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Swedish National Data Service’s (SND) new mission for 2018–2022 was formally approved in December 2017 by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Gothenburg and the Director General of the Swedish Research Council. SND has committed to building a new service to document, make accessible and store research data from all scientific disciplines at Sweden’s higher educational institutions and other authorities that carry out research according to the FAIR principles. This renewed remit and accompanying funding is thanks to SND’s long experience of making research data available for reuse and an active involvement during the year with Swedish universities to build a formal network and an extended owner consortium. Twenty-seven university vice-chancellors agreed to join the SND collaboration in order to ensure that their researchers have access to effective and safe management of their research data. The new owner consortium that will drive SND forward consists of seven of Sweden’s largest universities: University of Gothenburg, Karolinska Institutet, Lund University, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Stockholm University, Umeå University, and Uppsala University. Needless to say, the past year has seen a focus on adjusting to this new context. One important aspect involved SND taking on increased responsibility in terms of the training of local support units at universities. Training has now been carried out at a total of 18 universities across the country. During the autumn of 2017 an agreement was reached with the University of Borås to introduce a research data course at the university with SND participation. Core activities have also continued during the year, with SND’s search portal enabling users (researchers and the general public) to find and access more than 2,000 datasets. The website has been revised to represent the new consortium and network.

In particular, a collaboration portal has been developed to facilitate an exchange of experience and knowledge within the network. At the international level, SND as Swedish Service Provider in CESSDA (Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives) is very proud that the EU has granted CESSDA the status of an ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium), which represents a ringing endorsement of its work.

Max Petzold, Director
The pilot project BAS 16 (Bibliotek – Arkiv – SND; Libraries – Archives – SND) was included in SND’s normal activities in autumn 2016, under the name BAS 2.0. The purpose of the BAS programme is to provide an introduction to members of the future local support functions that are meant to work with research data management, curation, and accessibility. BAS 2.0 continued during 2017 with training programmes at nine universities: Borås University, Dalarna University, Halmstad University, Linnaeus University, Mid Sweden University, Örebro University, University of Gävle, University of Skövde, and University West.

Minor alterations were implemented in the six training sessions but the major changes were carried out in the parallel work of transforming BAS 2.0 into BAS Online. This is an entirely web-based training programme which will comprise most of the material from BAS 2.0. BAS Online will be openly accessible on the SND web site, and is planned to launch in the beginning of March 2018.

In late spring, preparations for the next BAS stage was initiated. In collaboration with teachers from the School of Library and Information Science at Borås University, a joint course was planned. This course, Forskningsdata: tillgänglighet, hantering och samverkan (Research Data: Accessibility, Management, and Collaboration), will offer a 120-hour follow-up contract education to BAS. The course aims to support universities that are establishing their research data support functions, while at the same time provide a more extensive familiarity with various data types and how to manage them, work with data management plans, and offer a platform for networking and collaboration between the local functions of different universities. The course opened for applications in November and will run from April to June 2018.
During 2017, SND organised two network meetings, two discussion forums, and a workshop.

Network Meetings

On 1 June, representatives from some 30 Swedish universities, the Swedish Research Council\(^1\), and the Association of Swedish Higher Education\(^2\), gathered to discuss how they, together with SND, could collaborate on solutions and best practices for making research data available for new research.

SND’s Director, Max Petzold, opened by introducing the research infrastructure model outlined in SND’s application for funding to the Swedish Research Council. Increasing demand for open access to data requires improved systems for data storage and dissemination, and SND’s aim is to build a scalable distributed capacity for managing and storing research data.

Sofie Björling, Director of the Department of Research Infrastructures at the Swedish Research Council, presented the Council’s directive on coordinating national work on implementing open access to research data, in collaboration with the National Library of Sweden\(^3\), universities, and the Swedish National Archives\(^4\). The Council wants to simplify open access to research data – with FAIR data as a guiding principle – and to find a system for crediting researchers who make their data available.

Wilhelm Widmark, Chief Librarian at Stockholm University\(^5\), represented the Association of Swedish Higher Education’s Open Science work group. Their objective is to ensure that the development of open access to research data is coordinated, and that there is an appropriate division of work between groups that work with open science.

