

The Department of Economics Strategic Plan 2017-2020

Working group 5

“Ideas and suggestions for the pursuit to secure larger and more stable funding”

Group Members:

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Challenge

Securing external funding for research is essential for conducting research at the highest scientific level, creating an enabling research environment, and attracting promising research talents. In the context of a rapidly changing landscape for research funding, our research at the Department of Economics is increasingly facing major challenges, including: *i*) funding organizations require that research becomes more and more interdisciplinary and internationalized; *ii*) research is increasingly expected to be socially relevant and to contribute to solving problems in society; and *iii*) competition for external research funding is increasingly intensified.

Goal

The aim of Working Group 5 is to diversify and increase the ability of the Department to attract internal and external research funding in order to maintain a sustainable level of research funding to pursue our research activities.

Actions

To achieve this goal, we will work towards the following:

1. Encourage the Department staff to apply for external research funding

Viewing the Department as a professional business committed to maintaining a sound financial balance, priority is given to those grants that support this view. Specifically, our priority should be given to larger public and private funds from Swedish, European and international agencies. Each research group at the Department is expected to have a strategy for external research funding which should be discussed on a continuous basis.

2. Expand our research collaborations beyond existing traditional networks

Strong research collaboration internally and externally is one of the main paths forward, not only in increasing the quality of research, but also in creating the foundation for future funding. We seek to better utilizing international networks of professors and senior staff to increase the number of international applications. Collaboration across research groups within the Department should be further encouraged with the aim of submitting collaborative applications for external funding.

3. Create a Funding Advisory Group

While the competition over research funding is increasingly intensified, it is of utmost importance that the quality of our applications constantly improve. A funding advisory platform could be created to bring together experienced senior researchers and grant applications. We believe that senior researchers should collaborate with more junior researchers on drafting applications, as this will provide a natural setting for transferring important skills and know-how regarding how to make successful applications. Our proposed platform will provide the opportunity to grant applicants to seek peer-feedback in advance of submission of grant applications; provide a match-making advice between individual researchers and specific grants; and improve the internal quality assurance process for external grants.

4. Enhance support and incentives for recipients of external grants

We believe that “securing” research funding is obviously of great importance to our Department, however “managing” the research funds is equally important in order to produce interesting results of high quality. The Department could improve the support to holders of research grants and develop more incentives for applying for external funding. These may include: co-financing of projects from the Department and the Faculty, and providing supplemental funds for research expenses and non-monetary incentives (support personnel, travel, and networking).