



ABOUT VA 2015



Vetenskap & Allmänhet



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VA (Public & Science) is a non-profit Swedish organisation whose purpose is to promote openness and dialogue between researchers and society. We, together with many others, are convinced that dialogue is a cornerstone of our democratic society and vital for ensuring that research leads to solutions to the challenges facing society.

We carry out studies and surveys, organise meetings and activities, and develop and test new formats for dialogue. In addition, we collect and disseminate knowledge and experience, gained by ourselves and others, about public engagement and communication between researchers and the public.

The organisation is funded through membership fees, project grants and a grant from the Swedish Ministry of Education and Research.

VA's MAIN AIMS

1. **Increase collaboration between researchers and society.**
2. **Develop knowledge and dialogue about:**
 - a. Public perceptions of research and research priorities
 - b. Prerequisites for research, methods and results
 - c. Methods for science communication.
3. **Be a leading knowledge hub** for public engagement and science communication.
4. **Strengthen all aspects of researchers' engagement with society;** democratic, cultural, as well as educational, and other socially beneficial aspects.

VA's members 2014.

For information about membership and a list of current members see: www.v-a.se/membership

ABF – THE WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION AFA INSURANCE AKZONOBEL ASSOCIATION OF SWEDISH ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION OF SWEDISH SCIENCE CENTRES BLEKINGE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY CHALMERS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY THE CHURCH OF SWEDEN FOI, SWEDISH DEFENCE RESEARCH AGENCY FOLKPARTIET: THE LIBERAL PARTY OF SWEDEN FOLKUNIVERSITETET – ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION HALMSTAD UNIVERSITY IKEM - INNOVATION AND CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES IN SWEDEN INNVENTIA INSTITUTE FOR FUTURES STUDIES KARLSTAD UNIVERSITY KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET THE KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION LIF – THE RESEARCH-BASED PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IN SWEDEN LINKÖPING UNIVERSITY LINNAEUS UNIVERSITY LUND UNIVERSITY MALMÖ UNIVERSITY MID SWEDEN UNIVERSITY MISTRA THE MODERATERNA PARTY MÄLARDALEN UNIVERSITY NATIONAL COUNCIL OF SWEDISH YOUTH ORGANISATIONS THE NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUMS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NE - SWEDISH NATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA NOBEL MUSEUM THE RESEARCH NETWORK SKÅNE RIKSBANKENS JUBILEUMSFOND RISE RESEARCH INSTITUTES OF SWEDEN ROYAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING SCIENCES THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF LETTERS, HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES SCIENCE4NXG SIQ, SWEDISH INSTITUTE FOR QUALITY SLU – THE SWEDISH UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY SP TECHNICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF SWEDEN STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY STUDIEFRÄMJANDET – STUDY ASSOCIATION FOR ADULT EDUCATION THE SWEDISH ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION THE SWEDISH ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE ENGINEERS THE SWEDISH ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTISTS SWEDISH ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY TEACHERS SWEDISH CIVIL CONTINGENCIES AGENCY SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SWEDISH FEDERATION OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS THE SWEDISH FOOD FEDERATION SWEDISH FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH SWEDISH HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR HEALTH, WORKING LIFE AND WELFARE SMHI, SWEDISH METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL INSTITUTE SWEDISH MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY THE SWEDISH NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADULT EDUCATION THE SWEDISH NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE THE SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL THE SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL FORMAS THE SWEDISH SOCIETY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS & SCIENTISTS THE SWEDISH SCEPTICS ASSOCIATION THE SWEDISH SPORTS CONFEDERATION THORILDSPLANS GYMNASIUM TOM TITS EXPERIMENT UMEÅ UNIVERSITY UNIVERSITY OF BORÅS UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG UNIVERSITY WEST UPPSALA STUDENT UNION UPPSALA UNIVERSITY THE VARDAL FOUNDATION VINNOVA, SWEDISH AGENCY FOR INNOVATION SYSTEMS THE WENNER-GREN FOUNDATIONS THE YOUNG ACADEMY OF SWEDEN ÖREBRO UNIVERSITY

EXAMPLES OF CURRENT PROJECTS

Swedish Advocacy Platform

The aim of the sub programme *Science with and for Society (SwafS)* of Horizon 2020, the EU's research programme, is to build effective cooperation between science and society. VA coordinates an advocacy platform that brings together some thirty Swedish organisations, government agencies, research centres and researchers in order to increase Swedish participation and influence.

