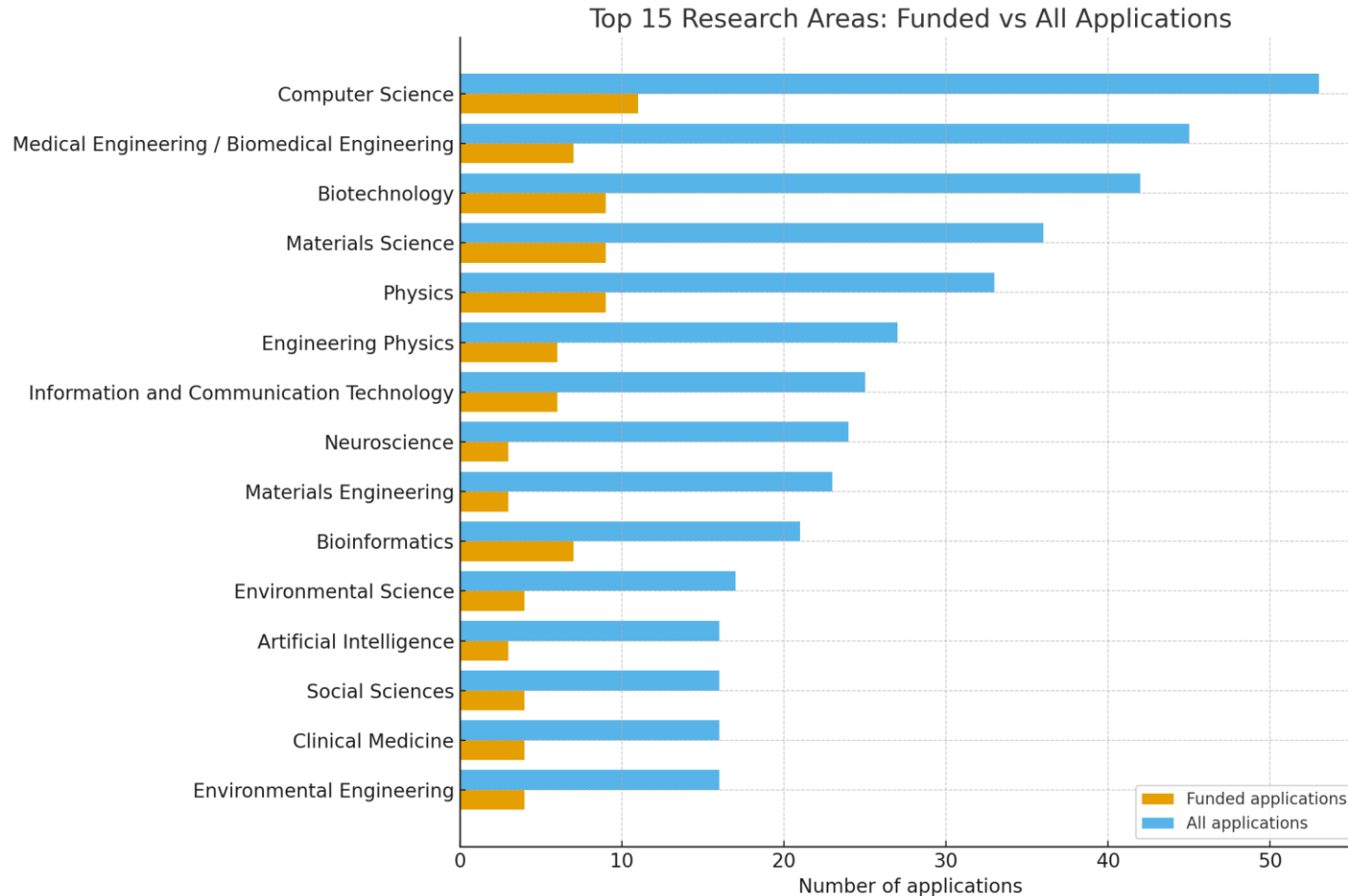


# Connections Between Universities

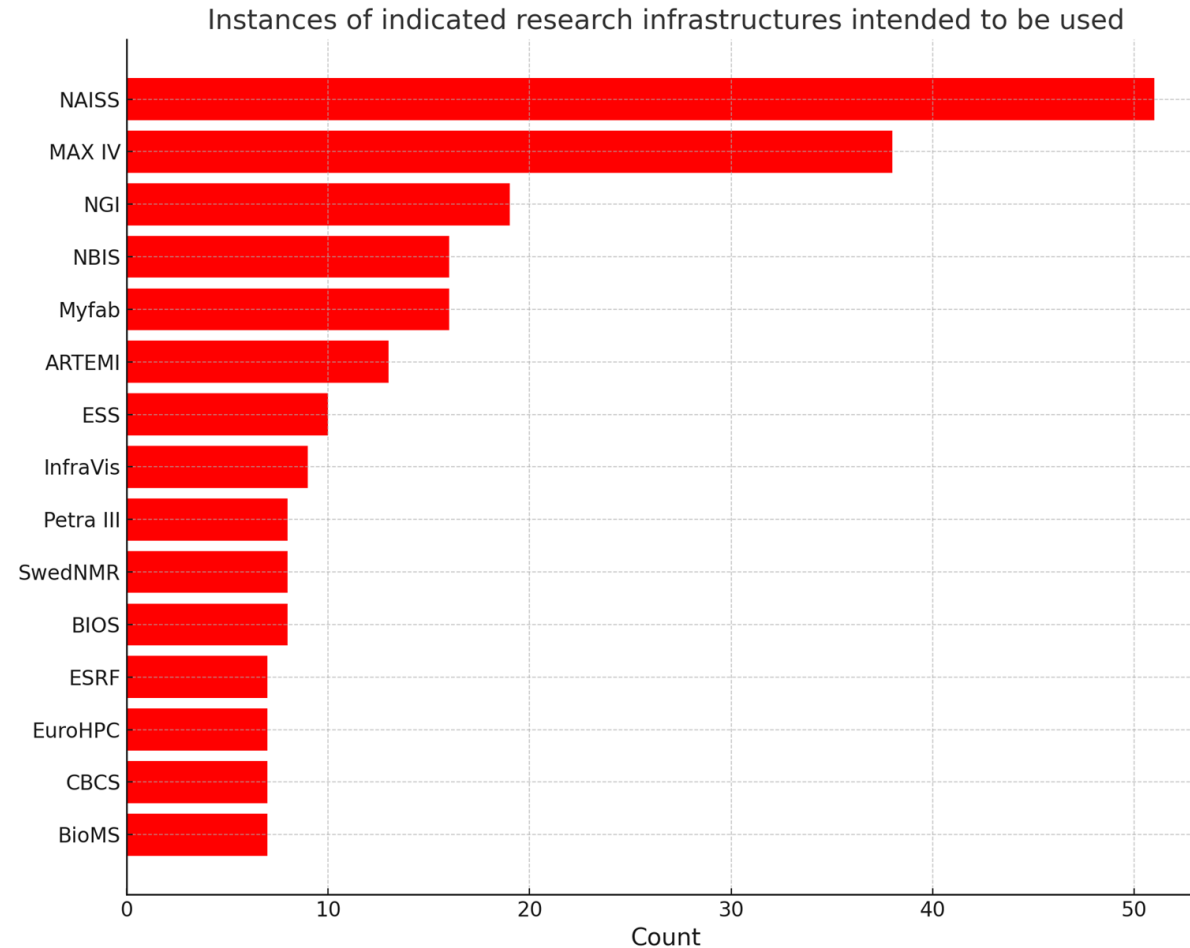




# Top Research Areas in the Swedish Research Council's Network Applications



# Research Infrastructure in the Swedish Research Council's Network Applications



# Vinnova Granted Vision Projects

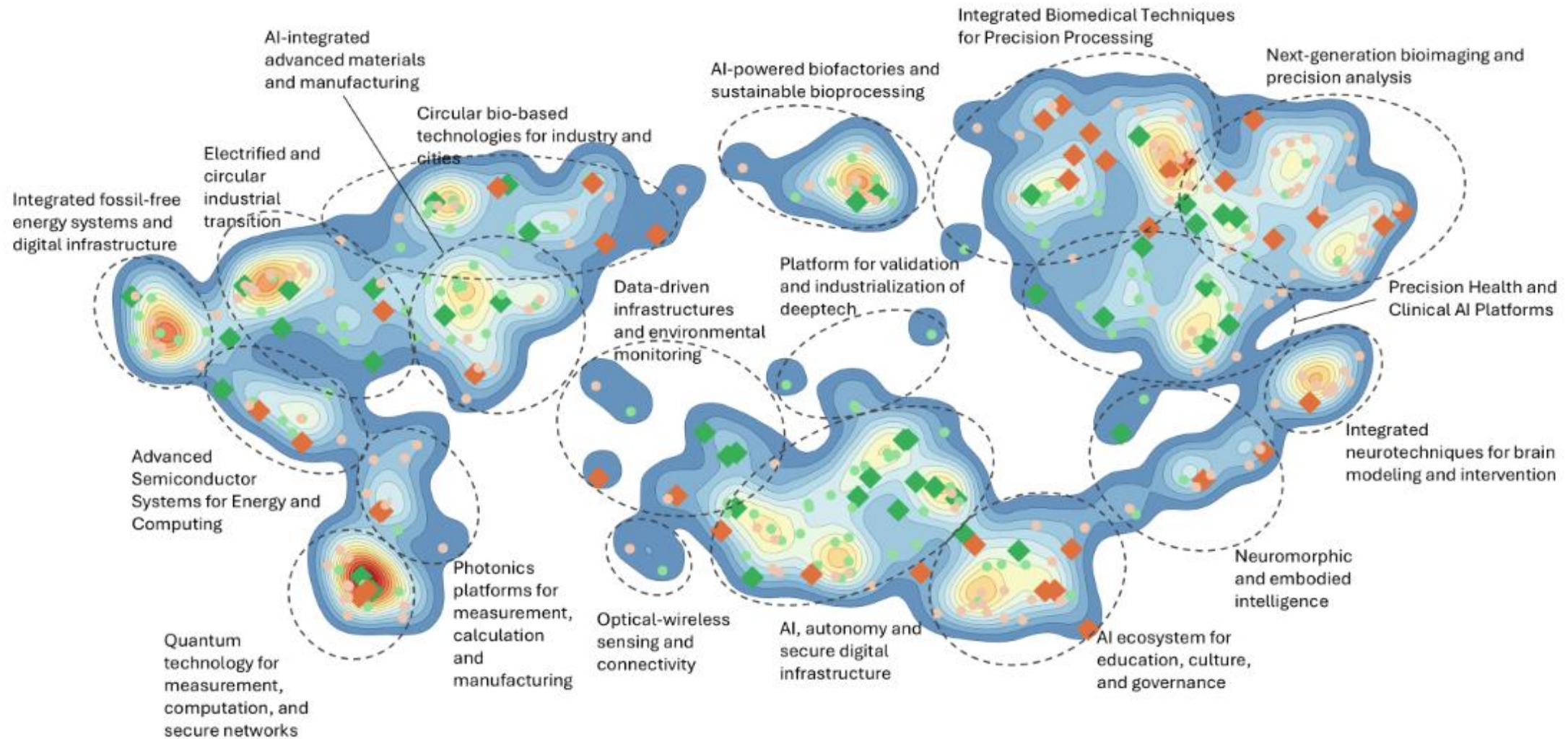
Call opened 10 June and closed 4 September.

173 applications, 45 projects granted – 1.5 MSEK, 14 November – 31 March 2026

- Artificial intelligence and autonomous systems – 10
- Advanced digital technology, including semiconductors - 6
- Quantum technology – 4
- Energy technology – 4
- Material and production technology – 12
- Biotechnology – 9

Organisation	Antal
RISE Research Institutes of Sweden AB	7
Chalmers Tekniska Högskola AB	6
Lunds universitet / Lunds Tekniska Högskola	5
Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan (KTH)	4
Linköpings universitet	4
Luleå tekniska universitetet	2
Uppsala universitet	2
Göteborgs universitet	2
Lindholmen Science Park AB / AI Sweden	1
Karolinska Institutet / SciLifeLab	1
Stiftelsen Chalmers Industriteknik	1
Region Uppsala / Akademiska sjukhuset	1
Sahlgrenska Science Park AB	1
Örebro universitet	1
Novatron Fusion Group AB	1
Cytiva Testa Center AB	1
Innovatum AB	1
Emickers AB	1
Chalmers Next Labs AB	1
AstaZero AB	1

