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Evaluation of STINT Institutional Grants and the Joint Research Collaboration programmes with Brazil, Korea and Japan

Lena Johansson de Château, Malin Jondell Assbring and Johanna Enberg

Faugert & Co Utvärdering AB

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Summary

This report presents the results of the evaluation of four STINT programmes: the Institutional Grants programme and the three Joint Research Collaboration programmes with Brazil, Korea and Japan, respectively (also referred to as STINT bilateral programmes). The evaluation of the finalised Institutional Grants programme is summative and focuses on the programme's impact on participating institutions in Sweden. The evaluation of the Joint Research Collaboration programmes is formative and forward looking, with focus on programme design and implementation.

Regarding the International Grants programme, the evaluation shows that the collaborative partnerships funded by STINT have successfully promoted internationalisation to quite a high degree at Swedish universities and higher education institutions. The internationalisation effects are mainly expressed in terms of the creation of international, academic networks and high quality PhD training, and, to some extent, master education. In particular, the funding of long stays for doctoral students at the partner institution abroad, as well as the organisation of joint workshops with the partner institution, was key for the internationalisation effects and programme impact to occur. The internationalisation effects and academic capacity building took place at several institutional levels and affected various academic categories.

The evaluation demonstrates that although the aims of the Institutional Grants programme were to a large extent fulfilled, there were several challenges in this process. It takes time to build trust and learn to know the collaborative institutional partner, which is a prerequisite for a good research collaboration. Seed money is valuable, but additional funds for continuing after the seed period is strongly needed. Small funds for networking and exchange visits are often enough, but there are very few funding opportunities for that kind of activities available.

The Institutional Grants partnerships had conceptual effects on the research, sometimes unexpected. By working together on a mutually relevant research problem with partners from a different academic and cultural tradition, new perspectives were gained. This makes the STINT grant particularly valuable, as it opens for curiosity-driven research networking on an international level. Another programme effect observed in the evaluation is that new international collaborations evolve, through researcher and student mobility between academic institutions.

Regarding the three Joint Research Collaboration programmes with Brazil, Korea and Japan, the evaluation concludes that the programmes have, so far, proven efficient in their design and implementation. The communication of calls, application process, and feedback to applicants work well. The applicants and grantees highly value the communication with STINT programme managers, throughout the application, implementation and reporting process.

Overall, the collaboration with the foreign funding agencies seems to be working well, although the different requirements for the collaborating partners sometime cause confusion. The length of the grant period (four years) is appropriate with regard to the programme objectives. An extension of the grant period would require an increase in the amount of funding.

In sum, through the Joint Research Collaborations programmes, STINT is successfully promoting a number of international collaborations, most of which intend to continue after the grant period. Suggestions and recommendations on programme amendments include less detailed cost specifications in the grant application and reporting procedure, the possibility to apply for another project in the Joint Research Collaboration programmes, and for STINT to grant continued funding for the most successful collaboration projects. In addition, the programme stakeholders would welcome a programme that supports long-term collaboration, longer than four years.

1. Introduction

1.1 Assignment

The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT) was established in 1994 with the mandate to promote internationalisation of Swedish higher education and research. Over the years, STINT has run a number of programmes, using a multitude of modalities and instruments, in order to achieve the overall aim of internationalisation of Swedish academia.

The Institutional Grants programme (IG) is the largest and longest of the STINT programmes. The programme was launched soon after the set-up of STINT, in 1996. The last call for proposals in the IG programme was in 2013.

More recently, a series of bilateral collaborative programmes have been initiated by STINT. These programmes specifically target collaboration between Swedish academic institutions and institutions in a number of strategically important countries. At present, STINT has established bilateral agreement for joint funding of academic cooperation with funding bodies in Brazil, China, Japan, Korea and South Africa. Although each bilateral programme has its own characteristic, the overall objective of the bilateral programmes is to promote internationalisation of Swedish research and higher education by means of institutional collaboration.

In order to sum up the experiences gained and lessons learned in the International Grants programme and improve the current bilateral programmes, STINT has commissioned this evaluation study to Technopolis Group.¹ The work and the formulation of the evaluation content have been carried out in close dialogue with STINT management and programme officers. The study has two elements:

- The evaluation of the Institutional Grants programme. The evaluation of the at present almost concluded Institutional Grants programme is summative and focuses on the programme's impact on participating institutions in Sweden.
- The evaluation of the Joint Research Collaboration programmes with Brazil, Korea and Japan (also referred to as STINT bilateral programmes). The evaluation of the on-going Joint Research Collaboration programmes is formative and forward-looking.

The aim of this study is thus twofold, to study the impact of the IG programme on Swedish research and higher education, as well as to assess and give recommendations of amendments to the on-going bilateral programmes.

The evaluation team has been tasked with the answering the following questions:

1. What are the effects of the Institutional Grants programme on Swedish research groups funded by the programme (e.g. choice of research topics, publication and dissemination of project results, researcher and student exchange, reciprocity in the collaboration, learning)? Had these effects occurred without STINT funding?
2. What is the impact of the Institutional Grants programme on Swedish institutions² participating in the programme (e.g. governance and management, internationalisation, research orientation, education and training, networking)? Had these effects occurred without STINT funding?
3. How has the partnerships within the Institutional Grants programme developed over time? To what extent has partnerships survived and collaboration continued

¹ The study was commissioned to Faugert & Co Utvärdering AB, the Swedish subsidiary of Technopolis Group.

² In this study, institutions primarily refer to the institutional level of university department.

after the STINT funding period? To what extent is it possible to discern any behavioural additionality?³

4. How efficient are the Joint Research Collaboration programmes with regard to programme design and implementation (e.g. application and review process, selection criteria, size of the grant, use of grant, project monitoring, and collaboration between funding agencies)?
5. What is the distribution of partnerships within the Institutional Grants and Joint Research Collaboration programmes with respect to collaborative country, Swedish host institution, area of research and gender? How has the distribution evolved over time?

The evaluation was carried out between June 2015 and May 2016. The evaluation team consisted of Lena Johansson de Château (project leader) and Malin Jondell Assbring. Johanna Enberg and Markus Lindström contributed to the analysis and production of the final report. Göran Melin has been responsible for continuous quality control.

1.2 Approach and methodology

1.2.1 Overall approach

The findings in this report are based on desktop studies, interviews and an on-line questionnaire survey. The on-line questionnaire survey targeted project leaders in the Institutional Grants programme only. The scope of study and the definition of the evaluation content have been carried out in close dialogue with STINT management and programme officers. In order to get a clearer picture of the needs and interests of STINT, the evaluation team and STINT had a start-up meeting followed by exploratory interviews with two STINT programme officers. Appendix A lists the names of the persons who participated in the initial interviews.

1.2.2 Desktop studies

Relevant documents from the four programmes included in the review have been studied in order to improve our understanding of the programmes and collect empirical data for the evaluation. We studied background materials such as the two previous evaluations of the Institutional Grants programme, and programme-specific documentation, for example call texts and grant data. The desktop studies formed a solid basis for the interviews and the on-line survey.

1.2.3 Interviews

15 interviews were carried out with grant beneficiaries (Appendix A). The interviews were semi-structured and lasted for about an hour. All interviews were carried out by telephone. The interviews aimed at exploring various aspects of the evaluation questions in depth in order to provide insight and understanding of the respective programme.

Interviews were conducted with seven project leaders from the Institutional Grants programme and eight project leaders from the Joint Research Collaboration programmes. The interviewees were selected with respect to the overall programme project portfolio. Consequently, most of the interviewed project leaders are from the natural and engineering sciences or medicine, with affiliation to Uppsala University, the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) or Karolinska Institute (KI).

For the International Grants programme, the interviews focussed on the background, effect and development over time of the collaborative projects. For example, the composition of the project group, the organisation of work and division of tasks within the partnerships, and the effects of the collaboration on the project group and the

³ With behavioural additionality we refer to a change in [an organisation's or] an individual's behaviour caused by an intervention that remains after the end of it (in this case funding from the programme).

participating institution. Moreover, the continuation of the projects after the grant period was discussed.

For the Joint Research Collaboration programmes, the interviews focussed on project background and programme efficiency, for example application process and eligibility requirements.

1.2.4 On-line questionnaire survey

An on-line questionnaire survey was sent to all project leaders from the Institutional Grants programme (Appendix B). The survey was developed in close cooperation with STINT. Email addresses to previous and current project leaders were provided by STINT.

In total, 253 recipients were invited to participate in the survey via email.⁴ From this population 88 respondents completed the survey, which gives a response rate of 35 percent. Not all respondents answered all questions, so sample sizes vary between different sections of results. The survey request was sent on 23 September 2015, followed by two reminders. The deadline for responses was 14 October 2015.

The relatively low response rate may be explained by several factors. Firstly, many of the projects were granted a long time ago, meaning that the project leaders may not find it relevant to respond to the survey. Secondly, some email addresses may be out of date, but still do not bounce back.

An analysis of the responses and recipients in relation to time shows that 70 percent of all projects were granted before 2006, but only 40 percent of the responses come from project leaders for projects that were granted prior to 2006. Furthermore, 30 percent of all projects had been awarded since 2007 (there was not call 2006), but 70 percent of the responses come from project leaders that were granted in 2007 and onwards.

The response rate can be compared to a typical response rate in evaluations of EC funded research programmes, where response rates of 25-35 percent are regarded as normal.⁵

1.3 Background to the evaluated programmes

1.3.1 Institutional Grants

The Institutional Grants programme is the largest programme run by STINT, so far. The programme started in 1996 with the objective of strengthening Swedish research and higher education by developing and establishing international partnerships. Since then, approximately 300 collaborative projects have been granted a total of SEK500m. The last call for applications was in 2013. There are currently 34 projects running within the programme. As of now, there are no plans for further calls in the Institutional Grants programme. The programme has previously been evaluated by SQV Inno Scandinavia in 2004, and by the Academic Cooperation Association in 2009.⁶

The Institutional Grants programme funds international collaboration between academic institutions in Sweden and abroad. The programme allows for collaboration with academic institutions in all countries and in all areas of research. The programme supports collaborative projects of high scientific quality which are clearly contributing

⁴ STINT provided 288 email addresses. Of these, 21 were duplicate addresses, which mean that the survey was sent to 267 recipients. Eight addresses bounced back and six project leaders declined to participate. As such, 253 participants received the survey.

⁵ Experiences by Technopolis Group include, for example, a recent evaluation of the FP7 Security Programme, where the response rate was 27 percent in a participant survey and in an evaluation of the FP7 Space Research Programme; the response rate reached 33 percent.

⁶ Evaluation of the STINT Institutional Grants Programme, SQW Limited Inno Scandinavia, November 2004 and Evaluation of the Institutional Grants Programme of the STINT Foundation, Academic Cooperation Association, September 2009.

to the activities of the participating higher education institutions. The grant provides seed money to establish and develop an academic partnership between the Swedish institution and the foreign institutions. The partnership works on several career levels and through various activities. Ideally, the funded partnership project should encompass research as well as educational activities. The programme encourages, and prioritises, new collaborative patterns and partnerships. Furthermore, the Institutional Grants programme seeks to create sustainable partnerships between the collaborative institutions.

Project funding is typically awarded for four years (with interim report and assessment after two years). The annual granted project budget is maximum SEK400,000. The costs covered by the STINT grant should be related to internationalisation and mobility activities, e.g. stays abroad for researchers, lecturers and students involved in the partnership, or the organisation of workshops and conferences. Only other minor costs are allowed, such as laboratory costs. Salary costs are not covered by the grant.⁷

Projects often include a considerable number of individuals, and a wide range of staff. It is of particular importance that young researchers and doctoral students participate in the exchange between the partnering institutions. Even though the overarching aim of the programme is to strengthen Swedish higher education and research, the funded projects must benefit the Swedish *and* the foreign partner equally, and the personnel exchange should go in both directions. STINT particularly attaches importance to the benefits the programme provides for young researchers in terms of research training and career enhancement.

1.3.2 Joint Research Collaboration programmes

The Joint Research Collaboration programmes are directed towards three countries: Brazil, Japan and Korea. The Joint Brazilian-Swedish Research Collaboration and the Korea-Sweden Research Cooperation programmes started in 2011, followed by the Joint Japan-Sweden Research Collaboration programme in 2013. The aim of the three Joint Research Collaboration programmes is, just like the Institutional Grants programme, to strengthen Swedish research and higher education by developing and establishing international partnerships.

The bilateral programmes are similar to the Institutional Grants programme in many respects. Projects must include at least one Swedish higher education institution and one institutional partner abroad. Furthermore, projects should ideally include research as well as education activities, although STINT may support pure research partnerships. New partnerships, between previously non-related institutions, are prioritised and it is of great importance that young researchers and doctoral students participate in the exchanges.

The grant covers costs for internationalisation activities, such as short or longer stays abroad, and for organising workshops or conferences. The grant may not be used for salary costs, with the exception of salary for doctoral students and postdocs for up to six months' stay abroad.

The Joint Research Collaboration programmes – or, shortly, bilateral programmes – differ from the Institutional Grants programme in the sense that the collaborative partner should be an educational research institution based in any of the three countries Brazil, Japan or Korea. Furthermore, the programmes are set up with and co-funded by funding agencies in the respective programme countries; i.e. the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES/MEC), the Japanese Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) and the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF). In the Joint Research Collaboration programmes, applicants must submit

⁷ It should be noted that the International Grants eligible costs have changed somewhat over the programme years, 1996-2013 (last call). However, the basic principle is that the grant provides covers internationalisation and mobility activities. Salary costs are only covered for doctoral and post-doctoral students.

two applications, one to STINT and one to the national funding agency in the collaborative country (CAPES, JSPS or NRF). The collaborative programme funding agencies may have different research priorities and assessment criteria than STINT. The annual budget for the Swedish partner is maximum SEK200,000. The partnering applicant applies for the corresponding amount to the relevant funding agency. Projects may last up to four years, with an interim report after two years.

1.4 Previous evaluations

As mentioned above, the Institutional Grants programme was previously evaluated twice, by SQV Inno Scandinavia in 2004, and by the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) in 2009.⁸ The bilateral Joint Research Collaboration programmes has hitherto not been evaluated.

