



Government Offices of Sweden

Nordic Biomarker and Region Norrbotten received Government's export prizes

Life sciences company Nordic Biomarker received the Government's prize Exporter of the Year, and Region Norrbotten received Exporting Region of the Year. The prizes will be awarded on 31 August by Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg in the presence of H.R.H. Prince Daniel.

By awarding the prizes, the Government wants to acknowledge Swedish exports, particularly small and medium-sized companies. The Government also wants to inspire regions to successfully support export companies and thus contribute to growth and new jobs.

Umeå-based life sciences company Nordic Biomarker received the prize Exporter of the Year 2022 because it creates unique control products for coagulation diagnostics that are vital when diagnosing blood clots.

“Nordic Biomarker is an excellent example of how Swedish innovation capacity and entrepreneurship can lead to an impressive export journey in which today's leading medical device companies purchase Swedish products that save lives. I'm proud of the internationalisation of small and medium-sized Swedish companies,” says Ms Hallberg.

Region Norrbotten received the prize Exporting Region of the Year 2022.

“Even though it is a sparse area with a relatively small population, Region Norrbotten succeeds exceptionally well when it comes to increasing exports by conducting strategic export cooperation, both locally and across borders,” says Ms Hallberg.

The other nominees for the Government's export prizes were the successful

companies AIM Apparel and Broddson, and Region Skåne and Region Uppsala.

Citation – Exporter of the Year

In recent years, **Nordic Biomarker** has shown an impressive growth rate and strong, genuine Swedish capacity for innovation that saves lives. With its all-Swedish research and production, the company is a role model in its field. The fact that almost all products are exported to leading medical device companies helps Sweden advance in the international life sciences field.

Citation – Exporting Region of the Year

Region Norrbotten

Even though Norrbotten is a large and sparse region with a relatively small population, it has succeeded exceptionally well in promoting exports and is a true role model – companies based in Norrbotten even managed to increase their exports during the pandemic (2019–2021).

In 2016–2021, out of all 21 regions, Norrbotten saw the largest increase in the export value of its products for small and medium-sized companies. Despite being the last region to establish regional export cooperation, it has not only shown strong cooperation between different local actors, but also cooperated across borders with Finland and Norway. Norrbotten is also successful in exporting valuable skills, including in the areas of space and energy.

Published 31 August 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg to visit Berlin

On 11 May, Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg will travel to Berlin with the aim of strengthening the good trade and investment relations between Sweden and Germany. During her visit, Ms Hallberg will meet with Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action Robert Habeck. She will also meet with representatives of German business organisations and Swedish businesses active in Germany.

“The major challenges the world is facing, such as the climate and energy crisis, are best solved in cooperation with other countries. Germany and Sweden have a unique bond, not least in the field of industry, and therefore have unique opportunities to create common solutions for the future. Additionally, the green transition and digital transformation will create more jobs in both our countries. Today’s major security policy challenges make it more important than ever to strengthen our relations,” says Ms Hallberg.

Published 10 May 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

ABBA awarded Government's Music Export Prize by Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg

The Government's Music Export Prize for extraordinary services to Swedish music exports in 2021 goes to ABBA. The Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports goes to Håkan Hardenberger, while the Honourable Mention for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music was awarded to Export Music Sweden.

The winner of the Government's Music Export Prize was announced today during a ceremony in the Blue Drawing Room at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The prize is awarded each year to Swedish music creators who have contributed to export success and to spreading a modern and positive image of Sweden abroad.

“For 50 years, ABBA have symbolised globally successful Swedish music, and they have played a huge part in establishing Sweden internationally. Being able to return to the stage after 40 years is an extraordinary and immense feat,” says Ms Hallberg.

The jury's citation:

It is not every day that the BBC reschedules a news broadcast to premiere a new pop song. But that is exactly what happened when ABBA released new songs for the first time in 40 years. Suddenly, some of history's greatest pop artists were back. ABBA's album *Voyage* was not only one of the greatest, most surprising and acclaimed comebacks in pop history, it also broke new records. The LP reached number 1 in 18 countries, the quartet topped the

album chart in the United States, and it was the best-selling album in Germany. They were most successful in the UK. Only the Beatles and six other artists have reached number 1 more than the 10 times that ABBA reached in autumn 2021. Voyage became the fastest-selling album ever in the 21st century in the UK. In just three days, the group's upcoming, much-discussed and spectacular avatar-based show in London sold a quarter of a million tickets. The show will premiere in spring 2022. It has been 50 years since ABBA was founded, and they have sold over 400 million records. What Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid started in 1972 became a massive first step in the success of Swedish music worldwide. Thank you for the music!

