



Svenska nätverket för
Europaforskning i statsvetenskap

Malmö 2016-03-10

Swedish Network for European Studies in Political Science (SNES)

Steering Document

The *Swedish Network for European Studies in Political Science* (SNES) consists of eleven member departments and engages a considerable number of researchers active at Swedish institutions of higher education.

The aim of SNES is to promote research in Political Science, focused on questions pertaining to Europe at Swedish universities, and to facilitate exchanges among researchers and doctoral students active in this field. The overarching objectives of the network are to establish favourable conditions for research and doctoral studies in Political Science-oriented research on European questions and to disseminate the results of such research to a broader audience, primarily through the publication of the yearbook *Europaperspektiv*.

Background and Purpose

SNES is one of three academic networks comprised in the Swedish government's 1997 effort to promote research on Europe. This undertaking was motivated by the fact that Swedish Social Science research on European integration was underdeveloped at the time when Sweden became a member of the European Union on January 1, 1995. In order to promote the emergence of an established research community in the field of European Studies, the Swedish Parliament decided in the 1996/1997:1 budget proposition to allocate resources for creating a structure of national networks in Economics, Law and Political Science. In the 1996/97:5 research proposition of the same year, the government stated the following:

“It is urgent to facilitate the evolution of a broad European research profile. This should be accomplished in a manner that benefits our

understanding of the European Union and promotes the conduct of basic research and doctoral studies in Law, Economics and Political Science. A national network structure should be formed, in which several universities and university colleges participate. The structure should consist of separate networks in Political Science, Economics, and Law, each with a coordinating secretariat. The networks should include both established researchers and doctoral students.”

The proposition set out the aim of the networks in Economics, Law, and Political Science to promote European Studies at Swedish universities and university colleges, improve the knowledge of the EU and European affairs, and to facilitate the advance of younger researchers and doctoral students active in European studies.

The proposition also established that the network in Political Science should be located to Uppsala University, the network in Economics to Lund University, and the network in Law to Stockholm University. To this effect, an editorial board with the task to complete the networks' yearbook, *Europaperspektiv*, was set up at Department of Government at Uppsala University and the state budget allocated special funds for this purpose. In other respects, the networks are organizationally separate and have elected to arrange their activities differently.

Europaperspektiv, a popular scientific publication produced yearly by the three networks for European Studies, is intended to render Swedish research on the EU available to the broader public. As part of the annual launch of *Europaperspektiv*, the networks organize public seminars at which current issues relating to the EU are discussed. Among these are a large conference in Stockholm, as well as seminars in Malmö, Gothenburg, and in Brussels. The SNES member departments take active part in the dissemination of *Europaperspektiv* and researchers active at these departments have frequently contributed chapters to the yearbook.

Since SNES commenced its activities in 1997, the network has expanded in terms of both its activities and the number of members. SNES has prioritized a decentralized structure in order to promote European research at the member departments. This is mirrored in the steering arrangements as well as in its central activities.

Objectives

The objectives of SNES are to

- Improve the general knowledge of the EU and European affairs by disseminating European research to the broader public, and to promote debate on European issues.
- Promote research on European affairs and support the development of dynamic research environments at the Political Science departments at Swedish universities and university colleges.
- Promote contacts and networking among researchers interested in European affairs at Swedish universities and university colleges.
- Promote the advancement of younger researchers and doctoral students in European studies at Swedish universities and university colleges, by dedicated grants directed at facilitating younger researchers' and doctoral students' opportunities to conduct and disseminate research, and facilitate their access to established researchers at Political Science departments in Sweden.
- Contribute to strengthened contacts between Swedish and international research in European Studies, by supporting conferences and seminar activities, research collaboration, and research visits abroad. The network encourages the dissemination of European studies produced at Swedish universities and university colleges to a broad audience, both in and outside Sweden.

Organisation

SNES consists of eleven member departments and about 150 active researchers, students, and other persons interested in European affairs. Among the member departments, five have been part of the network since the beginning (Uppsala, Lund, Stockholm, Gothenburg and Umeå Universities), whereas Växjö University (1999), Södertörn University (2002), Linköping University (2005), Karlstad University (2007), Malmö University (2011), and Dalarna University (2016) have joined at later stages.

The Board is SNES's executive body and in this capacity holds the decision-making power. The Board includes one representative from each member department, along with two doctoral student representatives and one representative of younger researchers/post docs. The representative of Uppsala University holds the Chair of SNES. The research coordinator of SNES/*Europaperspektiv* is an adjunct member of the Board.

The Board convenes biannually: in spring, during the SNES Spring Conference, and in autumn, during the annual meeting of the Swedish Political Science Association (SWEPSA).

