

the growing use of peer and expert review in funding decisions, weaken the "countervailing force" previously provided by the project officers.

Various efforts have been made over the years to remedy deficiencies in governance arrangements in various parts of the Swedish R&I system and across the system as a whole. These efforts included appointing in the 1960s a council to play a significant role in the co-ordination of Swedish research strategies - which was abolished after a few years. No effective council or committee has subsequently been able to bring together a wide enough set of stakeholders to establish a usable consensus on R&I policy. The new Innovation Council set up by the current prime minister may have the potential to support the type of policy co-ordination required, but the Council's remit does not extend to research. There is little reason, therefore, to expect it to be more successful than its predecessors unless its remit and powers are broadened and its budget increased commensurately. Currently, however, it is not clear that an effective mechanism for co-ordinating activities across the R&I domains exists. Certainly, no scheme currently exists to ensure adequate oversight of all the interconnecting domains of a fully functioning innovation system, which demands a degree of coherence between policies affecting education, research, innovation and even market development.

If Sweden is to rise to the twin challenges of improving performance across the whole innovation system and mounting a serious response to societal challenges, there is scope for a comprehensive review of the governance structures that need to be in place across the whole of its innovation system.

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