The other nominees for the Government's Music Export Prize were A36, Julia Karlsson & Anton Rundberg and NEIKED.

The Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports goes to Håkan Hardenberger. The jury's citation:

For many years, Håkan Hardenberger has been one of the world's most sought-after trumpeters. All classical music lovers have heard him play Haydn's Trumpet Concerto. He's a staple on the great concert stages and has played with, among others, the New York Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra and the Berliner Philharmonic. His curiosity and willingness to innovate make him unique. He constantly explores his instrument's genre and style and takes us on unexpected trips through time and space. Several of the greatest composers of our time have written music for him, and he takes the Swedish repertoire out into the world, which he tours regularly, as both a soloist and a conductor. He celebrated his 60th birthday last year by founding the Hardenberger International Trumpet Competition in Copenhagen and Malmö. It offers young trumpeters from all over the world the opportunity to develop while maintaining Mr Hardenberger's legacy as one of Sweden's best, international soloists.

The Honourable Mention for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music goes to Export Music Sweden. The jury's citation:

On the outside, the phenomenon that is Swedish music exports seems to run on its own accord, like a self-playing piano. Of course, that is not true. A great many industry actors work hard all year round to enable Sweden to have become the third largest exporter of hits per capita as well as a respected country in a wide variety of genres. Export Music Sweden, ExMS, consistently plays a crucial role. Since the company started in 1993, ExMS has become an increasingly well-oiled machine that plays a direct or indirect

role in Swedish music exports. Among other things, it ensures a strong Swedish presence at trade fairs, seminars, festivals and other global events. It draws attention and spreads interest in Swedish music abroad, often in cooperation with the Swedish Institute, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, embassies and other partners. Over the last ten years, ExMS has also increased its role as a specialist industry educator and guide in Sweden, conducting seminars and lectures relating to all the areas connected to the contemporary global music industry. These include all genres and rightholders: artists, musicians, songwriters and record labels. During the pandemic, things picked up even more with country guides, digital songwriting camps and trade missions. Sweden has a unique global music brand, and ExMS has helped further magnify Swedish music's international charisma.

The following are members of the Government's Music Export Prize jury:

Anna Sjölund, President Live Nation

Anna-Karin Larsson, Head of the Music Department, SR Musik, Swedish Radio P2

Isabel Thomson, Senior Adviser, funding for record producers and cultural organisations, Swedish Arts Council

Jesper Thorsson, CEO Export Music Sweden

Lars Nylin, Editor-in-chief and publisher Musikindustrin

Linda Portnoff, CEO Musiksverige

Ludvig Werner, CEO IFPI Sverige

Per Sinding-Larsen, music journalist, Swedish Television

Robert Sehlberg, Head of Music, Nordic Entertainment Group Sweden

Published 23 March 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

ABBA, A36, NEIKED and Julia Karlsson & Anton Rundberg nominated for the Government's Music Export Prize.

The Government's Music Export Prize was established in 1997 and is awarded every year to an artist who has been internationally successful during the preceding year and has contributed to Swedish musical export success and to a positive image of Sweden. The winner will be announced on 23 March by Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

In addition to the Government's Music Export Prize, a Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports and an Honourable Mention for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music will also be awarded.

“Not only does the music industry contribute to Swedish musical export success – it also puts Sweden on the map as a creative and innovative country. That is why it's important for the Government to annually acknowledge some of the artists who have played their part in the Swedish music phenomenon,” says Ms Hallberg.