The previous evaluations provide important insights to some of the evaluation questions at hand for the present study. For example, with regard to the effects on scientist groups and institutions of the International Grants programme, one of the most important findings from the ACA evaluation was the importance of the Institutional Grants programme for junior researchers. The evaluation found that the impact from the Institutional Grants programme had been major on this group of researchers.⁹ 95% of the participating responding junior researchers meant that their involvement in the Institutional Grants programme had had a very positive impact on their career development. 70% said that it had had a major or large impact. All respondents (project leaders in Sweden and abroad, as well as junior researchers) meant the programme had had an overall positive impact on their careers. The main impact was defined by the junior researchers as new research skills, increase in number of publications and the entering of research fields that they would not had been able to access without the programme. Also, all junior researchers who had been on stays at foreign education institutions for a longer duration reported that they had started to build an international network with their foreign junior counterparts and their foreign supervisors. Access to equipment at the collaborating institution was another benefit of the collaboration. Many of the junior researchers also stressed that the stay with the foreign institution had broadened their research focus, either through adding a new perspective from a neighbouring discipline or by viewing their own discipline from the perspective of a different academic culture. Junior researchers also pointed to the personal benefits they had acquired from the programme, such as cultural benefits, experience from foreign cultures, foreign language knowledge, friends made and sometimes even wives and husbands found. Junior researchers also highlighted the benefits related to their academic progress which they had gained in their stay abroad. These benefits had included advances on their PhD theses, or other major publications and a general improvement of their academic competencies. Also, longer stays in a leading foreign research environment was shown to had had a massive motivational effect and kick-start careers of talented young researchers to become high-achievers.

The interviews that complemented the surveys in the ACA study proved other beneficial results of the stays abroad. Junior researchers had experienced a considerable rise in the quality of their work, a boost in their academic self-confidence, a peer induced reinforcement effect (to make them chose research as their future career), a widening of disciplinary/thematic interests, a heightened openness to interdisciplinary work, and the start of the building of their personal research network.

These positive effects on junior researchers are also observed in the 2004 evaluation of the programme, by SQV Inno Scandinavia. They identified that the capacities and skills had been upgraded, as well as their professional network had been strengthened.

⁸ Academic Cooperation Association, Evaluation of the Institutional Grants Programme of the STINT Foundation, 2009.

⁹ The ACA evaluation used interviews and an on-line questionnaire surveys. Respondents were the Swedish and foreign project leaders and junior researchers themselves, complemented with quantified research outcomes.

The benefits provided by the Institutional Grants programme for junior researchers were considered by ACA to have had potential impact on the institutions hosting them and on the academic culture in Sweden. In particular, the evaluation argued that the exchanges with US institutions had produced returning young scholars whom had been willing and able to challenge academic traditions in their Swedish university department. The evaluation suggested that this could have potential to gradually change the academic culture in Sweden. The students who did their exchange in the US had benefited from having the global state of art in their discipline as their reference instead of solely the Swedish perspective.

In terms of gender and career progression, the data from the evaluation pointed to that the men had tended to be more mobile than the women. 33% of the men reported to have held two or more posts since the end of the Institutional Grant project, in relation to 13% of the women.

Further, the ACA study concluded that the Institutional Grant programme had had a positive impact on research partnerships with foreign universities. 83 percent of the Swedish project leaders reported that the project had been fully or largely successful in this aim. The programme was argued by ACA to have encouraged new research areas and the use of new research methods. The encouragement of new research capacities and skills was also noted in the 2004 evaluation by SQW, as well as contributions relating to teaching activities. The evaluation also suggested that the programme had attracted foreign researchers to work in the Swedish university system. The ACA evaluation showed that the Institutional Grant programme had enhanced the inflow of international students to Sweden. The Institutional Grants partnerships had promoted Sweden as a high class destination for international students.

As to sustainability of the funded partnerships, the ACA evaluation showed that 86% of the partners had continued cooperation beyond the STINT funding and that they intended to do so in the future. There was, according to ACA, very little variation in sustainability of the projects on the basis of research area. The evaluation showed that there had been some differences in sustainability in country groupings. North American, East European and East Asian partnerships had been, according to the evaluation, the partnerships with the highest continuation rate. Although, the evaluation stressed that sample size forbade undue conclusions. Interviews enhanced the statements about sustainability. The partnerships that had been able to secure follow-up funding continued with the same or even at higher intensity than during the project grant period. The interviews showed that partnerships without follow up funding kept contact with their foreign counterparts in some cases, but not through research activities. There were partnerships that had not had any continuous contact at all after the STINT funding period. Hence, the ACA evaluation showed that the sustainability of Institutional Grants induced cooperation had depended on availability of funds. The evaluation suggested that the STINT foundation would introduce some kind of "transition grant" to support projects and partnerships in their transition to other external funding.

As to geographical and research area distribution of funded projects, the evaluation demonstrated that the main regional focus was North America and in natural sciences. East Asia and East Europe had the largest proportion of projects in the area of technology, and North America and East Asia had had the most proportion of projects in the area of medicine. Lower income countries had the lowest proportion of projects overall. In the area of humanities-social sciences, the share of projects with institutions in North America is smallest (10%) and the proportion had been highest in the lower income countries, although real numbers of the latter is small.

The distribution of exchanges was in favour for Swedish based junior researchers. More Swedish junior researchers visited foreign institutions than the other way around.

The geographical distribution seems to follow a somewhat sustained pattern. The evaluation by SQW from 2004 declared the collaborate partners to have been Western

Europe and North America. These areas had been the collaborate partner in almost 50% of the projects that had been studied.

1.5 Report structure

Following this introductory chapter, **Chapter 2** presents and analyses funding data of the four programmes included in the study. **Chapter 3** presents the findings from our summative evaluation of the Institutional Grants programme. **Chapter 4** presents the findings related to the formative evaluation of the four Joint Research Collaboration programmes. The analysis of the evaluation findings are presented in the concluding **Chapter 5**. Chapter 5 also summarises some of the experiences gained and lessons learnt in the four evaluated programmes.

2. Grants analysis

This chapter presents an overview of the funding granted in the Institutional Grants programme and the three bilateral Joint Research Collaboration programmes. More specifically, this chapter shows the distribution of funds and projects between research areas, partner countries, Swedish institutions, and gender of grant recipients (project leader) and its distribution over time.¹⁰

2.1 Funding granted

2.1.1 The Institutional Grants programme

Over the programme years 1996 to 2014, STINT received 1507 applications to the Institutional Grants programme, 301 of which were funded, totalling SEK526m. The distribution of granted projects over the years is presented in Figure 1 along with the total sum of funding granted each year. The number of applications has varied over the years. The lowest number of applications was 37 in 2009 and the highest number of applications was 109 in 1999 (the 2006 call was postponed, and hence there were no applications in 2006).

STINT has continuously adjusted the funding budget in response to the changes in number of applications. For example, the low number of granted projects in 2009 and 2010 is related to adjustments in programme budget due to decrease in the total number of applications the previous years (2007: 83 applications; 2008: 50 applications; 2009: 37 applications). After 2009, the number of applications increased (2010: 71 applications), which led STINT to increase the programme budget anew. Each year, STINT has disbursed on average SEK29m, the largest amount in 2003 and the smallest in 2010 (not counting 2006 when no funds were granted).

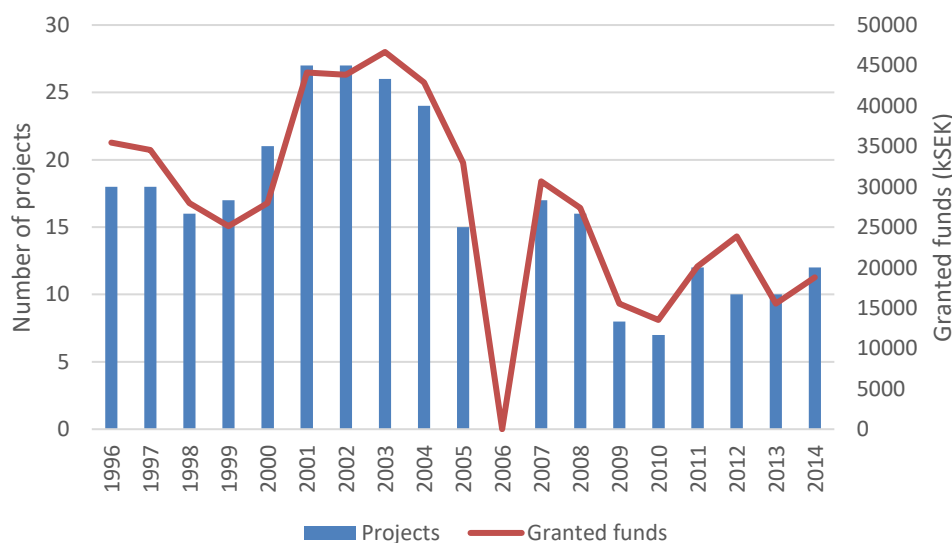


Figure 1 Distribution of number of projects and granted funds from 1996 to 2014 in the Institutional Grants programme, 1996-2014. Source: STINT data.

The highest number of approved applications was 27, in both 2001 and 2002, while the lowest number of approvals were seven, in 2010. The average success rate over the programme period was 20%, varying from just below 10% (2010) to over 30% (2001). Table 1, below, shows the annual distribution of applications, approvals and success rates in the Institutional Grants programme.

¹⁰ The analysis is based on application statistics and grant data provided by STINT.

Table 1 Annual distribution of applications, approvals and success rates in the years 1996 to 2014 in the Institutional Grants programme, 1996-2014. Source: STINT data.

Year	Applications	Approvals	Success rate (%)
1996	91	18	19,8
1997	99	18	18,2
1998	88	16	18,2
1999	109	17	15,6
2000	84	21	25
2001	86	27	31,4
2002	93	27	29
2003	97	26	26,8
2004	80	24	30
2005	88	15	17
2006			
2007	82	17	20,7
2008	50	16	32
2009	37	8	21,6
2010	71	7	9,9
2011	59	12	20,3
2012	96	10	10,4
2013	90	10	11,1
2014	107	12	11,2
Total	1507	301	20

2.1.2 The Joint Research Collaboration programmes

Since the start of the bilateral Joint Research Collaboration programmes in 2011 (Brazil and Korea), funds have been granted to all in all 52 projects for a total of SEK34.8m (until 2015). 27 projects have been funded to a total of SEK16.7m in the Brazilian-Swedish Research Collaboration Programme, 19 projects have been granted a total of SEK13.5m in the Korea-Sweden Research Cooperation Programme and six projects have been granted SEK4.4m in the Japan-Sweden Research Cooperation Programme (starting in 2013).

2.2 Distribution between research areas

2.2.1 The Institutional Grants programme

Looking at the distribution of granted projects between areas of research, the natural and engineering sciences constitute the largest research area in the Institutional Grants programme with all in all 179 funded projects (59.5 percent of all granted projects). Second is medicine (65 projects) and lastly humanities and social sciences (57 projects), see Figure 2. In 2012, the research areas of natural sciences and engineering sciences were merged into one category (natural and engineering sciences). Hence, natural and engineering sciences is counted as one research area in this study even though they have at times been treated as two separate research areas in the administration of the programme.

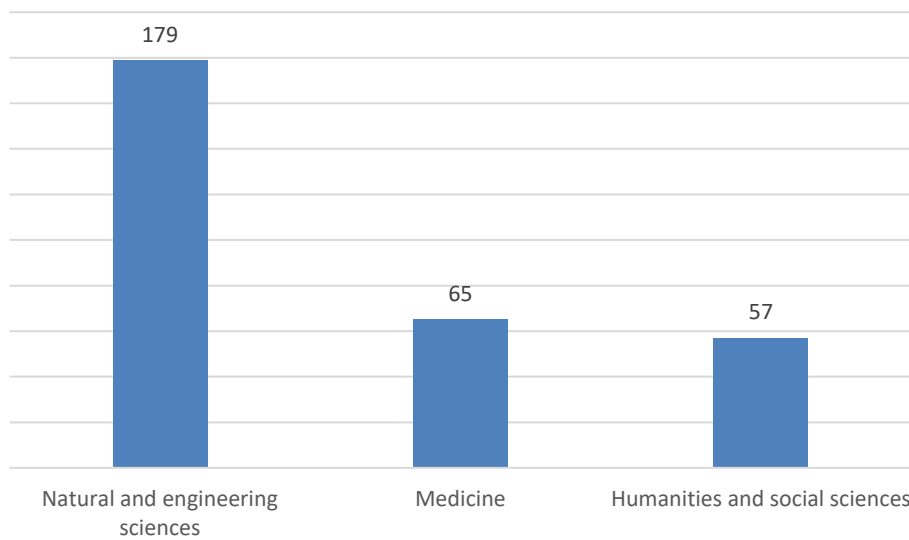


Figure 2 Distribution of projects between research areas in the Institutional Grants programme, 1996-2014. Source: STINT data.

The number of grants divided between areas of research over time in the Institutional Grants programme is presented in Figure 3. Projects in the natural and engineering sciences dominated in volume in the early years, especially 2000 to 2005, but has since decreased. The other research areas show a stable number of granted projects.

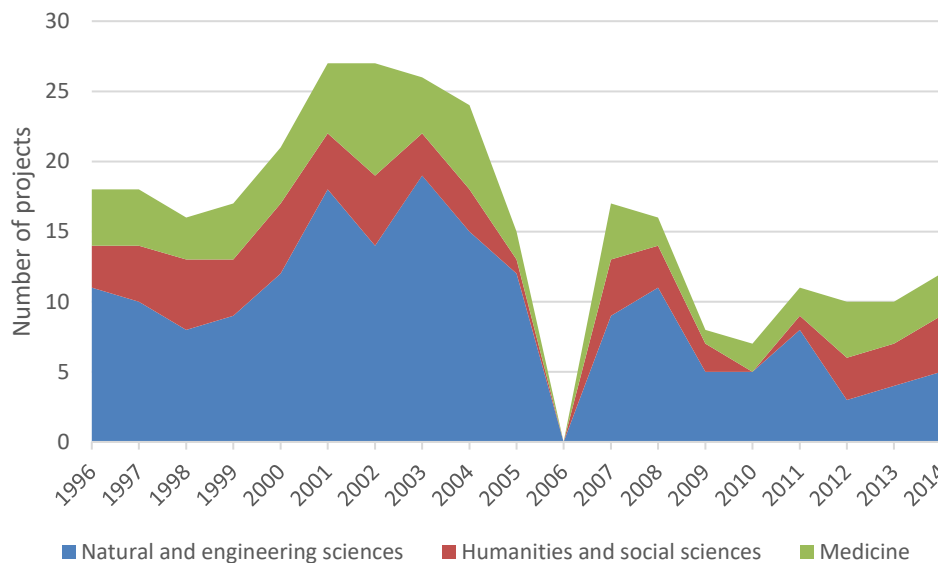


Figure 3 Distribution of projects between research areas in the Institutional Grants programme from 1996-2014, 1996-2014. Source: STINT data.