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1. [https://vr.se/english](https://vr.se/english)
2. [http://www.suhf.se/inenglish](http://www.suhf.se/inenglish)
3. [www.kb.se/innovation/hjalp/english/](http://www.kb.se/innovation/hjalp/english/)
4. [https://riksarkivet.se/startpage](https://riksarkivet.se/startpage)
An important task in the SND model is to establish a network of universities with local support functions (DAUs) where researchers can receive support and advice on data management throughout the data lifecycle. During the meeting there was ample opportunity for discussions on how this work can be done, moderated by Sabina Anderberg from Stockholm University. There was also a presentation of IT tools currently under development at SND, and a chance to discuss the best possible routes of communication in the DAU network.

The second network meeting took place on 13 November, after the Swedish Research Council’s decision to grant funding to SND. The presentations and discussions subsequently focused on the development of the common infrastructure for research data during the funding period of 2018–2022. The participating universities have made varying degrees of progress in this field; some already have close collaborations with their researchers in matters such as data management and accessibility, whereas others have only recently started planning the structure for this work.

Sofie Björling presented an update on the Swedish Research Council’s work with Open Science and related activities. “As far as open access to research data is concerned,” Björling stated, “we have to take the entire data life cycle into consideration. Data management plans are a key component to FAIR and a cornerstone for good research practice. The Swedish Council for Research has to decide whether, and in that case how, data management plans shall be assessed and followed up.”

SND Forums

The first SND forum of 2017, on 2 June, with representatives from the Swedish National Archives, universities and other stakeholders addressed e-archiving and access to research data. It was obvious from the almost 100 participants that this is a matter of great interest. Some universities have already established e-archives, but digital research data still tend to be stored locally by individual researchers and departments, and rarely in a systematic fashion.

Sofia Särdquist from the Public Information Management Department of the Swedish National Archives and Eva Toller introduced the Swedish National Archives’ assessment of the status of research data archiving at Swedish universities. An inventory reveals that whereas some research documents, such as grants, steering committee documents, and final products, are generally well archived, this is far from the case for primary research data. There is a lack of both best practices on how to manage research data throughout the research process and strategies for preserving electronic primary data.
Särdquist also addressed universities’ policies for the destruction of research documents. At present, primary research data are often destroyed after a general retention period of 10 years, without further assessment of whether they should be exempt from destruction. There should be best practices which allow for extension of the retention period adapted to the circumstances within each research field, and for how to assess the archiving needs related to primary data.

Other presentations outlined some of the initiatives at university level: the Swedish University for Agricultural Sciences has made good progress on their TILDA project, Stockholm University has an ongoing project on research data management, and the University of Gothenburg has published a pilot study on e-archiving. Sondre Strandskog Arniesen from Høgskulen på Vestlandet in Bergen gave a short presentation on the situation for e-archiving and accessibility to research data in Norway. The day ended with a discussion about how the collaboration with SND can progress in relation to the e-archiving efforts in the universities.

**Researcher Workshop**

How do we make research data FAIR? This was the question in focus at SND’s second forum of 2017, on 14 November. The FAIR data principles mean that research data shall be Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Re-usable. These are important principles and closely connected to the certification of repositories and research data archives. Heiko Tjalsma from DANS (Data Archiving and Networked Services) in the Netherlands stated that in order for data to remain FAIR, they need to be preserved in a certified Trustworthy Digital Repository, and presented a European framework of certification levels.

Ivana Ilijašić Veršić from CESSDA ERIC emphasised how crucial quality assured and trusted data repositories are for the research community and open access. One of the organisation’s latest projects is CESSDA SaW, which aims to strengthen and widen the European infrastructure for social science data archives. One of the solutions developed within the project so far is the CESSDA Knowledge Platform for knowledge exchange between European data archives and repositories.