The jury have nominated the following (in alphabetical order) for the Government's Music Export Prize 2021:

A36

With his Swedish lyrics, the rapper A36 has, despite his French-inspired hip-hop, a theoretically limited audience. In 2021, he utilised these frameworks

to the max. A36, whose real name is Geivar Hasado Shlaimon, achieved widespread success in the Nordic countries with the song Samma gamla vanliga. The single was released in April, and thanks to, among other things, going viral on TikTok, it was number one in the Swedish charts for six weeks during the summer. After that, it was the rest of the Nordic countries' turn to fall for the Swedish-Assyrian rapper from Partille. Samma gamla vanliga reached number 3 in Norway, number 12 in Denmark and number 4 in Finland. Additionally, a local remix of the song was released in Finland and reached number one. The last artist performing in Swedish to reach top five in our neighbouring country to the east was the band Kent. To emphasise his Nordic-based globalism, A36 also made a Scandinavian remix of the song with Danish rapper Branco and Norwegian hip-hop artist Kamelen.

ABBA

It is not every day that the BBC reschedules a news broadcast to premiere a new pop song. But that is exactly what happened when ABBA released new songs for the first time in 40 years. Suddenly, some of history's greatest pop artists were back. ABBA's album Voyage was not only one of the greatest, most surprising and acclaimed comebacks in pop history, it also broke new records. The LP reached number 1 in 18 countries, the quartet topped the album chart in the United States, and it was the best-selling album in Germany. They were most successful in the UK. Only the Beatles and six other artists have reached number 1 more than the 10 times that ABBA reached in autumn 2021. Voyage became the fastest-selling album ever in the 21st century in the UK. In just three days, the group's upcoming, much-discussed and spectacular avatar-based show in London sold a quarter of a million tickets. The show will premiere in spring 2022. It has been 50 years since ABBA was founded, and they have sold over 400 million albums. What Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid started in 1972 became a massive first step in the success of Swedish music worldwide.

Julia Karlsson & Anton Rundberg

The songwriting duo Julia Karlsson and Anton Rundberg released one of the biggest hits of 2021: The Business with Dutch DJ and artist Tiësto. The song was nominated for a Grammy and has been streamed close to 800 million times on Spotify alone. The song underlines how the duo from Vimmerby (Julia) and Lidköping (Anton) have gone straight to the top since they began collaborating while studying on the Musikmakarna songwriting programme in Örnsköldsvik. In 2015, Karlsson and Rundberg were recognised by the industry for the first time when they won the Rookie Songwriter/Producer

award at the Denniz Pop Awards, primarily due to them having co-composed Swedish artist Galantis's Grammy-nominated international hit Runaway (U&I) the year before. After that, Karlsson & Rundberg who are based in Stockholm and Los Angeles respectively, have reached a global audience by producing the song On My Way by Alan Walker and Sabrina Carpenter and Party for One by Carly Rae Jepsen. In 2021, the American music magazine Billboard listed the Swedish duo as the third best songwriters in the world within the genre dance/electronic.

NEIKED

The Swedish music collective NEIKED have achieved global success with the song Sexual, and their latest catchy dance hit from 2021, Better Days with British pop artist Mae Muller and Polo G, a rapper from Chicago. Together, they have created a sound that is perfect for TikTok, dancefloors, radio and streaming platforms alike. In addition to their personal success, they have worked with artists including Maroon 5, Macklemore, Zedd, Jess Glynne and Rudimental. In Sweden, they have produced Miriam Bryant for many years. Victor Rådström and Mikael Rabus from NEIKED studied on the Musikmakarna programme in Örnsköldsvik and are showing the world how contemporary hit music should sound.

The following are members of the Government's Music Export Prize jury:

- Anna Sjölund, President Live Nation
- Anna-Karin Larsson, Head of the Music Department, SR Musik, Swedish Radio P2
- Isabel Thomson, Senior Adviser, funding for record producers and cultural organisations, Swedish Arts Council
- Jesper Thorsson, CEO Export Music Sweden
- Lars Nylin, Editor-in-chief and publisher Musikindustrin
- Linda Portnoff, CEO Musiksverige
- Ludvig Werner, CEO IFPI Sverige
- Per Sinding-Larsen, music journalist, Swedish Television
- Robert Sehlberg, Head of Music, Nordic Entertainment Group Sweden

Published 14 March 2022



Government Offices of Sweden

Ann Linde to present the 2022 Statement of Foreign Policy

Today, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde will present the Government's Statement of Foreign Policy in the Riksdag. This year's Statement of Foreign Policy is Ms Linde's third as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The Statement, which summarises the Government's foreign policy priorities for 2022, contains a number of focus areas.