The average granted sum per project in the Institutional Grants programme was SEK1.75m. The average sum was generally largest for projects in natural sciences, c. SEK1.9m, and smallest in humanities and social sciences, c. SEK1.5m.

2.2.2 The Joint Research Collaboration programmes

As in the International Grants programme, natural and engineering sciences constitutes the largest research area in the three Joint Research Collaboration programmes, with 28 projects, followed by medicine (17 projects), humanities and social sciences (seven projects).

Looking at each of the bilateral programmes, the largest number of projects was funded in the Brazilian-Swedish programme; a total number of 27 projects with a total granted funds of SEK16.7m. As shown in Figure 4, eleven projects were granted in medicine, ten in natural and engineering sciences and six in humanities and social sciences.

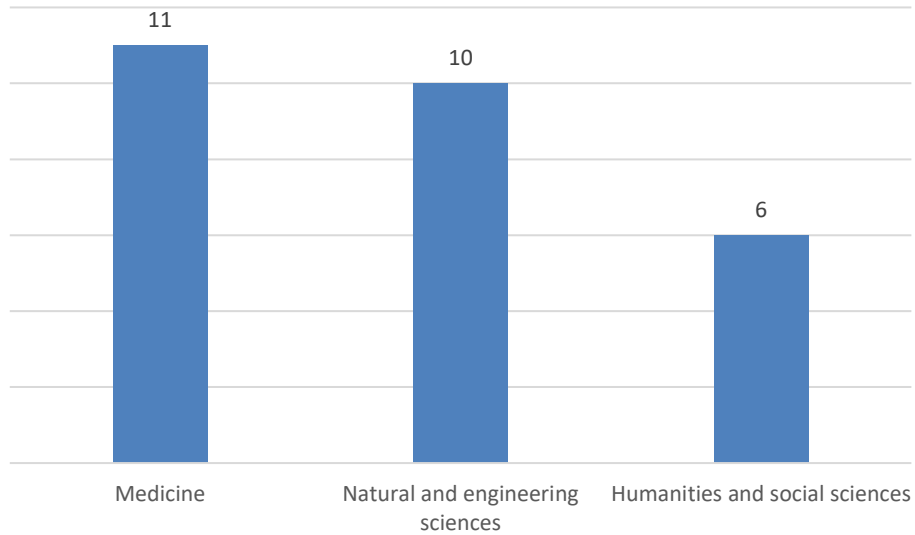


Figure 4 Distribution of projects between research areas in the Joint Brazilian-Swedish Research Collaboration programme, 2011-2015. Source: STINT data.

STINT granted a total 19 projects with a total granted funds of SEK13.5m in the Korea-Sweden Research Cooperation programme. Out of these, 14 were granted in natural and engineering sciences, four in medicine. One project was granted in humanities and social sciences (Figure 5).

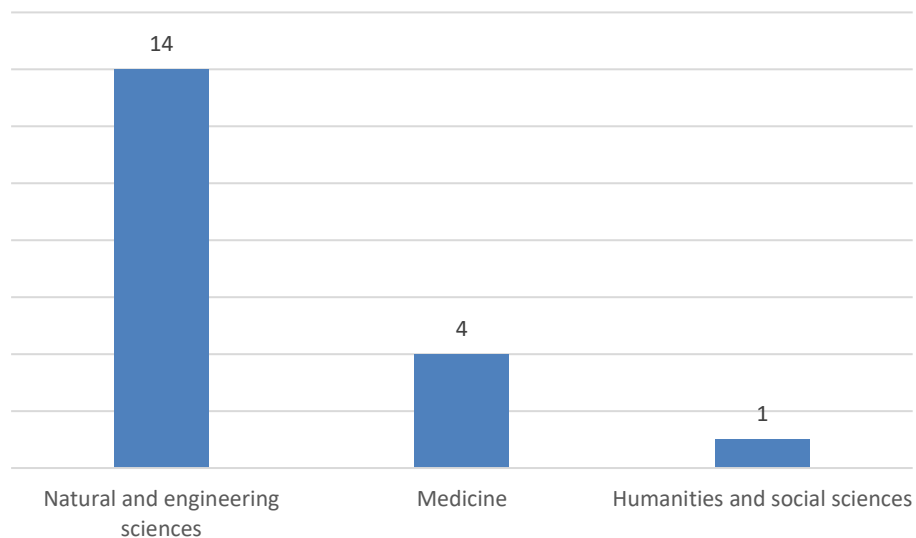


Figure 5 Distribution of projects between research areas in the Korea-Sweden Research Cooperation programme, 2011-2015. Source: STINT data.

In Figure 6, the distribution of projects between research areas in the Joint Japan-Sweden Research Collaboration programme is outlined. In the programme six projects were granted a total of SEK4.4m. Four projects were granted in natural and engineering sciences and two projects were granted in medicine. No project was granted in the humanities and social sciences in the Japan-Sweden programme.

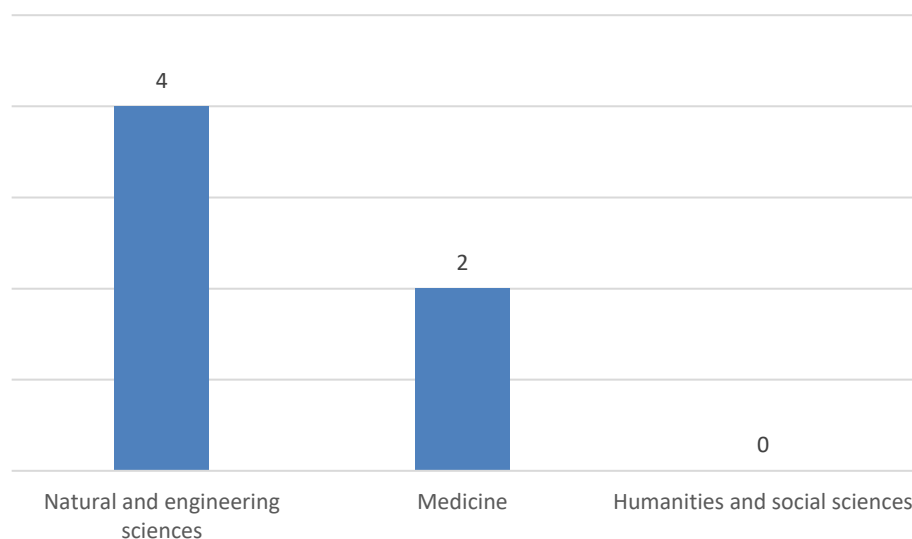


Figure 6 Distribution of projects between research areas in the Joint Japan-Sweden Research Collaboration programme, 2013-2015. Source: STINT data.

The average granted sum to projects in the Joint Research Collaboration programmes is SEK669,000, with projects in natural and engineering sciences receiving on average the largest funds (SEK716,000) and medicine the smallest (SEK588,000). In the Brazilian-Swedish programme the average granted sum was SEK619,000 (the average granted sum was SEK685,000 for projects in natural and engineering sciences, SEK708,000 for projects in humanities and social sciences and SEK527,000 for projects in medicine), in the Korea-Sweden programme the average granted sum was SEK711,000 (the average granted sum was SEK727,000 for projects in natural and engineering sciences, SEK524,000 for projects in humanities and social sciences and SEK702,000 for projects in medicine) and in the Japan-Sweden programme the average granted sum was SEK732,000 (the average granted sum was SEK754,000 for projects in natural and engineering sciences and SEK694,000 for projects in medicine).

It should be noted that the above sums only account for the Swedish institutional partner, as the foreign, collaborative partner is funded by the respective national funding agency. Hence, the total budget of a bilateral project with Brazil, Japan and Korea may amount to the double of the STINT grant.

2.3 Distribution between Swedish institutions

2.3.1 The Institutional Grants programme

More than twenty institutions in Sweden have participated in the Institutional Grants programme (21). The number of projects and the amount of funds distributed between grant recipients' host institutions are presented in Figure 7. Uppsala University was granted the largest number of projects (67), followed by Lund University (38 projects) and Karolinska Institute (32 projects). Uppsala University was consequently also the largest beneficiary of funds (SEK122m), followed by Lund University (SEK64m) and Stockholm University (SEK53m).

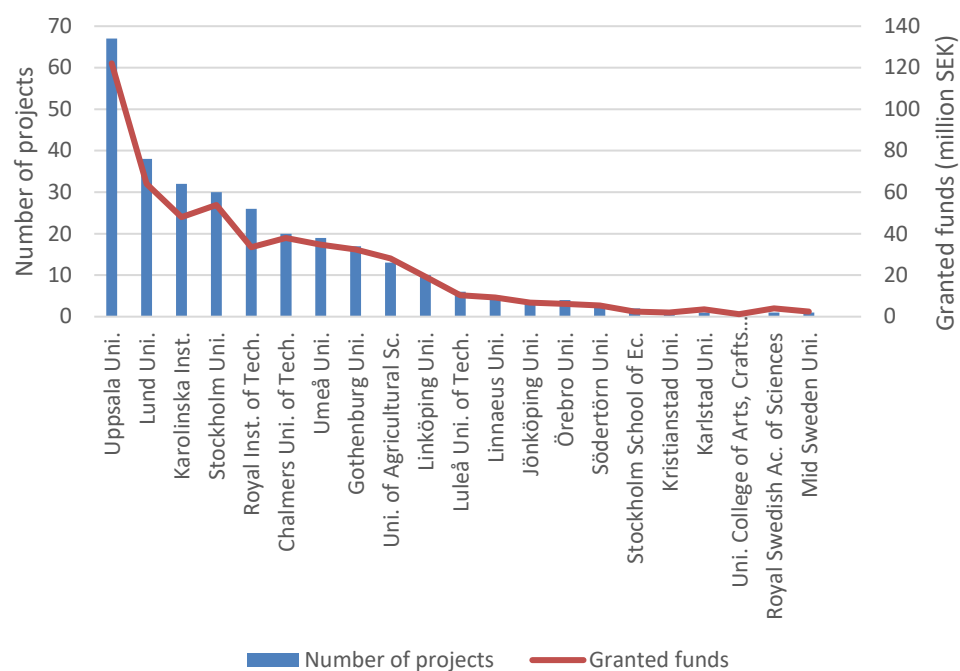


Figure 7 Distribution of projects and funds between recipient institutions in the Institutional Grants programme from 1996-2014, 1996-2014. Source: STINT data.

In order to present the distribution of granted projects between institutions over time, the recipient institutions have been grouped into four categories: comprehensive universities, specialised universities, new universities, university colleges and other.¹¹

¹¹ Comprehensive universities: Gothenburg, Uppsala, Lund, Stockholm, Umeå, Linköping; Specialised universities: Royal Institute of Technology, Chalmers University of Technology, Karolinska Institute, University of Agricultural Sciences, Luleå University of Technology. New universities: Karlstad, Mid-Sweden, Örebro, Linnaeus. University colleges: Jönköping, Södertörn, Kristianstad, College of Arts, Crafts & Design, Stockholm School of Economics. Other: Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

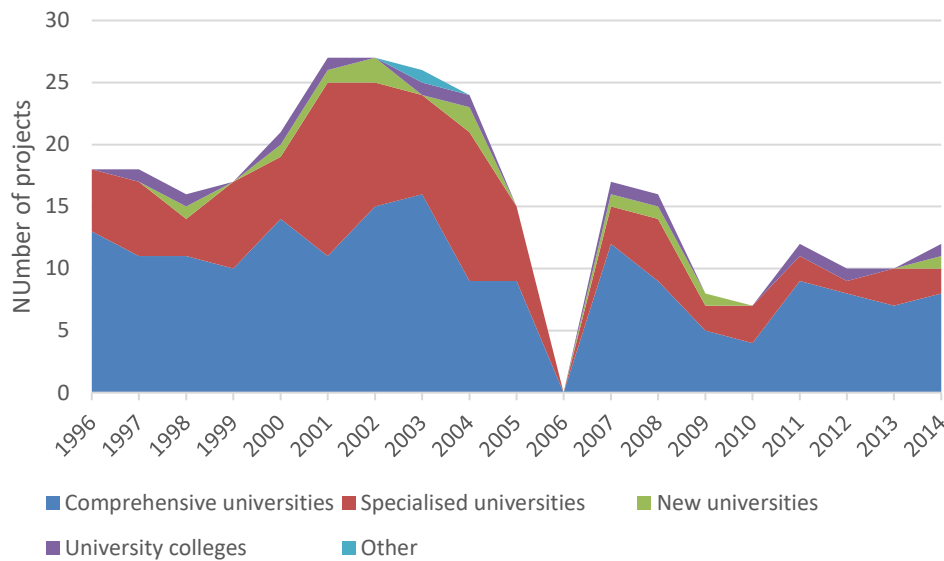


Figure 8 Distribution of projects between recipient institutions over time in the Institutional Grants programme from 1996-2014, 1996-2014. Source: STINT data.

As shown in Figure 8, there is variation in granted projects across the different institutions. The comprehensive, old and non-specialised, universities are the primary recipients of grants and have been so since the Institutional Grants programme started, with the exception of the early 2000's when specialised universities came on strong. Overall, new universities and university colleges have been granted very few projects.

2.3.2 The Joint Research Collaboration programmes

The main recipient institutions in the three bilateral Joint Research Collaboration programmes are Uppsala University and Karolinska Institute, which were granted eleven and ten projects respectively (Figure 9). Uppsala University received by far the largest sum, SEK8.1m compared to Karolinska Institute's SEK5.5m.