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7 https://www.su.se/english/
8 https://www.force11.org/group/fairgroup/fairprinciples
9 https://dans.knaw.nl/en
10 https://www.cessda.eu
Maggie Hellström from the ICOS Carbon Portal\textsuperscript{11} research infrastructure described why the FAIR principles are central to ICOS: “Environmental data are unique. We don’t have a time machine, we can never repeat the data as you can do in a lab, we have to take great care of them from the start.” In order to ensure the security of their data during the entire data life cycle, it was important for ICOS to create a data repository. So far, they have more or less met the criteria for Findable and Accessible data, and have come a long way in fulfilling the criteria for Interoperable and Re-usable.

The theme of the Research Data Workshop during SND Week was how to create collaborations between infrastructures that manage research data about individuals. These forms of collaborations may help make data from various disciplines visible, accessible and ensure high quality. In matters of data about individuals, common best practices could also strengthen the integrity of participants. Cecilia Björkdahl from Karolinska Institutet addressed the types of data that can contain personal data, and how these can be processed in a legal and secure way.

In order to be able to re-use research data, the data need to be findable, accessible, and comprehensible to human beings as well as computers. Filip Fors from The Swedish Survey Program (SWEEP), Michael Gähler from RElations, Work and Health across the life course - A Research Data infrastructure (REWHRAD), and Michael Hansen from Evaluation through follow-up (ETF) represented three research infrastructures for data about individuals, and presented their work and plans for the future.

The second half of the day consisted in group discussions about the practical work involved in making research data FAIR while maintaining the integrity of personal data.

\textsuperscript{11} https://www.icos-cp.eu
During 2017, SND has continued its international cooperation, primarily by participating in tasks related to the development of a pan-European research infrastructure within the framework of the Consortium of European Social Science Data Archives (CESSDA)\(^1\) and the Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure (CLARIN)\(^2\).

**CESSDA** completed the formal procedure for the transition to a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC) in June 2017. At the end of 2017 the CESSDA consortium was composed of sixteen member countries and one observer. CESSDA also has partners in a number of countries outside of the consortium. Each member country has a designated Service Provider (SP) that meets specific demands and requirements specified in the CESSDA Statutes. SND is the appointed Swedish SP. The CESSDA Strategy builds on three pillars: technology, training and trust. For each of these pillars there are CESSDA Working Groups and within these groups there are CESSDA projects and regular meetings for alignment. The yearly CESSDA Work Plan includes a number of tasks to be carried out in partnership by the SPs. During 2017, SND has participated in the following tasks:\(^3\):

- Controlled Vocabularies (CV) Manager
- CESSDA Metadata Management (CMM)
- Technical Framework (CTF)
- CESSDA PID Policy
- Collaborative data management module for comparative social science researchers
- European Question Bank (EQB)

**CLARIN** makes digital language resources available to scholars, researchers, students and citizen-scientists from all disciplines, especially in the humanities and social sciences, through single sign-on access. CLARIN is a distributed network, consisting of the CLARIN ERIC, national consortia, centres of expertise of various types, and online services. CLARIN was established as an ERIC in 2012 and Sweden joined the CLARIN ERIC during 2014. SND is part of the Swe-Clarin\(^4\) consortium. During 2017, SND’s Swe-Clarin team has collaborated with the CLARIN User Involvement Group in the effort to find ways to reach humanities and social science researchers and explain how they can make use of CLARIN tools and resources in their research. This work aligns with the national SND efforts within the Swe-Clarin\(^5\) framework. Members of the SND Swe-Clarin team have also joined the Metadata Curation Taskforce to contribute to the effort to improve curation and metadata quality within CLARIN.

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\(^{1}\)
https://www.cessda.eu/

\(^{2}\)
https://www.clarin.eu/

\(^{3}\)

\(^{4}\)
https://www.sweclarin.se/eng/about

\(^{5}\)
https://www.sweclarin.se/
The Swedish membership in the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)\(^6\) is administered by SND. SND awards scholarships for participating in the ICPSR’s Summer Program\(^7\) in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, and in 2017 eight scholarships were awarded. The participation in international organisations within the areas of metadata standards and persistent identifiers has continued during 2017 through the memberships in the DDI (Data Documentation Initiative) Alliance\(^8\) and DataCite\(^9\). Other international memberships are in the International Federation of Data Organisations (IFDO)\(^10\) and the World Data System (WDS)\(^11\). Two organisations where SND staff are involved are the Research Data Alliance (RDA)\(^12\) and the International Association for Social Science Information Services & Technology (IASSIST)\(^13\).