“The security situation has deteriorated. Russia's increasingly confrontational rhetoric and military activities are unacceptable. Standing up for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity is essential for the security of Europe as a whole,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

During Sweden's term as Chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe last year, important results were achieved, including through the decision concerning the climate and security.

“The climate is of critical importance to our security. We must take climate-related security threats extremely seriously,” says Ann Linde.

Ms Linde will deliver the Statement of Foreign Policy in the Riksdag at 09.00 on 16 February, and she will be available to the media in the Riksdag at 13.30. Please contact her press secretary for further information.

Published 16 February 2022



Sweden to lift ban on entry from EU/EEA countries

The Government decided to lift the entry ban to Sweden from the Nordic countries and other EU and EEA countries at an extraordinary government meeting today. The decision will come into effect on 9 February.

As part of the continuing work to phase out the infection control measures against COVID-19, the Government today decided to lift all restrictions on entry to Sweden from the Nordic countries and other EU and EEA countries. The decision follows an assessment by the Public Health Agency of Sweden that the entry restrictions are no longer a proportionate infection control measure. The decision enters into force on 9 February.

The lifting of the entry restrictions is a great relief for many travellers, not least for those living and working in the Nordic border regions. Today's decision also reduces the burden on the Swedish Police Authority, which no longer needs to set aside staff to check COVID-19 certificates at the border.

The Government's decision today does not affect entry to Sweden from countries outside the EU/EEA. An entry ban continues to apply to these travellers (which currently applies until 31 March 2022), in accordance with EU recommendations regarding entry from third countries.

For more information on how to interpret the ordinances on temporary bans on entry into Sweden and which exemptions apply, please visit the Swedish Police Authority website. See the adjacent links.



Government Offices of Sweden

Change of government, 30 November 2021

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government takes place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty the King. The Council of State begins at 13.00.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 22 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Magdalena Andersson, Prime Minister

Hans Dahlgren, Minister for EU Affairs

Ministry of Employment

Eva Nordmark, Minister for Employment and Gender Equality

Johan Danielsson, Minister for Housing and Deputy Minister for Employment

Ministry of Finance

Mikael Damberg, Minister for Finance

Max Elger, Minister for Financial Markets

Ida Karkiainen, Minister for Public Administration

Ministry of Defence

Peter Hultqvist, Minister for Defence

Ministry of Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth, Minister for Infrastructure

Khashayar Farmanbar, Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Ministry of Justice

Morgan Johansson, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs

Anders Ygeman, Minister for Integration and Migration

Ministry of Culture

Jeanette Gustafsdotter, Minister for Culture

Ministry of the Environment

Annika Strandhäll, Minister for Climate and the Environment

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Karl-Petter Thorwaldsson, Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Anna-Caren Säterberg, Minister for Rural Affairs

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren, Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Ardalan Shekarabi, Minister for Social Security

Ministry of Education and Research

Anna Ekström, Minister for Education

Lina Axelsson Kihlblom, Minister for Schools

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs

Anna Hallberg, Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Matilda Ernkrans, Minister for International Development Cooperation

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Published 30 November 2021



Government intends to open embassy in Dublin and consulate-general in San Francisco

The Government today decided to strengthen Sweden's presence in Ireland and the US, and intends to open an embassy in Dublin and a consulate-general in San Francisco. The Government has also strengthened Sweden's presence in Ouagadougou and La Paz. As part of a regular review of Sweden's missions abroad, the Government will also close the embassies in Angola and Peru.

Ireland is an important partner for Sweden in the EU, bilaterally and multilaterally. Sweden will therefore strengthen its presence in Ireland for political agency and increased trade and investment exchange.

“A stronger Swedish presence in both Ireland and the US will create new opportunities for Swedish foreign policy and our promotion activities to make an impact. Reopening an Embassy in Dublin has been eagerly awaited – Ireland is an important partner for Sweden, not least in light of the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the EU,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

Establishing a consulate-general in San Francisco will create new opportunities for trade promotion and promotion of Sweden on the US west coast and will support Swedish companies with matchmaking activities in tomorrow's technologies and the cultural and creative industries.