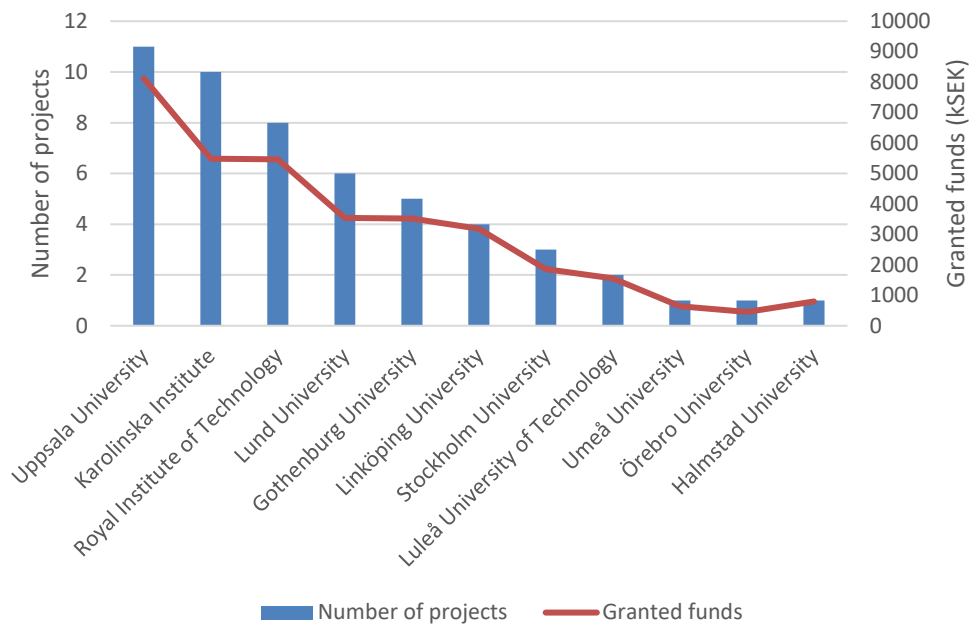


Figure 9 Distribution of projects and funds from 1996 to 2014 in the Joint Research Collaboration programmes, 1996-2014. Source: STINT data.

2.4 Distribution between partner countries

Figure 10 shows the distribution of granted projects between collaborative, partner countries in the Institutional Grants programme 1996 to 2014. Countries in North America, Europe and Asia host the largest number of partner institutions; 30, 27 and 21 percent respectively.

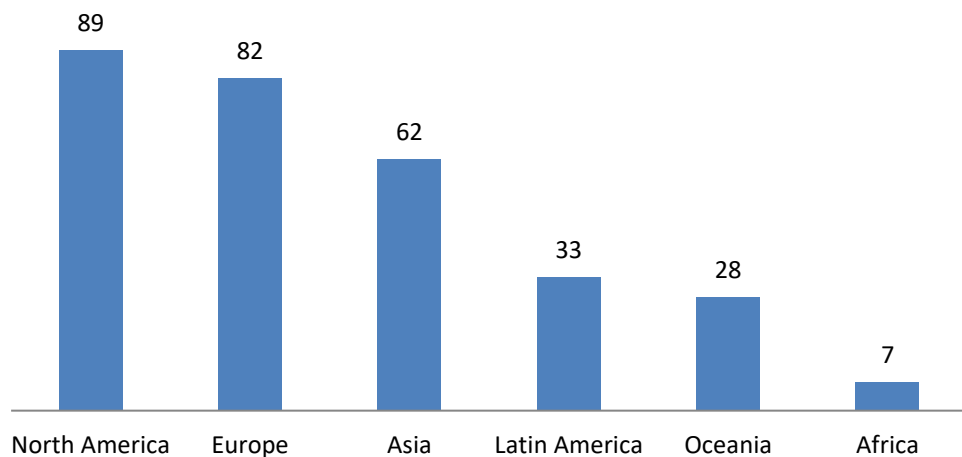


Figure 10 Distribution of projects between partner countries in the Institutional Grants programme from 1996-2014. Source: STINT data.

Less collaboration has taken place with institutions in Latin America, Oceania and Africa.

By far the most popular country for institutional collaboration is the USA; 25 per cent of all grants have been awarded to project leaders collaborating with partners in the USA. Australia is the second most popular collaboration country with 8 per cent of all granted projects, followed by Great Britain (7.5 per cent) and Japan (6.5 per cent). Africa is represented by two countries; South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the

Congo, and constitutes 2 per cent of granted projects in the Institutional Grants programme.

Figure 11 shows how the distribution between partner countries has developed over time. North America, primarily represented by the USA, was the most popular until the early 2000's, but has been a somewhat less frequent collaborative region in recent years. European countries, primarily Great Britain, Germany and Russia, were rare collaborative countries in the first few years of the Institutional Grants programme, but became increasingly popular in the early 2000's, only to decrease again in popularity in 2005. Asia has become less frequent as collaboration partner since 2009, and so has Latin America. Collaborations with Oceania, primarily Australia, have remained stable over the years.

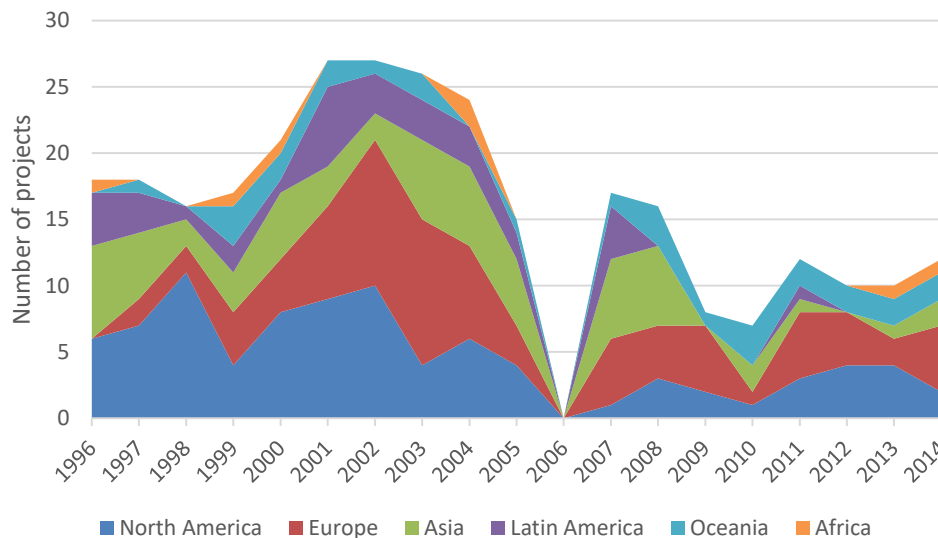


Figure 11 Distribution of projects between partnering countries over time in the Institutional Grants programme from 1996-2014, 1996-2014. Source: STINT data.

Table 2 shows the distribution of supported projects in the Institutional Grants programme by research area and region in the period 2005–2014. Natural and engineering sciences has had the highest share of supported projects in all regions except in Africa, though Africa only had two supported projects in the whole period, and hence is of minor importance as collaborative region in this programme. Apart from Africa, Europe had the highest share of supported projects in humanities and social sciences, while there were no supported projects in humanities and social sciences with regard to North America. Further, Europe had the highest number of supported projects in medicine while North America, besides Africa, had the highest share of supported projects in medicine. In total Europe had the highest number of supported projects, 34 supported projects, followed by North America, 24 supported projects, and Asia had the third highest number of supported projects, 23 supported projects. Africa had the lowest number of supported projects, 2 supported projects.

Table 2 Number of supported projects in the Institutional Grants programme in the period 2005–2014 by research area and region, 2005–2014. Source: STINT data.

	Natural sciences and engineering sciences		Humanities and social sciences		Medicine		Total	
	Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	% (of total)
North America	18	75	0	0	6	25	24	22,4
Europe	15	44,1	11	32,4	8	23,5	34	31,8
Asia	16	69,6	2	8,7	5	21,7	23	21,5
Latin America	4	57,2	2	28,5	1	14,3	7	6,5
Oceania	10	58,8	5	29,4	2	11,8	17	15,9
Africa	0	0	1	50	1	50	2	1,9
Total	63	58,9	21	19,6	23	21,5	107	100

2.5 Gender distribution

As to distribution between female and male project leaders on the Swedish side,¹² there is an overall dominance of male recipients in all of the evaluated programmes. In the Institutional Grants programme, 229 grants (76 percent) were awarded to projects with a male project leader and 72 grants (24 percent) to female project leaders. Further, 46 of the project leaders in the Joint Research Collaboration programmes were male (88.5 percent), whereas six grants were awarded to female project leaders (11.5 percent).

Table 3 shows that in the years 2007-2014 applications with a male project leader had a higher number of approvals.¹³ However, in this period it was over twice as usual with a male applicant than a female applicant. Further, Table 3 shows that projects with a female project leader have 3.7 percentages higher success rate than projects with a male project leader.

Table 3 Number of applications and approvals in the Institutional Grants programme in the period 2007-2014 distributed by female and male project leaders. Source: STINT data.

	Male applicants			Female applicants		
	Applications	Approvals	Success rate (in %)	Applications	Approvals	Success rate (in %)
2007	68	14	20,6	14	3	21.4
2008	41	13	31.7	9	3	33.3
2009	30	5	16.7	7	3	42.9
2010	47	6	12.8	24	1	4.2
2011	43	9	20.9	16	3	18.8
2012	71	7	9.9	25	3	12
2013	63	6	9.5	27	4	14.8
2014	66	8	12.1	41	4	9.8
Total	429	68	15.8	163	24	19.5

¹² The only collaborative side were gender data on project leader level was available for the evaluation.

¹³ For the Institutional Grants programme, gender data was only available for the programme years 2007-2014.

3. Institutional Grants programme

The overall aim of the Institutional Grants programme is to strengthen Swedish research and higher education by developing and establishing international partnerships. This chapter presents the evaluation findings regarding the International Grants programme effect on research groups and the programme impact on higher education and research institutions in Sweden. Furthermore, the chapter outlines the evaluation findings on the development of institutional collaboration over time, including the continuation after STINT funding.

The findings presented below are based on the on-line questionnaire survey and interviews with project leaders at Swedish institutions. The focus is on the Swedish institutional partner.

3.1 The set-up of and activities within the projects

In the survey, as a general background, the respondents were asked to indicate if the Institutional Grants project is completed or not. About half of the respondents, 45 out of 88, answer that the final report is submitted and approved, whereas 31 respondents state that the project is not yet completed. Furthermore, ten respondents state that the project is completed, but that the final report has not yet been submitted or that the report is not yet approved. One project leader reports that the grant was cancelled after two years, and one respondent does not remember if the report was submitted, since so long time has passed.

The Institutional Grants programme funds a range of activities. We wanted to know what kind of activities are, or were, carried out within the scope of the project. Hence, in the survey, we were inviting the respondents to indicate one or several options of activities, as stated in Figure 12.

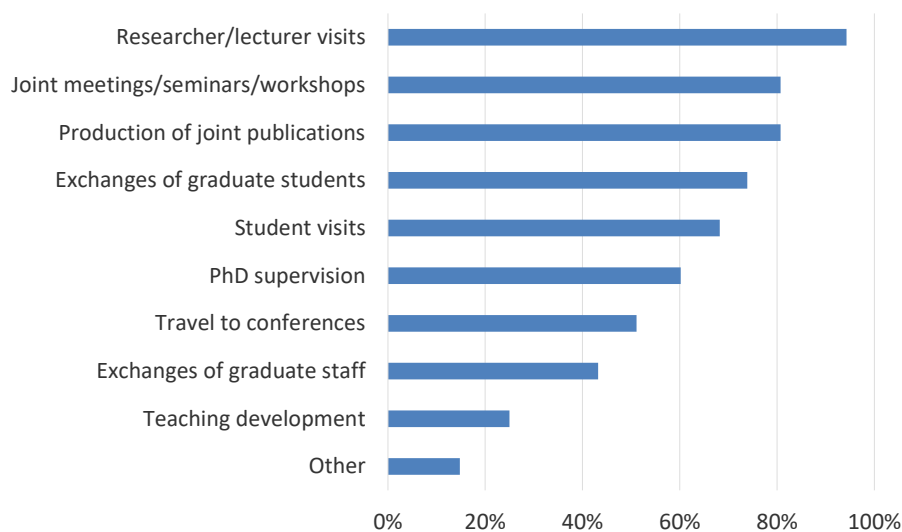


Figure 12 What activities are (were) carried out within the scope of the Institutional Grants project? (n=88). Source: Technopolis on-line survey.

The respondents indicate that the researcher/lecturer visits constitute the activity carried out to the largest extent (94 percent). This is followed by joint meetings/seminars/workshops (80 percent) and production of joint publications (80 percent). Other activities indicated are exchanges of graduate students (74 percent), student visits (68 percent), PhD supervision (60 percent) and travel to conferences (51 percent). Activities indicated to the least extent are exchanges of graduate staff (43 percent) and teaching development (25 percent). In the category “Other” the

respondents state (in free text), for example, exchange of technical personnel, field trips and joint workshops.

When asked about project activities in the interviews, the project leaders specifically stress exchange visits of staff and students, guest lecturing and the organisation of workshops as key activities of the partnerships.

As to publication activities, the project leaders state in the interviews, that publishing is an on-going activity, run in parallel to other project activities. According to the project leaders the publication activities tend to continue long after STINT funding has ceased.

3.2 Results and effects on research

3.2.1 How the grant affected the research

In the survey, we asked the respondents to assess to what extent the grant has affected the research carried out in the project in terms of access to knowledge or facilities or new opportunities. Several options could be indicated by the respondent.