Science in Society

Since 2002, VA and the SOM Institute at Gothenburg University have been collaborating on a *Science in Society* project. The aim is to monitor public attitudes to research and scientists over time and investigate what affects confidence and interest in science. A new study will examine researchers' roles in the media and how the public, researchers and journalists view the role of the media in communicating scientific knowledge.

RRI Tools

Responsible Research and Innovation, RRI, is about conducting research and innovation in a responsible manner, in dialogue with all stakeholders. VA is responsible for the Swedish part of the EU project, RRI Tools, which involves 30 countries and aims to develop tools that can be used to promote and work with RRI.

Researchers' Night and Researchers' Grand Prix

On the last Friday of September each year, the public is invited to experiments, shows, talks and hands-on activities that demonstrate how fun research can be, and that scientists are ordinary people with extraordinary jobs. As part of *European Researchers' Night*, VA co-ordinates the Swedish events. These include the regional heats of the *Researchers' Grand Prix*, in which researchers have just four minutes to present their research in an engaging and easy-to-understand way. The audience and a jury jointly decide the winner. VA organises the final together with the research councils Formas, Forte, the Swedish Research Council and VINNOVA.

“ Previously, I had no idea what it was like to go to university. Now, I would certainly consider it.

Emilia, 15, after participating in Researchers' Night 2014 in Sundsvall

CALENDAR 2015

- 15 April **Forum for science communication** in Gothenburg
April **Science cafés** at the Gothenburg Science Festival
28–29 May Conference: **Collaboration between Academia and Society** in Kalmar
3–6 June Presentations at **Science & You** in Nancy, France
June **Science in Society** – results of the 2014 SOM-survey published
30 June **Discussion seminar** at Almedalen in Visby
25 September **Researchers' Night** and **Researchers' Grand Prix**
12 October **VA Day conference** and **annual meeting** in Stockholm
November–December National final of the **Researchers' Grand Prix**
Annual **VA barometer** published

“ *The others were incredibly talented so I feel very honoured to have won. But we are all winners in this competition because we have all been given an opportunity to share our research with the public.*

Michael Braian, researcher at Malmö University and winner of the Researchers' Grand Prix 2014



JOIN OUR NETWORK!

Organisations as well as **individuals** are welcome to become members of VA. As a member you will receive regular information and invitations to seminars and other activities. Benefits also include access to studies and expert advice on science communication, and you are also welcome to influence and take part in our work. Furthermore, our broad network provides opportunities for new collaborations.

Read more at www.v-a.se/membership

” VA shares knowledge about research requirements, methods and results. For our member companies, it is important that decisions are taken based on scientific evidence. This is why we are members of VA.

Magnus Huss, Director of IKEM - Innovation and Chemical Industries in Sweden

” We see VA as an important arena for developing methods for communicating with the public about research conditions and results. It is about the citizen's right to democratic accountability in an area that is so significant for the development of society.

Michel Włodarczyk, Secretary General of the People's University

CONTACT US

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Read VA's latest news in English at: www.v-a.se/news/

Receive VA's international newsletter: www.v-a.se/subscription/

” As journalists we safeguard the public's right to knowledge that they can understand, even when the topics are difficult and complex. VA is an excellent arena for such issues.

Birgita Klepke and **Susanne Rydell**, individual members and authors of Writing popular science (2014)

” VA works in a fun and constructive way to stimulate interaction between research and society. This is a very important matter for the Young Academy. For us it is vital that we are members so we can participate in this important work.

Anna Sjöström Douagi, President of the Young Academy of Sweden