



UNIVERSITY OF TARTU
Tartu Observatory



AUSTRIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
INSTITUT FÜR WELTRAUMFORSCHUNG



Research funding, including local support

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Funded by
the European Union



UK Research
and Innovation

State funding structure for astronomy in Sweden

- **National Research Council (VR), direct competition with subatomic physics:**
 - Postdoc positions for new PhDs.
 - Startup grants for young researchers.
 - Project money (3-4 years, fixed amount).
 - Small things (e.g. visitors, conferences).
- **Council for Research Infrastructures (RFI):**
 - Membership in ESO.
 - Instrument development (based on established priorities).
- **National Space Board:**
 - Membership in ESA.
 - All astronomical projects carried out in Space.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101079231 (EXOHOST), and from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under the UK government's Horizon Europe funding guarantee (grant number 10051045).

Private funding structure for astronomy in Sweden

- Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation:
 - Fellows (every year), require permanent position in the end.
 - Scholars (irregular, once every 3-5 years).
 - Projects (every 2nd year).
 - Infrastructures (every 2nd year).
- Göran Gustafsson Prize and stipends.
- Number of smaller funds.

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European options

- ERC startup, consolidator, and advanced grants.
- EU Horizon project grants.

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Local support at Uppsala University

- Various excellence projects that include PhD schools (e.g. eSSENCE) and/or competence centres (e.g. AI4Research).
- Infrastructure fund at the Department of Physics and Astronomy.
- Mechanical and electronics workshops, clean rooms, assembly hall.
- Local and national computing facilities with access to the European supercomputing centres.

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Typical problems

- Competition is hard but there several options to choose from.
- Some agencies require preselection at the university level.
- Overhead is not standardized across the system. Typically, granting agency does not all the level of overhead required by the university.
- Some grants require co-funding. With several grants simultaneously a division can easily run out of co-funding options.

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Relation between funding and career path



- Large grants (ERC consolidator, WAF) require a promise from the university of the lecturer position, provided that the person complies with requirements.
- Other grants may give temporary independence, but it is between the division and the grant holder to define their future relation and goals.
- There is more flexibility with soft money positions now, but some options are not very attractive (researcher).

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Typical strategy 1/2

- Publications are still crucial.
- Running grants from VR (3-4 years, fixed amount).
- Senior people with project management experience are more likely to obtain large grants, ERC.
- KAW is much less bureaucratic and more democratic, better suited for young researchers.
- Joint discussions within programs, Division, Department. Help with application writing.

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Typical strategy 2/2

- Using faculty money for salaries.
- PhDs and postdocs on external grant money.
- Plan in advance retirements and recruitments.
- Use this opportunities to get one-time support from the faculty.

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The End



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