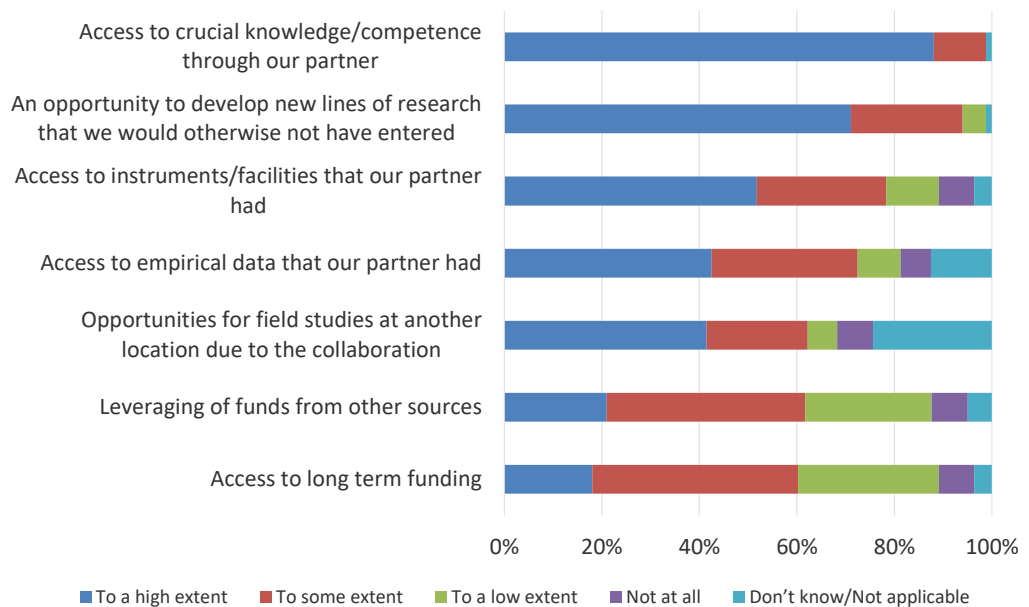


Figure 13 Please assess to what extent the grant has affected the research carried out in the Institutional Grants project. The grant provided/allowed for: (n=84). Source: Technopolis on-line survey.

Figure 13 shows that most respondents indicate ‘Access to crucial knowledge/competence through our partner’ as the main factor that affected the research. Other alternatives that affected the research to a high or to some extent were ‘An opportunity to develop new lines of research’ and ‘Access to instruments/facilities that our partner had’.

As to the motives of applying for STINT funding, the project leaders referred to a variety of reasons. According to the interviewed project leaders in the natural sciences and engineering (the main research area of Institutional Grants programme project portfolio), access to experimental techniques, equipment, infrastructure, as well as to methodological and theoretical expertise, were the main motives for applying for a grant.

Further, the participants in the survey were asked to assess to what extent the grant has affected the project team in terms of development. Several options could be indicated.

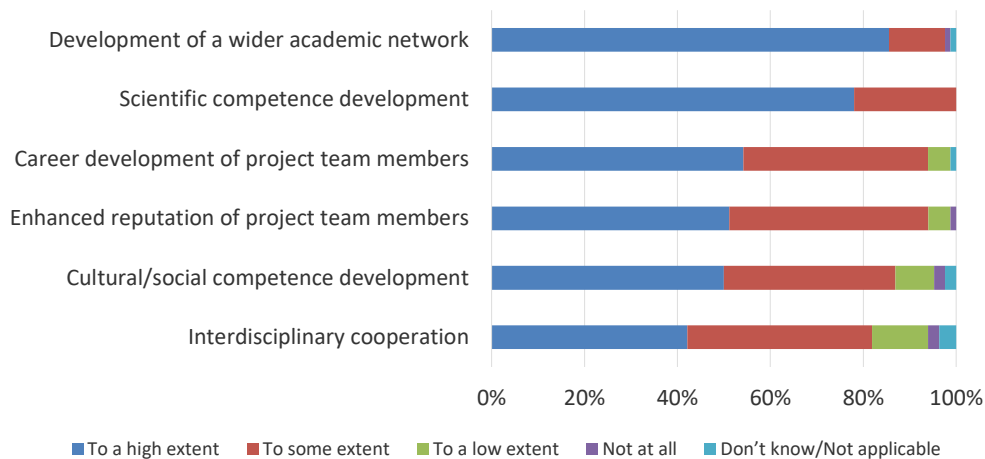


Figure 14 Please assess to what extent the grant has affected the project team. The grant provided/allowed for: (n=84). Source: Technopolis on-line survey.

Figure 14 shows, the alternative where most participants indicated the option to a high extent are ‘Development of a wider academic network’ and ‘Scientific competence development’. Further, the alternative ‘Scientific competence development’ was highly rated by the project leaders, all answers being either to a high extent or to some extent.

In the interviews all project leaders state manifold effects on the research group. Typical effects on the research team mentioned by the project leaders in the interviews are the access to and development of academic networks and enhanced research competence of staff at all levels, in particular PhD and master students.

3.2.2 Dissemination of results

Based on the on-line survey, Figure 15 presents how the research results from the project has been, or will be, disseminated. A vast majority of the respondents (99 percent) state that research results are disseminated through peer reviewed journals or reports, followed by seminars, conferences and workshops (80 percent) and personal meetings and networks (70 percent).

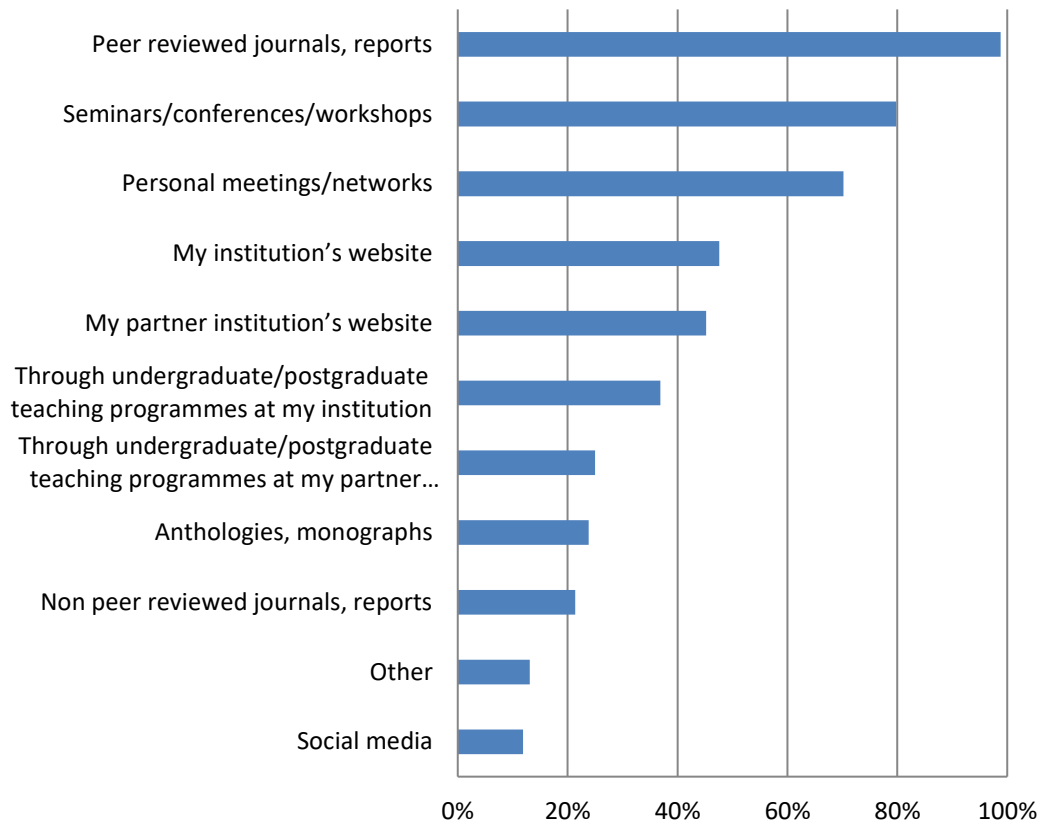


Figure 15 Please indicate how research results from the Institutional Grants project have been (will be) disseminated: (n=84). Source: Technopolis on-line survey.

In the interviews, the project leaders report that the projects have been very productive and generated a large number of research publications. One project reports over a hundred peer review articles generated by the Institutional Grant partnership. Depending on the research area of the project, results are published in peer reviewed journals, monographs and anthologies.

In a few cases, the research results were communicated to a wider, academic audience by the hosting university's communication department (university home page, press releases e t c).

3.2.3 What would have happened without the STINT grant?

Figure 16 presents the results of a question posed to the participants in the survey, inviting respondents to comment on what would have happened in the project if they had not received the grant.

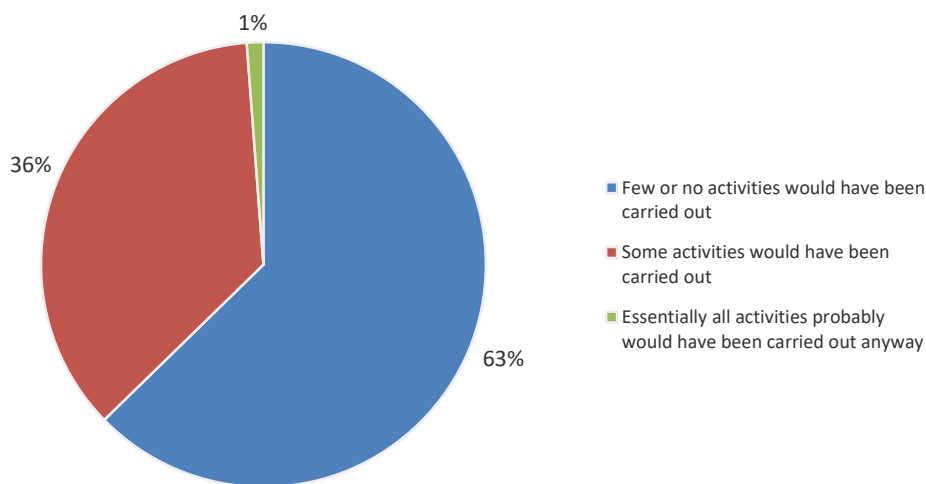


Figure 16 What would have happened to the activities in your Institutional Grants project had you not received the grant? (n=83). Source: Technopolis on-line survey.

Most of the respondents (63 percent) state that few or no activities would have been carried out; whereas others (36 percent) indicate that some activities would have been carried out.

The survey result is confirmed by the interviews with the project leaders. All interviewees state that it would have been very difficult, even impossible, to fund this kind of international collaboration by other means than the STINT grant.

3.3 Effects on institutions

In the survey, we asked the respondents to assess to what extent the grant affected the project leader's home institution (department level) in terms of internationalisation, networking, research collaboration, educational development, teaching skills etc. Figure 17 shows the grant's influence on the departmental level. The alternatives indicated to the largest extent are 'Exposure of foreign lecturers and researchers to students at my department', 'Enhanced academic networks for my department', and 'Enhanced the internationalisation of my department'.

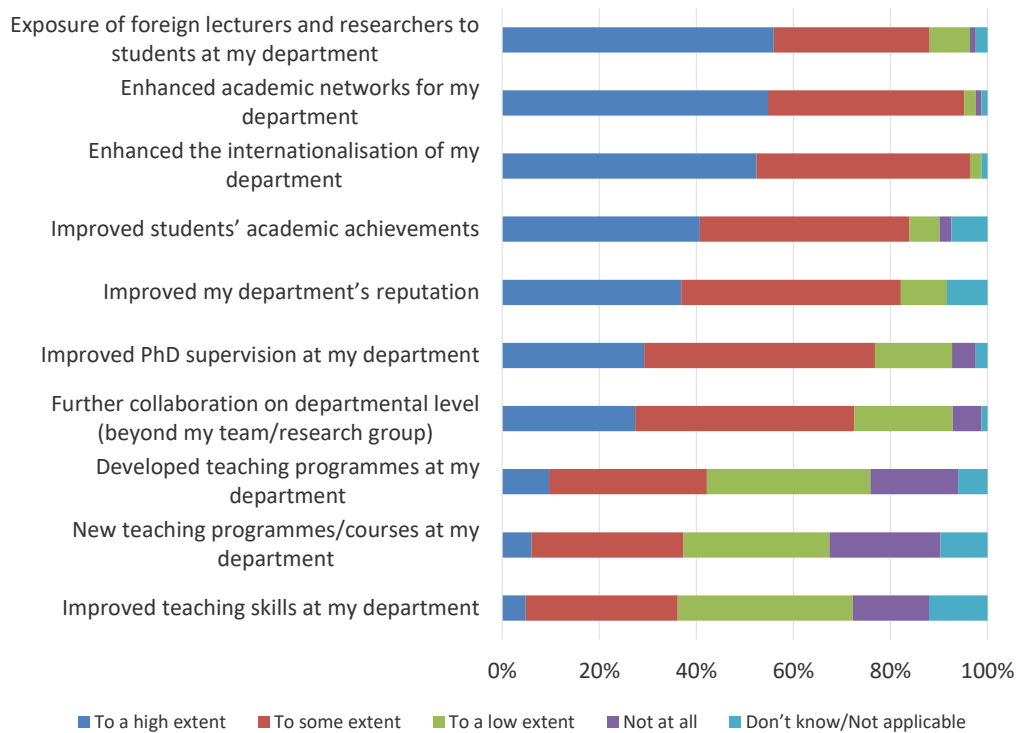


Figure 17 Please assess to what extent the grant has affected your department. The grant resulted in: (n=84). Source: Technopolis on-line survey.

In the interviews, we asked the project leaders about effects on their home department. All project leaders report a number of beneficial effects. First and foremost, the project leaders bring forward the positive effects on PhD training. Also, but to a less extent, the project leaders report positive effects on the department's master programmes. No project leader reports any effect on the departments teaching (programmes or individual skills).¹⁴

When asked about the Institutional Grant's influence on a higher institutional level, meaning faculty or university level, the respondents indicate 'Enhanced academic networks and collaboration of my institution', and 'Enhanced internationalisation of my institution', as showed in Figure 18.

¹⁴ This, of course, does not mean that the partnership had no effect on the department's teaching activities.