Two major projects in which SND participated ended in 2017.

The 2-year project CESSDA Strengthening and Widening (SaW) ended in October 2017. SND staff have been involved as co-authors for the following CESSDA SaW deliverables:

\(D2.1\) Knowledge Sharing Platform Forum Report  
\(D2.2\) Knowledge-Sharing Platform Content and Management Policy  
\(D3.2\) Country report on development potentials  
\(D3.5\) Report on the state-of-the-art, obstacles, models and roadmaps for widening the data perimeter of the data services  
\(D3.6\) Final integrated audit report  
\(D4.7\) Report summarising the current state of needs of new data services  
\(D4.8\) Report on formal mechanism of collaboration and development towards structuring a widened CESSDA network  
\(D5.1\) Benchmarking report, including an action plan for improvements on an inter-consortium and individual archive level  
\(D5.2\) Platform for knowledge exchange to develop human and technical capital  
\(D5.3\) Report on the establishment of an international curriculum for professional development in digital data services for the social sciences

The 4-year project Advanced Research Infrastructure for Archaeological Dataset Networking in Europe (ARIADNE)\(^14\), ended in February 2017. SND lead work on data mining and natural language processing and was heavily involved in the development of the ARIADNE Portal\(^15\), launched in 2016. Archaeological resources across Europe are now searchable via the portal.

\(^6\) https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/  
\(^7\) https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/sumprog/  
\(^8\) http://www.ddialliance.org/  
\(^9\) https://www.datacite.org/  
\(^10\) http://www.ddialliance.org/  
\(^11\) https://www.iicsu-wds.org/  
\(^12\) https://www.rd-alliance.org/  
\(^13\) http://www.iassistdata.org/  
\(^14\) http://ariadne-infrastructure.eu/  
\(^15\) http://portal.ariadne-infrastructure.eu/
Finding Data through SND

SND has a total of 2,801 searchable studies from a variety of research areas.

Downloaded Material

Many studies in SND’s catalogue are available to download direct. The total number of downloads from the SND website 2017 was 1,341 (277 of GIS material and 1,064 of non-GIS material). The most downloaded study was Memorialisation in Norrtälje, Mariehamn and Pargas 1881–1939 (SND 0918) with 512 downloads. Statistics on the number of downloads from Environment Climate Data Sweden (ECDS) are currently unavailable and are therefore not included in this figure.

Orders

Material which is not available for download direct from the SND website is available by order. The following statistics refer solely to this material. In 2017, SND received a total of 541 orders. A total of 2,015 datasets were supplied during the year.

Downloads and Datasets Supplied

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NUMBER OF ORDERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>394</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>542</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comprehensive statistics on the number of downloads are not available for 2014 for technical reasons, so the actual figure may be higher. Downloads from Environment Climate Data Sweden (ECDS) are not included for 2017 for technical reasons.
SND Online Analysis

A number of datasets such as those in the series International Social Survey Programme (ISSP), European Social Survey (ESS) and Institutional Trust can also be accessed through SND Online Analysis. There were 60 applications for SND Online Analysis accounts in 2017. Information about the number of downloads from Online Analysis is not currently available.