# Thematic landscape of Vinnova's and the Swedish Research Council's proposals





# Speakers



**Cecilia Sjöberg,  
Vinnova**

Director Industrial Technologies

**Marika Edoff,  
Swedish Research Council**

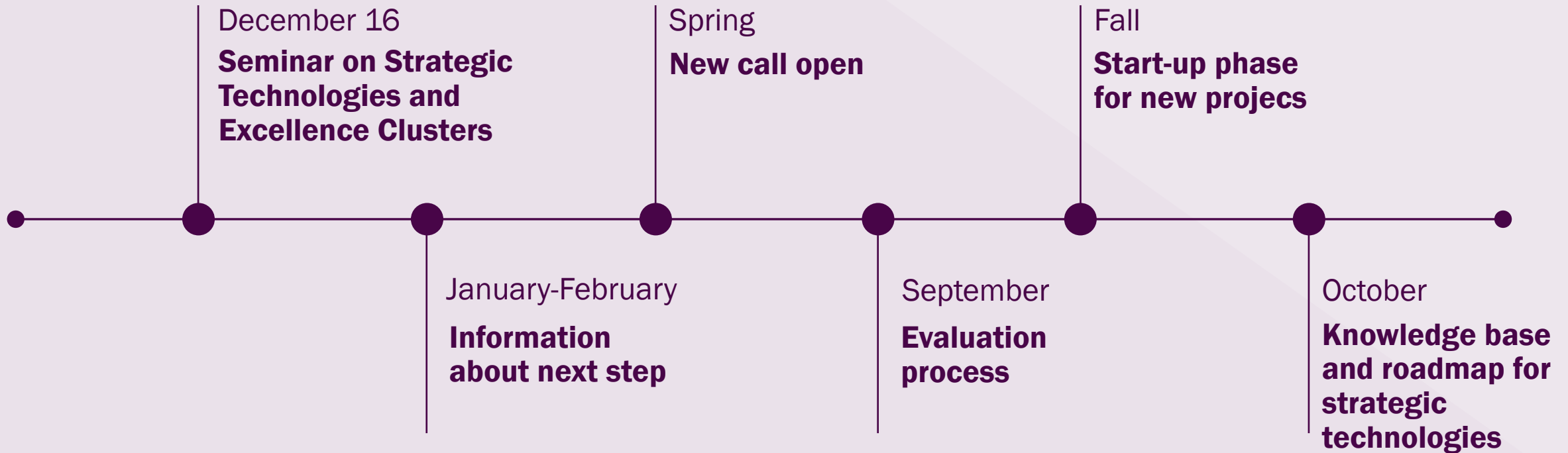
Secretary General Engineering Sciences



# **Clusters of Excellence - The Plan Forward**

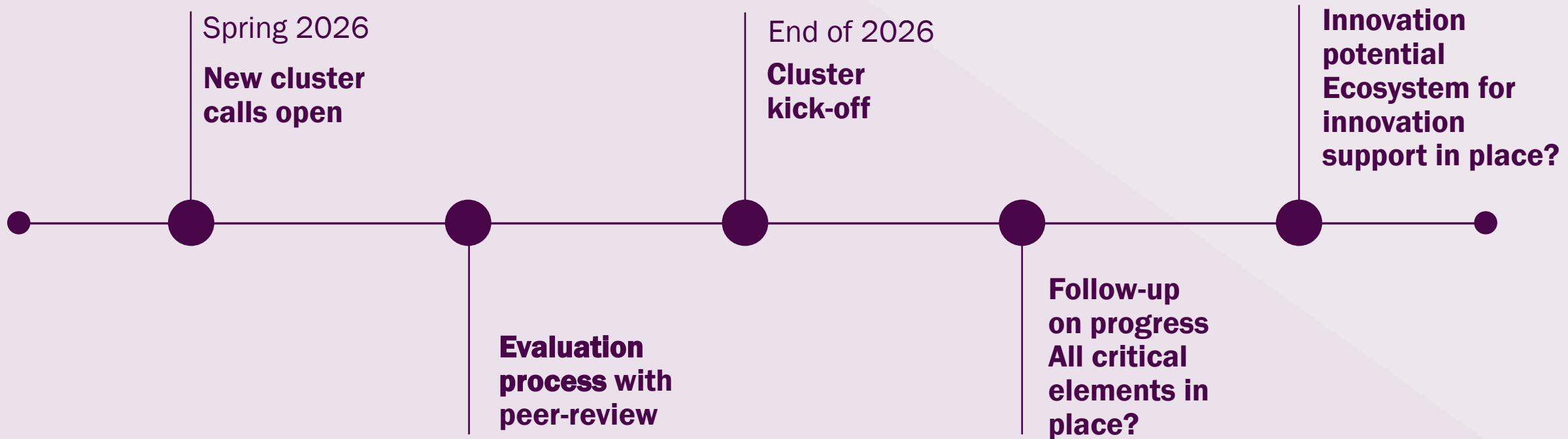


# The Plan Forward Vinnova



# The Plan Forward

## Swedish Research Council



**This is known...**

**This is still in  
discussion...**

**LUNCH**



**Emma Östmark,  
The Swedish Research Council**

Coordinator Engineering Sciences

**Fredrik Weisner,  
Vinnova**

Program Manager Clusters of Excellence



# Agenda for the afternoon

**Pitch and connect in 3 thematic groups** **13.15**

**Fika and networking** **14.00**

**Roundtable Dialogues** **14.30**

**Round up and Q&A with Vinnova or SRC** **15.20**

**Thank you!** **16.00**

# Thank you!