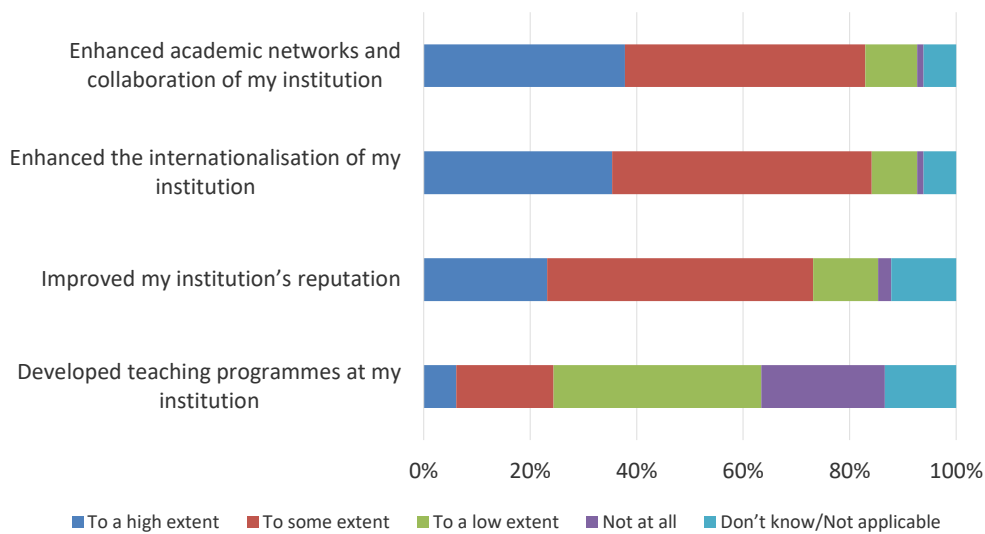


Figure 18 Please assess to what extent the grant has affected your institution (university). The grant resulted in: (n=82). Source: Technopolis on-line survey.

Further, in the survey, the respondents were asked to assess to what extent the grant affected recruitment and exchange of researchers and students. As showed in Figure 19, the alternatives more frequent or longer research visits both from and to Sweden were indicated as most important, as well as more frequent or longer student visits both from and to Sweden, and, finally, increased recruitment of young researchers to the project group.

In the interviews, the project leaders particularly express appreciation for the possibility of sending doctoral and master student for shorter or longer visits to the partner institution abroad, as well as receiving visiting doctoral students at the Swedish institution.

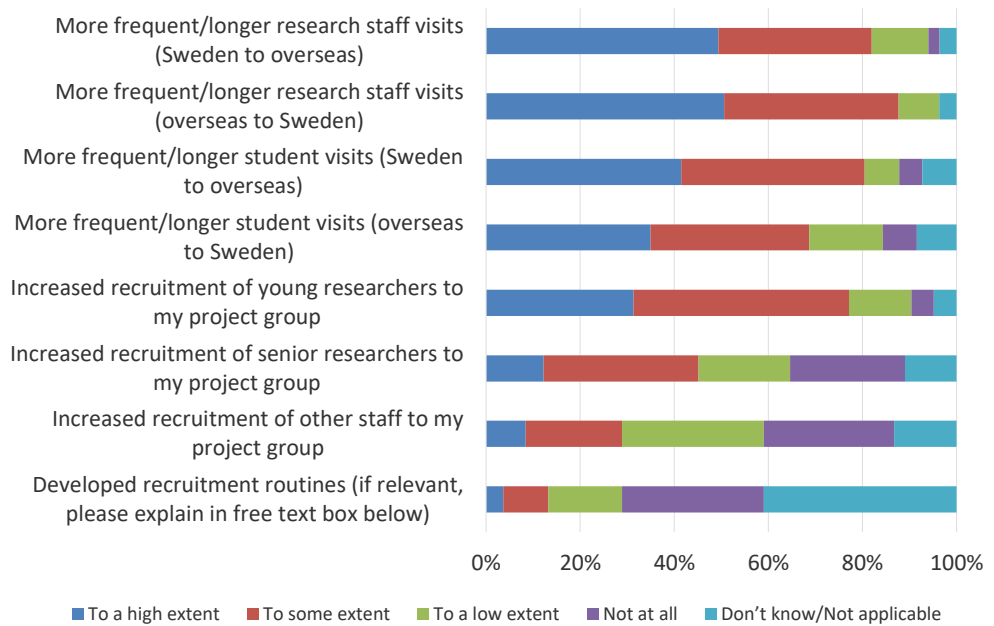


Figure 19 Please assess to what extent the grant has affected recruitment and exchange of researchers and students: (n=83). Source: Technopolis on-line survey.

Some project leaders report a challenge in relation to the exchange of senior staff. Due to teaching engagements and administrative duties, senior staff often finds it difficult to find time for longer research visits abroad. Also, some partner institutions are less interested or able to send senior staff to the Swedish institution.

3.4 The development of institutional collaboration

In the survey, the respondents were asked what kind of previous contacts they had with collaborative partners. Many respondents answer that they had met in passing or that they knew the partners briefly. Others respond that the partners previously had undertaken research together or undertaken other types of collaboration. In addition to this, some answer that they knew the partners only by reputation before they joined up in a collaborative project team.

In the interviews, most project leaders tell that they had met their collaborative partner at conferences prior to applying for a STINT grant. One project leader had long-standing contacts with the partner institution, going back to his doctoral period. Those contacts were activated and developed into an application for STINT funding. In another case, there was a personal contact between the head of department of the Swedish institution and the project leader at the institution abroad, as they had met a conferences.

Further, in the survey, the respondents were asked if they had planned, or already initiated, continued collaboration with the same partner after the end of STINT funding. Figure 20 shows that 48 percent already has initiated continued collaboration and 31 percent plans to continue the collaboration. Only a few (8 percent) answer that they will not continue collaboration.

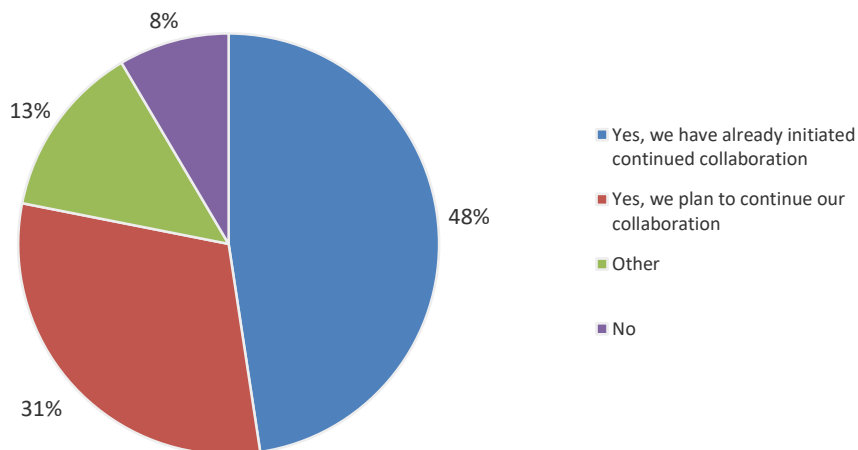


Figure 20 Have you planned or already initiated continued collaboration with the same partner after the end of the Institutional Grants project? (n=82). Source: Technopolis on-line survey.

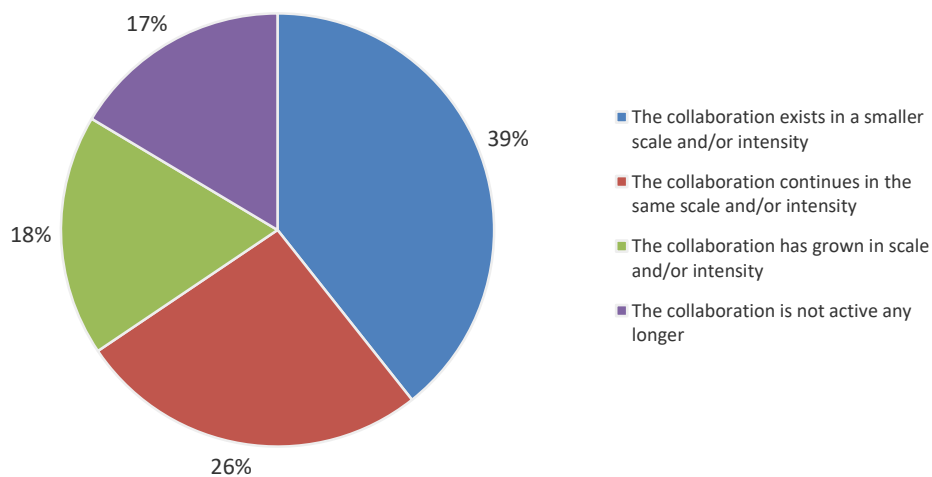


Figure 21 If your Institutional Grants project is completed, what is the status of the collaboration today? (n=61). Source: Technopolis on-line survey.

Further, for the completed projects, the respondents were asked in the on-line survey, about the present status of the collaboration. Two-thirds of the collaborative projects had continued beyond the grant period and the collaboration exists in a smaller or equal scale and/or intensity as during the grant period, as shown in Figure 21. Some projects has grown in scale and/or intensity (almost 20%), and some institutional partners do no longer collaborate.

The respondents were also asked in the survey how the collaboration will be funded if it has, or will, continue. Most of the respondents (35 percent) indicate the alternative do not know/not applicable. The alternative 'Other funding from Sweden' was indicated by 29 percent, international funding by 17 percent, STINT funding by 10 percent and internal sources by 9 percent.

In the survey, the respondents were asked to elaborate on the question how the collaboration has, or will be, continued, in terms of with whom, what activities and for how long. The question was answered by 46 persons and they stated the following:

- Research collaboration
- Organising joint conferences, seminars, workshops
- Organising PhD schools, dual Degree Programme
- Joint publications, journal co-edited by the collaborators
- Personal contact on research topics and analysis methods
- Exchange of personnel, post-docs, PhD students, technicians
- Visits to labs, joint experiments
- Guest professorship
- Joint supervision of students
- Joint applications for new projects
- Organising university courses on the topic of the project

The respondents were also asked to describe why collaboration has not continued. Eleven persons answered the questions and the main reasons were that the collaboration partners or the respondents are not active in the field or are retired. Three respondents state that lack of funding is a reason for the discontinuation of collaboration.

The interview material shows that many of the collaborations have continued in some way after the STINT grant period. The interviewed project leaders report difficulty to reach the aims of the programme within the grant period. The project leaders suggest that continued funding would be helpful in order to establish the collaborative partnerships. They underline that continued funding does not need to be large.

3.5 Total effects

In the survey, the respondents were asked to elaborate on whether there have been any negative effects as a result of the grant. In total, 50 persons answered the question and 39 responded “no”. Six persons commented that it would be good if the grant also covers indirect costs. Other comments were (quotes):

- “Yes. ERT requires changes in strategy and approach to research and training serves as pillars. In many contexts "business goes as usual" and enormous efforts are required to motivate and sustain the capacity development in this field. Where there is hope, there will be progress.”
- “It has been generally very positive. Trying to identify something negative, what comes to my mind is that the funding level is one that invites to another project along with several other parallel projects, resulting in time constraints. Larger funding allowing a large share of the position of the PI or others would work in a different way.”
- “In the first 1-2 years, it took a bit of time to build the routines and protocols for collaboration in the STINT project and especially, in view of efficient outcome. We needed some adjustment and this adjustment was possible thanks to the help of the STINT administration and board. After that, we have had a very fruitful exchange and collaboration. Apart from the starting difficulties no negative effects of the grant.”

- “A few students have had difficulty establishing themselves and exploit the possibilities at the university they lived in a period. Others have built up remains good and scientifically valuable contacts.”
- “The fact that it puts a lot of stress on us as researchers to have a big grant, but with many regulations and restrictions puts a lot of stress. Science should be left to scientists. We know how we best do science, and not to rigid bureaucratic rules. It feels very frustrating to give back money that could have been very useful in this project just because the strict rules couldn't be followed. The project is now on hold, waiting for funding from other sources that might show up or might not show up. It is sad because it was a very productive project.”

Finally, in the survey, the respondents were asked to summarise the most noticeable effects from receiving the STINT Institutional Grant.

62 respondents answered the question. Below follows a summary of the responses:

- Benefits for the research groups (establishing of long-term collaboration, knowledge transfer between partners, increased networks, opportunity to receive other grants, established group among international leaders, publications in peer reviewed journals, improved international reputation, improved level of research, opportunity to try out a collaboration, new research ideas)
- Benefits for students/PhD students/junior researcher (greater networks which has supported their international collaboration, learnt new methods, travels, the chance to present their scientific work to a wider group of colleagues, the chance to participate in scientific discussions and meetings, new skills, intellectual growth, increased motivation)
- Benefits for the department (development of educational projects, increased internationalization, strengthened the university's commitment in the research area, establishing of a dual degree programme, teaching development, organized PhD schools)
- Personal benefits (recognition at department level)
- Cultural exchange and gains (learn more about management and e.g. principles for PhD recruitment and mentoring)

4. Joint Research Collaboration programmes

The following chapter presents the evaluation findings of the Joint Research Collaboration programmes with Brazil, Japan and Korea. More specifically, the chapter presents the evaluation findings on the administrative processes of the three programmes focusing on communication of call and application process, project leaders' contact with STINT, project monitoring, the programme set-up and funding. The main data sources of this chapter are interviews with the two programme managers at STINT, and interviews with project leaders who are currently engaged in the bilateral, collaboration projects.

4.1 Communication of call

All interviewed project leaders from the Joint Research Collaboration programmes had previously collaborated with their foreign partners in some way, or knew of them, before they applied for the grant. In most cases, it was the Swedish partner that knew of STINT. Some have previously received a grant from STINT's Institutional Grants or Initiation Grants programmes, others knew of the programmes from colleagues or from information on STINT's website or email lists. Only one interviewee says the initiative to apply for the Joint Research Collaboration programme came from the foreign partner.

According to one of STINT's programme managers, the foundation has a communication plan to inform potential applicants about the programme and to get continuity in their communication activities. STINT uses its home page, twitter, LinkedIn and email lists to advertise the programme.

4.2 Application process

Interviewed project leaders generally describe the application process as simple and straight forward; the call for proposals and selection criteria are clear and reasonable, and the electronic application system is easy to use.

The primary complaint from project leaders, related to the application process, is that the applicant is required to specify details of how the grant intends to be used, such as dates for travels and workshops, and costs for hotels. Some interviewees deem it close to impossible to estimate such details years in advance, which made the application process very time consuming. A couple of interviewees had some problems specifying overhead costs in the electronic application system as it was unclear to them what overhead costs were allowed. Those persons find the application too detailed compared to the size of the grant.