“A consulate-general in San Francisco will strengthen Sweden's presence on the US west coast and improve our opportunities to conduct active trade promotion and promotion of Sweden. The business sector in particular has looked forward to the opening the consulate-general as it will facilitate new

partnerships for Swedish companies in the area of green technologies and new innovations,” says Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg.

The Government has already upgraded two missions abroad – one in Africa and one in Latin America – to full embassies under the leadership of an ambassador. These are the missions in Ouagadougou and La Paz, whose positions have now been reinforced.

“I am pleased that we have been able to strengthen our diplomatic relations in Africa and Latin America. Our embassies provide us with important tools to help combat poverty and support climate transition, and to push demands on democracy, human rights and women’s rights,” says Minister for International Development Cooperation Per Olsson Fridh.

The changes are one step in the continuous adaptation made by the organisation abroad in relation to changes around the world, altered requirements and needs, and the budgetary situation, to create the best possible conditions to implement Sweden’s foreign policy and promote Swedish interests abroad. This is a constant process of change in which Sweden sometimes opens or closes embassies and consulates.

Sweden has good bilateral relations with both Angola and Peru, which include close cooperation in areas such as trade. These relations will continue to be safeguarded, preserved and developed. In the future, this will take place in other forms, as the embassies themselves will be closed.

The missions abroad affected by today’s decision may open or close at different times, depending on the situation of each mission. All changes are planned to take place in the second half of 2022.

Published 03 November 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Oscar Holter receives the Government's Music Export Prize from Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg

The Government's Music Export Prize for extraordinary services to Swedish music exports in 2020 goes to Oscar Holter. The Government's 2020 Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports goes to Ale Möller. The Government's 2020 Honourable Mention for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music goes to the duo Sunshine.

The winner of the Government's Music Export Prize was announced today during a ceremony in the Blue Drawing Room at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The prize is awarded each year to Swedish music creators who have contributed to export success and to spreading a modern and positive image of Sweden abroad.

“This year's winner of the Government's Music Export Prize, Oscar Holter, is one of pop world's most successful composers and is an excellent example of the outstanding international successes that have made Sweden one of the world's leading music nations. From an export and investment perspective, the cultural industries play a particularly important role for Sweden as a creative and innovative country. Oscar Holter's name has long been well established, and in 2020 he broke records on several playlists,” says Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg.

Oscar Holter is the 23rd winner of the Government's Music Export Prize, with the following citation:

Värmland's Oscar Holter became a songwriter at a particularly young age and was already a producer of established artists by the 2000s. Then as now, he skilfully creates a meeting between classic pop harmonies and synth-based 'hooks'. Holter once said: "I think that Kraftwerk are just as catchy as ABBA." This is something that he's demonstrated together with artists such as Christina Aguilera, Katy Perry, Justin Timberlake, Taylor Swift and Swedish Tove Lo, but the concept has never been as successful as when Holter, together with guru Max Martin, wrote and produced 'Blinding Lights' together with Canadian superstar The Weeknd. In short, 'Blinding Lights' is already one of the biggest pop hits of all time. In 2020, it topped the charts in 34 countries and has also broken records for the most number of weeks in the top 5 and 20 on the Billboard chart in the US. It has been played more than two billion times on Spotify alone. For Max Martin, it was the 23rd time he had reached number one in the US charts. For Oscar Holter, it was a confirmation that he is also up there among the most successful composers in the pop world.

The other nominees for the Government's Music Export Prize were: Dafina Zeqiri, Garmarna, Ludwig Göransson and Nea.

The Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports went to Ale Möller, with the following citation:

Who is as comfortable in a polska from Dalarna as in a Greek rebetiko or on a stage in Senegal? Who else has brought Sweden to the world and the world to Sweden the way he has? The answer is obviously Ale Möller! The Scandinavian multi-instrumentalist who has often found global acclaim and been accorded innumerable awards. But is all this success the result of his being declared unmusical at a young age? That this forced him to discover music entirely through his own senses and ear? Ale Möller played jazz and The Threepenny Opera on many different instruments before he found his own place at the heart of music – folk music. Perhaps Professor (he can also claim that title) Möller is a reminder that all music – rock, blues, opera, tango and much more – is in some way just updated folk music. And as we know, folk music never stands still. Boundless and unstoppable, it examines the present day to grow into new forms in the same way as one of the realm's foremost music ambassadors himself does – one week we see him lead a peace concert in Chinese Chengdu with 14 musicians from around the world, and the next he receives the same Special Prize as Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Harry Belafonte – Ale Möller!

