



# National Languages and Terminology in Higher Education, Science and Technology

## A Swedish Perspective

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## "English or Swedish?"

A survey of the language situation in higher education and research"

Linus Salö, The Swedish Language Council, 2010



## Some facts

- Sweden has 46 higher education institutions ...
- ... of which 33 are governmental.
- Others are private foundations.
- No official decree that states Swedish as the official language of instruction in higher education.
- Courses taught in English: 1/5 of all courses.
- Mostly in advanced level courses.

## Some facts: dissertations

- Nine out of ten are written in English.
- 94 % within the natural sciences.
- 65 % within the social sciences.
- 37 % within the humanities.
- Three out of ten have an abstract in Swedish.

# Pros and cons about English

- Beneficial and necessary for Sweden.
- Domain loss.
- Loss of ability.
- Research and education in English BUT research information in Swedish??

## What to do?

- Strategies for dealing with the language choice and language use.
- 11 higher education institutions had language strategies.
- They differ in content.

# Language Act (2009)

"§ 12 Government agencies have a special responsibility for ensuring that Swedish terminology in their various areas of expertise is accessible, and that it is used and developed."

## Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

- A language policy made official in 2010.

Four major points:

1. Clear and concise language
  2. Translation
  3. Terminology
  4. Language Aid
- A language coordinator hired.



“There is very little to be won by having a power-struggle between the languages.

English is not a threat to Swedish within higher education and research; rather, the problem lies in ill-considered strategies that do not take into account the effect that the use of another language in the learning process can have for a country's native language and its speakers.”

Linus Salö

**Thank you for your attention!**

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