Some interviewed project leaders note that STINT and the foreign funding agency have different requirements for the Swedish and foreign applicants. However, the Swedish partner was generally unaware of the exact details of the foreign application. One project leader says the foreign partner had difficulties filling in the application form, and the Swedish research group had to help out. The same interviewee points out that the application process could be simplified if STINT and the foreign funding agencies had the same assessment criteria, and used the same application forms, so that the collaboration partners could write their applications jointly.

Interviewed project leaders are generally happy with the feedback received on their applications. Although qualitative assessments on applications are often brief, this was in line with applicants' expectations. The limited feedback is also considered appropriate given the relatively small size of the grant. A couple of interviewees say they did not receive a decision at the same time as their partner did, which caused some confusion as to whether their applications were granted or not.

4.3 Contact with STINT

Interviewed programme managers describe the contact with applicants and project leaders as sparse but smooth. Most interviewed project leaders also say they have not

had much contact with STINT. Those who have been in contact with programme managers typically were so during the application process. Overall, STINT's programme managers are described as being very accessible and willing to provide the right information. Although most interviewees say they have seldom had the need to contact STINT, they generally feel managers are available when needed. One interviewed project leader has had problems with getting in touch with STINT managers, who did not respond to emails at all or very late.

Moreover, project leaders describe STINT as very accommodating. In the rare circumstance that a project leader has had the need to change something in an on-going project, STINT managers have allowed for changes to be made as long as the project stays within the given budget.

4.4 Project monitoring

Most interviewed project leaders have submitted one situation report and the interim reports. It seems situation reporting has been rather uncomplicated, but some interviewees wish for standardised forms to simplify reporting. On the other hand, grantees that have submitted their interim reports have all experienced some problem or difficulty related to the reporting process.

Some grantees say they did not receive enough information from STINT as to what the interim report was expected to include, what should be reported and the scope of the report. Others claim they were only informed that the interim report was due with a very short notice, or that the due date was changed, which made the reporting process very stressful. However, those that experienced these issues received appropriate help from STINT with, e.g. extended deadline. One person believes that, although instructions for the interim report were appropriate, the information requested was far too detailed.

Some interviewed project leaders did not receive a response from STINT on whether or not their project was granted a second phase, or they were granted continuation of the project but did not receive a contract. These issues were also quickly resolved once the project leaders contacted STINT, except for one interviewee who is still waiting for a response. Another interviewee says they later found out from STINT that the delay was caused by the foreign funding agency. It would, however, had been appreciated had the foundation informed the project leader sooner about the delay rather than wait for the project leader to contact STINT, as some of the planned project activities could not be carried out.

4.5 Programme set-up

Interviewed STINT managers believe the Joint Research Collaboration programmes represent a successful programme set-up. More can be achieved when there are more funds available and more than one research group is involved.

Interviewed project leaders are equally satisfied with how the programme is arranged. The foreign funding agencies sometimes have different requirements in terms of what activities the grant can be used for. This has been the source of confusion for some, but is overall not considered a great problem.

All interviewed project leaders believe four years is a good duration for the project; it allows for some time to establish a good relationship with the partnering institution while providing enough time to carry out education activities and publish joint publications. With the current size of the grant, funds would not be enough to extend the project much longer.

Interviewed project leaders also believe that the model of splitting the project into two phases, with an interim report after two years, is wise. The interim report gives the project leader a sense of reassurance that, if the project is granted continued funding, STINT and the foreign funding agency trust they are on the right track. Furthermore, a couple of interviewees argue that collaboration projects that include a foreign partner

as well as a foreign funding agency, imply higher risks as all partners have to agree and work as a team.

Some interviewed project leaders believe it has not been completely clear to them as to what the two-phase model practically implies; whether the project was initially granted four years but with a mandatory interim report, or if project leaders have to reapply for continued funding after the initial phase. This could have been made clearer by STINT, grantees argue.

According to interviewed project leaders, STINT is typically perceived as a very flexible organisation that is easy to cooperate with. For STINT's programme managers, NRF is easy to work with, whereas JSPS and CAPES are described as being more bureaucratic with long lead times. Furthermore, STINT is considered quite generous, both by project leaders and by programme managers themselves as some of the foreign funding agencies are more strict when it comes to granting the projects funding for another two years.

4.6 Project funding

Interviewed project leaders are generally happy with the amount of funding received, although some think it is on the small side considering the large amount of administrative work involved. Most interviewees were granted the amount that they had applied for. STINT has, for the most part, made disbursements on time. A couple of interviewees have experienced delayed disbursements, and for one interviewee there have been long delays on more than one occasion.

Interviewed project leaders typically agree that the limitations for what the grant can be used for are reasonable. The grant is sufficient to cover costs for travels, hotels and conferences. The majority of project leaders, however, argue that they would prefer if the grant could be used for salaries and overhead costs to a higher extent, or if there was a possibility to increase the grant to cover salary costs, as well as costs for collaboration.

All interviewees plan to continue collaboration with the partnering institution after the grant period, but for some, funding is uncertain. Therefore, several interviewees express a wish for continued funding from STINT. Suggestions include the possibility to apply for another project in the Joint Research Collaboration programmes, or for STINT to grant continued funding for the most successful collaboration projects. Another wish is for STINT to initiate a programme that supports long-term collaboration, i.e. more than four years.

5. Analysis and conclusions

In section 5.1.1 we analyse and conclude the evaluation findings with regard to the Institutional Grants programme. The analysis focuses on the effect on academic groups in Sweden (researchers, university teachers and lecturers, master students and PhD students) and programme impact on higher education institutions in Sweden. One important aspect is whether the same effects would have occurred without STINT funding.

In section 5.1.2 we analyse and conclude the evaluation findings concerning the three Joint Research Collaboration programmes. The analysis focuses on programme efficiency with regard to programme design and implementation, for example, application process, project leaders' contact with STINT, project monitoring, the programme set-up and funding.

5.1.1 Institutional Grants programme

Over the programme years, more than twenty higher education and research institutions in Sweden have engaged in the STINT Institutional Grants programme (21). Common for the Institutional Grant funded projects are that the motive and rationale for institutional collaboration were scientific – there was a scientific question to be solved, a research need to be addressed. There was often some kind of prior contact between the institutions, for example a meeting at a conference, before the submission of the grant application to STINT.

Several interviewed project leaders stress that although there was a prior contact between the partners, that contact could not have been turned into a full, working institutional partnership without the STINT grant. In one case, the STINT grant was instrumental for the Swedish project leader's ability to approach and suggest a joint project with the institution abroad. Says the Swedish project leader: "We were interested to learn more about the newest technologies, and the best technologies were to be found in a lab in the US. The STINT grant provided an excellent 'excuse' to approach the lab that we wanted to learn from. We had something to offer in exchange, for example, funding of exchange visits and workshops." Another project leader describes how he and the research partner had met at conferences for many years, without collaborating; "we lived sort of parallel lives, there was a professional, mutual awareness when we, at some point – I don't know what was the catalyst – decided to write an application to STINT. And it worked, already in the first round! It became like a 'no brainer', it was enough."

The STINT grant rules naturally influence the choice of project activities applied for, as well as the character of the activities. The findings show that various activities are often combined in the Institutional Grants collaborations. For example, exchange visits of project leaders and senior staff are often used as occasions for organizing a joint workshop, a PhD course and a series of guest lectures. The fact that the Institutional Grant does not cover salary costs, makes it less flexible with regard to facilitating exchange of senior staff.

As to the value of various activities, the exchange visits of PhD students and post-docs are highly valued by the project leaders. Through the exchange visits at the partner institutions, the Swedish doctoral students receive methodological and theoretical training and gain insights into new fields of expertise. A large number of doctoral students have been examined and received their PhD degree in relation to the Institutional Grants projects. Further, and equally important, through the exchange visits, the doctoral students build academic networks that may serve not only for the immediate goal of a PhD title, but also in the post-doc period. As one project leader puts it: "About fifteen doctoral students took part of the STINT project. They have had the opportunity to present their research, get feed-back and take part of guest lectures. Some of the doctoral students have moved after they got their PhD. What they learnt in the STINT project has been useful, they bring their knowledge and network to a new

place.” Another project leader explains how “the people that were involved in the project has been trained into a network.”

Consequently, the evaluation shows that the exchange visits are of particular value for early career researchers, doctoral and master students. It is a conclusion of the evaluation that the funding of exchange visits and workshops is what makes the Institutional Grant special and attractive to Swedish academic institutions.

The evaluation shows that the networking part of the STINT grant is perceived as unique and valuable by the Swedish institutional representatives. Says one project leader: “The STINT Institutional Grant is so precisely tailored for networking, that’s what makes its use so efficient.” In relation to networking, there is a concern among the programme stakeholders with regard to current changes in the research funding landscape, with cuts in faculty funding, and increased steering of research.

Further, the development and efficient use of infrastructure and equipment made possible by the grant, had important effects on the research. For example, the Institutional Grant may provide an opportunity for field studies and access to new kind field data, enabling comparative studies between two geographically, politically and culturally distant regions.

Equally important are the effects generated by the publication activities. This is particularly the case for PhD students and early career researchers. Several PhD students conducted part of their PhD studies as part of the institutional collaborative projects and papers produced by the projects were included in the PhD thesis. At a post-doctoral level, the project publications serve as leverage for post-doctoral researchers, for example when applying to academic positions, or the title of docent.

The evaluation shows that publishing is more of a continuous activity, going on in parallel to the exchange visits. Typically, the partnership continue to generate research publications, jointly or separately, several years after the grant period has ended. Joint, co-authored articles and book chapters are regularly submitted during the grant period, and published later, after peer review, editing etc. Also, the researchers involved in the partnerships continue to ‘harvest’ from the collaborative project in the form of individual publications many years after the project has formally ended.

The relatively high publication output in the institutional collaborations surprises some of the project leaders. Says one project leader: “The publication output was higher in the Institutional Grant project than in other projects were we have salary funding. People have been engaged, the project aroused interest in the team, we all wrote together.”

The effects of the Institutional Grant on the research groups are multiple. It is difficult, however, to quantify these effects on the basis of the evaluation findings. Typical effects on the research team are the access to and development of academic networks and enhanced research competence of staff at all levels, in particular PhD and master students. Moreover, the Institutional Grant had positive, learning effects on the participants’ ability to work with colleagues from other academic traditions, something that was regarded as valuable by many project leaders.

Research results generated by the institutional collaborative projects are to a large extent disseminated to a wider, academic audience at seminars and conferences. Further, workshops and courses organized by the collaborative partners at the partner institutions, provide important fora for the sharing and dissemination of results, involving senior staff as well as post-docs, PhD and master students. PhD theses constitute another important channel for the dissemination of results, as a large number of PhD students get their training in relation to the Institutional Grants projects, and perform their PhD research as part of the projects’ activities.

The evaluation findings indicate that knowledge exchange with actors outside academia, for example policy makers or civil society representatives, is very limited in the Institutional Grants projects. Likewise the use of social media for the dissemination of research results is very limited.

As to programme impact on the Swedish institutions (department, faculty or university level), a large number of PhD students are involved in the partnerships, for longer or shorter periods. Through their active participation in the Institutional Grant project, the PhD students get access to academic networks, which in turn means access to academic knowledge and academic, institutional capacity building.

In that way, the exchange visits made possible by the STINT grant greatly benefitted the Swedish institutions, both with respect to the advancement of research, PhD training and education of master students. Further, the workshops and guest lectures organized in relation to the exchange visits, were key in providing meeting fora and platforms for the expansion of academic networks at all levels. According to the programme stakeholders, it is crucial for the doctoral students to train and learn to perform in an international research environment. The exchange visits for doctoral students made possible by the grant are therefore extremely valuable, according to the project leaders. Feed-back on PhD work in progress from the institutional partner's senior researchers is also mentioned as an important feature of the academic networks. Discussions with and advice from the collaborative partner support the PhD students in their studies and enhance the quality of the PhD thesis.

The workshops, seminars and courses organised by the collaborative partners as part of the project activities, are instrumental for the project's engagement with the department as a whole, and hence, for the impact of the Institutional Grant on departmental level. As researchers and students who are not formally part of the project team are invited to and participate in workshops and seminars organised by the international, collaborative project, the level of internationalisation increases and academic capacity is strengthened at a general, departmental level. Further, through the organisation of special courses and guest lectures, a large number of students at different levels benefits from the Institutional Grant funding.

Finally, project leaders regularly invite colleagues from other departments to workshops and seminars organised within the partnership. At several instances, the project workshops and seminars generated positive effects of intra-university collaboration. According to the project leaders, these kind of open, project activities enhance visibility and reputation not only of the project, but also of the whole department.

Judging from the survey and the interviews, teaching is the departmental activity least affected by the Institutional Grant project.

Overall, the evaluation shows that the collaborative partnerships promote internationalisation to quite a high degree at departmental level. This is mainly expressed in terms of the creation of international, academic networks and high quality PhD training, and, to some extent, master education. The internationalisation effects and academic capacity building takes place at several levels of the department, from student level to senior researcher, managerial level.

While stressing that international contacts and transnational research cooperation is extremely important for a Swedish university (Sweden representing a relatively small country in the global research output landscape), the project leaders find it difficult to specify direct effects of the Institutional Grant at their home university at a higher or broader, level, beyond the department. Further, the Swedish institutional representatives underline the prestige effect on the Swedish university that comes with hosting an international partnership like the ones funded by STINT.

However, in a few cases, the project leaders are able to trace direct internationalisation effects of the Institutional Grant at university level. For example, contacts established in a STINT funded project form the basis of an EC funded ERASMUS+ project at one Swedish university (faculty level). The ERASMUS+ project involves both research staff and students at the Swedish university and a university abroad. On the collaborative side, the ERASMUS+ project was initiated by a researcher who was previously involved in an International Grants project, hosted by another university in the same country.

In another case, there is a direct link between the Institutional Grant project and a prestigious large-scale project recently awarded to the university. Reports the Institutional Grants project leader: “One of those researchers that received the Wallenberg grant told me that the new project is a direct consequence of the contacts he got in the STINT Institutional Grants project. There is some kind of domino effect. The Institutional Grant may be a small contribution towards a large, prestigious fund now awarded to the university.”