The Board decides on all issues pertaining to membership in SNES, budget, allocation of funds for research visits and conferences/seminars. The Board also chooses which member department will hold the annual Spring Conference – a task which rotates among them- and allocates a budget to this end. It also decides on the allocation of funding for the local networks.

The Department of Government at Uppsala University hosts the editorial secretariat of *Europaperspektiv*, comprising one editorial secretary and one network coordinator for SNES. These tasks are carried out by a single person, employed as Research Coordinator.

Conditions for Membership

All Swedish universities and university colleges can apply for membership in SNES, provided they can document the existence of an active research environment in European Studies and regular teaching activities in Political Science or closely related disciplines with a focus on European affairs. The Board decides on the criteria for membership and on individual demands for membership.

Activities

In order to fulfill its objectives, SNES offers Political Science scholars in Sweden opportunities to present and discuss ongoing and planned research. SNES also supports exchanges for researchers wishing to spend time in other research environments and contributes funding to conferences, seminars and workshops. In brief, SNES' activities consist of:

1. The Network Conference

Each year, SNES organizes a large conference for researchers, doctoral students, students, and other persons with an interest in these issues on a topical theme pertaining to the EU and Europe. The network's member departments organize the Spring Conference in accordance with a rotating schedule.

During the conference, researchers present and discuss ongoing research in different working groups. The contributions to these working groups do not necessarily draw on the main theme of the conference, but can focus on various aspects of the EU and Europe that are interesting from a Political Science perspective. In general, the contributions represent a broad array of

theoretical, methodological and empirical approaches. Students at the graduate level with an interest in this area of research are also welcome to present papers.

Lectures and debates on topical themes, featuring invited guests from Sweden and abroad, are also arranged in connection with the conference. These events are open to the public.

The Spring Conference has established itself as a natural venue for Swedish Political Scientists with an interest in Europe. It contributes to promoting research exchanges and collaboration between the member universities and has through the years of its existence reinforced the European profile in Swedish Political Science research.

2. Network Support

Twice each year, the Network emits a call for proposals for funding of visits at international research environments, open to applications from researchers active at the member departments. This support is primarily intended for younger researchers and doctoral students. Over the years, the network has thereby contributed to a large number of exchanges between universities both within Sweden and abroad. One example is the annual Doctoral Student Workshop.

If resources permit, the network also contributes funding for organizing conferences, seminars and workshops. The network supports a broad range of events, which in many cases involve doctoral students and thereby contribute both to increased interaction between younger researchers active at different universities and to reinforcing the European profile in the doctoral programmes at Swedish universities.

3. Local Network Activities

The Network grants each member department an annual financial contribution in order to support the local environment for European Studies. Each member department decides how to use these funds and which activities should be prioritized within the framework of SNES's overall objectives. This support to the SNES local research environments seek to enhance the local infrastructure at the member departments by financing activities, such as seminars, conference participation, scholarly exchanges and support to doctoral students and researchers without own research funding, e.g. for proofreading and literature.

4. Europaperspektiv

Each year, some member departments participate in disseminating the yearbook by organizing or participating in seminars where the finding and conclusions of the yearbook are presented.

5. The Swedish Political Science Association (SWEPSA)

Each autumn, researchers active in SNES organize a working group with a European theme during the SWEPSA annual meeting. SWEPSA is the disciplinary organization for political scientists in Sweden, including researchers, teachers and doctoral students in Political Science at universities and university colleges across the country. A large share of Sweden's political scientists attend the annual meeting, which rotates among Swedish universities. The existence of the European affairs group is an expression of the by now established position of European Studies as a sub-discipline of Political Science.

6. Webpage and Network List

Since several years, SNES has its own webpage on which the network announces different events and supporting activities (www.snes.se). The webpage features information on the network and its activities, and a link to sign up for the network's mailing list. The mailing list disseminates information on upcoming activities and other information on European Studies in Political Science.

7. National and International Cooperation

Outside academia, SNES has well-established contacts with the surrounding community and informs on its activities *inter alia* through the activities surrounding the yearbook (see above). SNES also has established national and international connections to e.g. the Swedish Political Science Association (SWEPSA), the Nordic Political Science Association (NoPSA), and the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR). The network thus offers Swedish political scientists access to a broad contact network and increased opportunities for taking part in research collaboration in different forms.

Budget

Since 1997, the Networks for European Studies receive an annual allocation from the state budget, which is shared equally between the three networks in Political Science, Law, and

Economics. A separate allocation is granted to the yearbook, *Europaperspektiv*, which funds an editorial secretariat located at Uppsala University.

The allocation to SNES is divided into three posts: local funding for the member departments in order to develop the research environment in European Studies; funding for research exchanges for younger researchers and doctoral students and, if resources permit, for conferences and seminars; and funding for a Spring Conference.