The Honourable Mention for achievements of particular importance to

the internationalisation of Swedish music was awarded to the duo Sunshine, with the following citation:

When pop music from South Korea – often simply called K-Pop – became one of the most successful genres around the world, many Swedes were involved as songwriters, producers and music labels. Among the first was the duo Sunshine – Moa ‘Cazzi Opeia’ Carlebecker and Ellen Berg. Since 2017, the duo have been involved in dozens of number one hits in the K-Pop genre, topping the charts in South Korea and around the world. In 2020, Sunshine were involved in the song ‘We are Bulletproof’: The Eternal’, on the album ‘Map Of The Soul: 7’ by the giants of the genre, South Korean BTS. The album was one of the major factors of BTS becoming top-selling artists in the world in 2020 according to IFPI, the recording industry organisation. Since 2017, Sunshine have collaborated production duo Moonshine, Jonatan Gusmark and Ludvig Evers. This is also an important component in a Swedish pop export phenomenon that is decades old and is now beginning to receive broad attention and respect. The Swedish music companies that have had key roles in setting the Swedish stamp on the K-Pop scene include The Kennel, Cosmos and the Swedish office of South Korean EKKO Music Rights. The Music Export Prize puts the spotlight on Sunshine, but the prize is also an acknowledgement of the part of the music industry that chose a different focus to the mainstream.

Published 23 September 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Nominees for the Government's 2020 Music Export Prize

The Government's Music Export Prize is awarded every year to an artist who has been internationally successful during the preceding year and has contributed to Swedish musical export success and to a positive image of Sweden. The winner will be announced by Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic affairs Anna Hallberg.

In addition to the Government's Music Export Prize, a Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports and an Honourable Mention for achievements of particular importance to the internationalisation of Swedish music will also be awarded.

The Government's Music Export Prize is a way for the Government to draw attention to Swedish performers and practitioners in the music industry who contribute to increased export success for Swedish music and help point the spotlight on Sweden.

“Swedish musicians help point the spotlight on Sweden and I am very pleased and proud today to be able to present the nominees to the Government's 2020 Music Export Prize. All of the nominees are very good examples of the Swedish music wonder and so have both promoted Swedish exports and helped put Sweden on the global musical map,” says Ms Hallberg.

The nominees for the Government's 2020 Music Export Prize are:

Dafina Zeqiri

One of Sweden's major international stars is relatively unknown here at home. She was born in Varberg and lives in Malmö, and even though she has four times as many followers on Instagram as artists such as ABBA, Robyn or Lykke Li, Swedish media has probably never covered her. But it's a

different story around the world, and particularly in Kosovo, where she has her roots. There this outstanding pop star has reached millions of people with both her videos and music since her debut at the end of the 2000s. Zeqiri's music has also attracted attention in the US with guest performances by and with French Montana. Her proud mix of pop and R&B, often enveloped in Albanian tones, also embodies her engagement for the equal value of all people and her eternal gratitude to a singing fighter of a mother. She was particularly active in 2020, with ten tracks released under her own name and in collaboration with other artists that often achieved chart successes around Europe.

Garmarna

Folk rock band Garmarna represents the unique accomplishment of successfully exporting music sung in Swedish and with deep Swedish roots. Following an initial breakthrough in the 1990s that included a Grammy award and some export success, the group returned in the mid-2010s after an extended break. This time, the band's music is beginning to make a real impact around the world. A video from 2015 featuring the song 'Herr Mannelig' has been viewed more than 24 million times on YouTube, with the vast majority of viewings by an international audience. In 2020, Garmarna released their first album on a foreign label. The album, 'Förbundet' was released on the French 'Season of Mist' label, which otherwise only produces music in various metal genres. This can be seen as an illustration of Garmarna's unique position and export success.