Series in Demand

Studies that form part of a series are among the most popular. The two series with by far the greatest number of orders in 2017 were the National Society Opinion Media (SOM) surveys and the Swedish National Election Studies. The Swedish part of the ISSP and Western SOM were also popular in 2017.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SERIES</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National SOM (Society Opinion Media)</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>478</td>
<td>537</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swedish National Election Studies – Parliamentary Elections</td>
<td>294</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>456</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Social Survey Programme (ISSP)*</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western SOM</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>86</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Social Survey*</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Safety Survey</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVT Exit Poll Surveys</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish Electoral Data</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Welfare State Surveys</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Swedish National Election Studies – European Parliament Elections</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Study of Reading Habits</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish National Election Studies - Referendums</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Barometer</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOM - Special Studies</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
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*Also available via SND Online Analysis.
## SND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2017

Figures stated in thousand SEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Actual Results</th>
<th>Budget</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish Research Council, Core activities</td>
<td>11,729</td>
<td>11,850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish Research Council, ESFRI</td>
<td>1,984</td>
<td>2,174</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government grants</td>
<td>6,999</td>
<td>6,379</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU projects</td>
<td>462</td>
<td>542</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>1,036</td>
<td>952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-financing</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accruals</td>
<td>2,524</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenues</td>
<td>24,893</td>
<td>22,113</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Staffing costs</td>
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<td>-16,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td></td>
<td>-1,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating costs</td>
<td>2.</td>
<td>-1,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td>-19,518</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Transfers/Internal</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td></td>
<td>-226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
<td></td>
<td>-128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University OH</td>
<td></td>
<td>-1,882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal co-financing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premises</td>
<td></td>
<td>-1,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net transfer/Internal</td>
<td></td>
<td>-3,445</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Results | 3. | 1,929 | -2,115 |

### Notes

1. Lower staffing costs due to parental and other leave.

2. Higher costs for technical consultants, conferences, computer licenses and transfer to new premises, in addition to depreciation of refurbishment of previous premises.

3. Calculated deficit due to usage of untied equity and internal co-financing of EU projects. The surplus is generated by transition from project accounting to standard financial accounting.
In August SND moved office from Bohusgatan 15 to Medicinaregatan 18 A, and is now located on campus at the University of Gothenburg.
PERSONNEL

Administration and Services

- Director: Max Petzold
- Senior Advisor: Iris Alfredsson
- Administrative Assistant: Anna Brami
- Administrative Coordinator: Eira Brandby
- IT Coordinator: Birger Jerlehag
- Project Coordinator: Daniel Knezevic
- Finance Administrator: Ann Nordström
- Communications Officer: Helena Rohdén
- Legal Officer: Kristina Ullgren

IT and Development

- Team Leader: Johan Fihn
- System Developer: Adriana Aires
- System Developer: Stefan Jakobsson
- System Developer: Pablo Millet
- System Developer: Olof Olsson
- Without picture
- IT Technician: Akira Olsbänning

Repository and Training

- Research Coordinator: Team Leader
  - Elisabeth Strandhagen
- Data Manager: Sofia Agnesten
- Data Manager: Jeremy Azzopardi
- Data Manager: Martin Brandhagen
- Research Coordinator: Stefan Ekman
- Data Manager: Ulf Jakobsson
The steering committee is appointed by the University of Gothenburg after consultation with the Swedish Research Council. It allocates resources received from the Research Council and the University of Gothenburg. The committee consists of nine members and convenes four times a year.

Chairman Anders Brändström  
Professor, Department of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, and Centre for Demographic and Ageing Research (CEDAR), Umeå University

Erik Bihagen  
Reader, Swedish Institute for Social Research, Stockholm University

Philip Buckland  
Reader, Department of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, and Director of the SEAD Infrastructure and The Environmental Archaeology Lab, Umeå University

Maria Feycting  
Professor of Epidemiology, Institute of Environmental Medicine, Karolinska Institutet

Mattias Goksör  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Gothenburg

Jutta Haider  
Reader, Department of Arts and Cultural Sciences, Lund University

Sverker Holmgren  
Professor in Scientific Computing, Uppsala University, and Programme Director for the Nordic eScience Globalisation Initiative (NeGi) at Nordforsk

Staffan Marklund  
Professor Emeritus of Working Life Sciences at the Department of Clinical Neuroscience (Labour Health Science), Karolinska Institutet

Elizabeth Thomson  
Professor Emerita of Demography, Stockholm University, and Professor of Sociology Emerita, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

Members of the Steering Committee resigned during 2017

Helena Lindholm Schulz  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Gothenburg