The evaluation findings indicate that there is a perceived challenge among stakeholders with regard to the programme aims and the grant period. The project leaders find the funding period short in relation to the aims of the programme and that it is difficult to continue with the same intensity after the funding has ended, as during the grant period. It takes time to build trust and learn to know each other, which is a prerequisite for a good research collaboration. Seed money is valuable, but funds for continuing after the seed period is strongly needed. Small funds for networking and exchange visits are often enough, but there are very few funding opportunities for that kind of activities.

An overall programme effect observed in the evaluation is that new international collaborations evolve between new partners. For example, a doctoral student of an International Grants project moves to another university and sets up a new collaborative project with one of the original partner institutions. Through academic mobility such off-springs of the Institutional Grants programme are common.

Further, in some cases, the partnerships had conceptual effects on the research, sometimes unexpected. The project leaders reported that by working together on a mutually relevant research problem with partners from a different academic and cultural tradition than one’s own, new perspectives were gained. In the perspective of the researchers, this makes the STINT grant particularly valuable, as it opens for curiosity-driven research networking on an international level.

The programme effects on research and impact on Swedish institutions are illustrated by a number of “success stories” encountered in the evaluation material. Some are cited above, some follows below (quotes):

- The partner institutions have developed their research considerably. The contacts between us and the partners have highly enriched the experience of all of us from students to professors - beyond the mainstream partners (European, North American) we already meet a lot. We have produced and published some important results. Some of the current development in our institution builds on the project.
- The grant has been very important for increased internationalization at the department, and that impact is visible not only in the specific research field covered by the project, but at the department as a whole: through contacts, increased international visibility and, not least, inspiration for other staff members and graduate students.
- Creating an amazing international research environment with travel back and forth of researchers at all levels from masters students upwards, and bringing together of people who knew each other but would not have worked together without this funding on several parallel and interrelated research projects. All the seeds have been sown for long-term collaboration as a result of this grant. We are amazingly happy with the success of the project and what it has meant to our research!
- I had a great opportunity to get support from STINT Institutional Grants programme for the collaborative project. Based on our fruitful collaboration, we can continue new and exciting projects which are currently going on in both partner's laboratories. The collaborative exchange programme was very fruitful not only for our research project but also the educational programs at both undergraduate and graduate/postdoctoral levels. The most noticeable effects from receiving the STINT Institutional Grant are mutual trust, complementary strengths, reciprocal accountability, joint decision making and a two-way exchange of information.

Taken together, I strongly suggest STINT should keep the STINT Institutional Grants programme for internationalization and promotion of research activities.

- We have established a huge network of students, senior researchers and inspired students who have taken their degrees to collaborate over national borders. We have given students and teachers the opportunity to work together analyzing source materials in different national museums thereby erasing the borders between scientific traditions and put an end to nationalistic history writing. We have helped a large group of master- and PhD students to finish their theses. We have enhanced considerably the quality of educational programs at the different universities. We have helped to establish future scientific and educational networks between 10 counties around the Baltic. We have created a digital platform for future collaboration and functioned as a node for much larger group of students and scientists that those that were part of the STINT network. We have made possible a milieu for successful fundraising for future joint transnational research projects.
- It allows us to meet in person, which is absolutely essential when starting up new collaboration. It also gives credibility to the research undertaken, as external funding signals a project is regarded as high in quality (given the low pass rate these days). STINT also has a very high reputation.

5.1.2 Joint Research Collaboration programmes

As to communication of call and background to the bilateral collaborative projects, the evaluation findings indicate that there is commonly some kind of contact or even previous collaboration between the partners, before applying for STINT funding. In most cases, it is the Swedish partner that knows of and suggests to apply for STINT funding. The evaluation concludes that the communication of call seems to be working well. So far, STINT has received a good number of applicants for the three Joint Research Collaboration programmes.

Moreover, we conclude that the application process is perceived as straight forward by the applicants; the call for proposals and selection criteria are clear and reasonable, and the electronic application system is easy to use. The evaluations shows that some minor amendments could be done with regard to the application process. This regards the requirement to specify details of the use of the grant, such as dates for travels and workshops, and costs for hotels for the whole grant period. This is perceived as difficult and time-consuming estimates to do far ahead. There is also an indication in the evaluation findings that the application requirements are too detailed in relation to the size of the grant.

In addition, as to application process, the evaluation concludes that some applicants perceive a challenge with regard to the different requirements for the Swedish and foreign applicants. This causes problems when filling in the application form. A suggestion would be that STINT and the foreign funding agency develop and use a common application form for the bilateral programmes. This would support the applicants in the application process and probably also have other beneficial effects, such as promoting transparency and equality between the collaborating partners.

The evaluation concludes that STINT's communication with applicants and grantees works well. STINT programme managers are available for questions and ready to advise and inform on the application process. Inquiries from applicants are well taken care of and answered in a satisfying way. STINT's feedback on applications seem to work well and is appreciated by the applicants; the communicated assessment is short, but appropriate with regard to the size of the grant.

As to project reporting and monitoring, the evaluation findings suggest that several amendments could be made. We conclude that the situation reporting is rather uncomplicated, but that standardised forms are needed in order to simplify the reporting.

Further, the evaluation findings indicate that the reporting guidelines could be improved. The content and scope of the project reports (interim and final) is not always clear to the project leaders. Some grantees find the reporting requirements too detailed. The set-up with an interim report after two years and a final report after four years is well working. The interim report serves the purpose of reassurance and monitoring on behalf of both the grantees and STINT as funders. Thus, an interim report is much needed to ensure that the project is on track. The evaluation notes that there is sometime a delay in feedback from STINT on the reporting, which causes uncertainty in the work process for the project leaders. Further, STINT's expectations on the second phase of the grant could be made clearer to the grantees.

There is some variation with regard to how the three bilateral funding organisations are perceived with regard to flexibility and cooperation capacity. The Korean NRF is perceived as the most flexible cooperative organisation of the three. STINT itself is perceived as flexible and accessible by the programme stakeholders.

The size of the grant is appropriate with regard to the purpose of the programme. However, the application and reporting requirements may be too detailed in relation to the size of the grant. The costs covered are well in line with the expectations of the grantees for this type of programme. There is, however, a wish expressed by some grantees, for the grant to be used for salary and overhead costs to a higher extent. This is particularly so as projects like this often imply larger overhead costs than regular research projects as organising travels and conferences requires a lot of administrative work.

The evaluation concludes that collaboration with the three foreign funding agencies seems to be working well, overall. The grantees are satisfied with the programme set-up, although the different requirements for the collaborating partners sometime cause confusion.

Further, on the basis of the findings, the evaluation concludes that the length of the grant period (four years) is appropriate with regard to the objective of the programmes. An extension of the grant period would require an increase in the amount of funding.

Finally, the Joint Research Collaborations programmes have succeeded in establishing a number of collaborations, most of which intend to continue after the grant period. For some, however, future funding is uncertain. There are several suggestions and recommendations from the grantees on how future funding could be organised, for example, the possibility to apply for another project in the Joint Research Collaboration programmes, or for STINT to grant continued funding for the most successful collaboration projects. In addition, the stakeholders would welcome a programme that supports long-term collaboration, longer than four years. Some interviewees comment on the fact that STINT now has what is hopefully a good relationship with CAPES, JSPS and NRF. After having built a strong relationship with foreign funding agencies, it is important, they believe, that STINT continues to use this relationship to initiate more programmes, be it joint research programmes or other types of programmes.

Appendix A Interviewees

International Grants programme

Eva Alerby	Luleå University of Technology
Gabriella Andersson	Uppsala University
Olof Karis	Uppsala University
Nils Mårtensson	Lund University
Angela Cenci Nilsson	Lund University
Levente Vitos	Royal Institute of Technology (replacing project leader Börje Johansson for the interview)
Hans Ågren	Royal Institute of Technology

Joint Research Collaboration programmes

Gunnar Björk	Royal Institute of Technology
Johan Fritzell	Karolinska Institute
Klas Kullander	Uppsala University
Fredrik Laurell	Royal Institute of Technology
Martin Rottenberg	Karolinska Institute
Jan Rusz	Uppsala University
Peter Swoboda	Karolinska Institute
Maria Westvall	Örebro University

STINT

Mattias Löwhagen, programme manager, Institutional Grants programme

Lelav Zandi, programme manager, Joint Research Collaboration programmes with Brazil, Japan and Korea

Appendix B On-line survey questionnaire

Dear Sir/Madam,

This survey is part of the evaluation of the Institutional Grants Programme. The evaluation is carried out by Faugert & Co Utvärdering (Technopolis, Sweden) by commission of the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT).

As a recipient of this survey, and project leader, you are hereby given the opportunity to express your view on the programme, including the grant's effects on your project team, your department and dissemination of results.

We would very much appreciate if you would take the time to share your experiences with us. The link below takes you to a web survey that we estimate will take you 15 minutes to complete. The link is exclusively connected to this survey and your e-mail address, please do not forward this message.

Your answers will be treated and presented anonymously. Please carry out the survey as soon as possible, but no later than October 14th, 2015. The quality of the results from the survey is highly dependent of your response.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Malin Jondell Assbring, malin.jondellassbring@faugert.se

Best regards,

Faugert & Co Utvärdering, Technopolis Group, Stockholm

Background questions

1. Is your Institutional Grants project completed?

- Yes, the final report has been submitted and approved
- Yes, the final report has been submitted but not yet approved
- Yes, but no final report has been submitted yet
- No
- Other (please specify):

2. What activities are (were) carried out within the scope of the Institutional Grants project?

- Researcher/lecturer visits
- Student visits
- PhD supervision
- Exchanges of graduate students
- Exchanges of graduate staff
- Production of joint publications
- Travel to conferences
- Joint meetings/seminars/workshops
- Teaching development
- Other, please specify: (Free text)

Effects from the Institutional Grants project

3. Please assess to what extent the grant has affected the research carried out in the Institutional Grants project. The grant provided/allowed for:

Not at all, To a low extent, To some extent, To a high extent, Don't know/Not applicable

- Access to empirical data that our partner had
- Access to instruments/facilities that our partner had
- Opportunities for field studies at another location due to the collaboration
- Access to crucial knowledge/competence through our partner
- An opportunity to develop new lines of research that we would otherwise not have entered
- Access to long term funding
- Leveraging of fund from other sources

Please elaborate on your response: (Free text)

4. Please assess to what extent the grant has affected the project team. The grant provided/allowed for:

Not at all, To a low extent, To some extent, To a high extent, Don't know/Not applicable

- Development of wider academic network
- Interdisciplinary cooperation
- Scientific competence development
- Cultural/social competence development
- Enhanced reputation of project team members
- Career development of project team members

5. Please assess to what extent the grant has affected your department. The grant resulted in:

Not at all, To a low extent, To some extent, To a high extent, Don't know/Not applicable

- Enhanced internationalisation of my department
- Enhanced academic networks for my department
- Further collaboration on departmental level (beyond my team/research group)
- Developed teaching programmes at my department
- New teaching programmes/courses at my department
- Improved teaching skills at my department
- Improved students' academic achievements
- Exposure of foreign lecturers and researchers to students at my department
- Improved PhD supervision at my department
- Improved my department's reputation

Please elaborate on your response: (Free text)

6. Please assess to what extent the grant has affected your institution (university). The grant resulted in:

Not at all, To a low extent, To some extent, To a high extent, Don't know/Not applicable

- Enhanced internationalisation of my institution
- Enhanced academic networks and collaboration of my institution
- Developed teaching programmes at my institution
- Improved institution's reputation

Please elaborate on your response: (Free text)

7. Please assess to what extent the grant has affected recruitment and exchange of researchers and students:

Not at all, To a low extent, To some extent, To a high extent, Don't know/Not applicable

- Increased recruitment of young researchers to my project group
- Increased recruitment of senior researchers to my project group
- Increased recruitment of other staff to my project group
- Developed recruitment routines (if relevant, please explain in free text box below)
- More frequent/longer research staff visits (Sweden to overseas)
- More frequent/longer research staff visits (overseas to Sweden)
- More frequent/longer student visits (Sweden to overseas)
- More frequent/longer student visits (overseas to Sweden)

Please elaborate on your response: (Free text)

8. Has there been any negative effects that you can think of, as a result of the grant?

- (Free text)

9. Please indicate how the research results from the Institutional Grants project have been (will be) disseminated:

- Peer reviewed journals, reports
- Non peer reviewed journals, reports
- Anthologies, monographs
- My institution's website
- My partner institution's website
- Through undergraduate/postgraduate teaching programmes at my institution
- Through undergraduate/postgraduate teaching programmes at my partner institution
- Seminars/conferences/workshops
- Social media
- Personal meetings/networks
- Other, please specify: (Free text)

Development of collaboration

10. Please indicate any prior contact between partners in your project team:

- The project team had previously undertaken research together
- The project team had previously undertaken other types of collaboration
- We have met in passing (read papers, met at conferences etc)
- We knew them briefly, but it was the scientific common interests that made us initiate the cooperation
- We knew of them by reputation
- We didn't know them at all
- Other, please specify: (Free text)

11. Have you planned or already initiated continued collaboration with the same partner after the end of the Institutional Grants project?

- Yes, we have already initiated continued collaboration
- Yes, we have planned to continue collaboration
- No
- Other (please specify):

12. If your Institutional Grants project is completed, what is the status of the collaboration today?

- The collaboration has grown in scale and/or intensity
- The collaboration continues in the same scale and/or intensity
- The collaboration exists in a smaller scale and/or intensity
- The collaboration is not active any longer

Please elaborate on your response: (Free text)

13. If collaboration has (will be) continued, please name how the collaboration has been (will be) funded:

- STINT funding
- Other funding from Sweden
- International funding
- Internal sources
- Don't know/Not applicable

Please elaborate on your response: (Free text)

14. If collaboration has (will be) continued, please describe how (with whom, what activities and for how long):

- (Free text)

15. If collaboration has not (will not be) continued, please describe why:

- (Free text)

Final questions

16. What would have happened to the activities in your Institutional Grants project had you not received the grant?

- Essentially all activities probably would have been carried out anyway
- Some activities would have been carried out

- Few or no activities would have been carried out

Please elaborate on what activities would have been carried out: (Free text)

17. Please summarise the most noticeable effects from receiving the STINT Institutional Grant:

- (Free text)

Thank you for your participation!