Ludwig Göransson

Ludwig Göransson won the Government's 2018 Music Export Prize, and is nominated once again this year. Göransson has an ear for images, and his signature has become writing boundless music for films that builds atmosphere and becomes an indispensable part of the film it illustrates. He comes from Linköping and is a musical chameleon who is as much at home among Senegalese drums as on distant planets. His music encompasses everything from electronic minimalism to sweeping orchestral music reminiscent of the great symphonies. And he is also named after the great Ludwig van Beethoven. Göransson has already won many awards, including an Oscar and three Grammys. In 2020, he attracted particular attention for his work on the Star Wars spinoff 'The Mandalorian', for which he was awarded an Emmy.

Nea

In recent years, Linnea ‘Nea’ Södahl has become established as one of Sweden’s most interesting songwriters following collaborations with Zara Larsson, Tove Styrke, Loreen, Sabina Ddumba, Tinie Tempah and Axwell. Now Nea is making her debut as an artist with her most personal songs. Success came quickly with her first single ‘Some Say’, which was a hit in many places around the world and one of the most played songs on the radio in Europe in 2020.

Oscar Holter

Värmland’s Oscar Holter became a songwriter at a particularly young age and was already a producer of established artists by the 2000s. Then as now, he skilfully creates a meeting between classic pop harmonies and synth-based ‘hooks’. Holter once said: “I think that Kraftwerk are just as catchy as ABBA.” This is something that he’s demonstrated together with artists such as Christina Aguilera, Katy Perry, Justin Timberlake, Taylor Swift and Swedish Tove Lo, but the concept has never been as successful as when Holter, together with guru Max Martin, wrote and produced ‘Blinding Lights’ together with Canadian superstar The Weeknd. In short, ‘Blinding Lights’ is already one of the biggest pop hits of all time. In 2020, it topped the charts in 34 countries and has also broken records for most weeks in the top 5 and 20 on the Billboard chart in the US. It has been played more than two billion times on Spotify alone. For Max Martin, it was the 23rd time he had reached number one in the US charts. For Oscar Holter, it was a confirmation that he is also up there among the most successful composers in the pop world.

The following are members of the Government’s 2020 Music Export Prize jury:

- Isabel Thomson, Swedish Arts Council, Chair of the jury
- Anna Sjölund, CEO, Live Nation
- Anna-Karin Larsson, Music Director, SR Musik, Swedish Radio P2
- Jesper Thorsson, CEO Export Music Sweden
- Lars Nylin, Editor-in-chief and publisher, Musikindustrin
- Linda Portnoff, CEO, Riteband
- Ludvig Werner, CEO IFPI Sverige
- Per Sinding-Larsen, music journalist, Swedish Television
- Robert Sehlberg, Head of Music, MTG Radio

Published 16 September 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Sweden's new Government

Today in the Riksdag, Prime Minister Stefan Löfven announced the ministers who will serve in the Government. The change of government will take place at a Council of State at the Royal Palace presided over by His Majesty The King. The Council of State will begin at 14.15.

Sweden's new Government consists of the Prime Minister and 21 ministers.

Prime Minister's Office

Prime Minister

Stefan Löfven

Minister for EU Affairs

Hans Dahlgren

Ministry of Employment

Minister for Employment

Eva Nordmark

Minister for Gender Equality and Housing, with responsibility for urban development, anti-segregation and anti-discrimination

Märta Stenevi

Ministry of Finance

Minister for Finance

Magdalena Andersson

Minister for Public Administration

Lena Micko

Minister for Financial Markets and Deputy Minister for Finance

Åsa Lindhagen

Ministry of Defence

Minister for Defence

Peter Hultqvist

Ministry of Infrastructure

Minister for Infrastructure

Tomas Eneroth

Minister for Energy and Digital Development

Anders Ygeman

Ministry of Justice

Minister for Justice and Migration

Morgan Johansson

Minister for Home Affairs

Mikael Damberg

Ministry of Culture

Minister for Culture and Democracy, with responsibility for sport

Amanda Lind

Ministry of the Environment

Minister for Environment and Climate, and Deputy Prime Minister

Per Bolund

Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation

Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation

Ibrahim Baylan

Ministry of Health and Social Affairs

Minister for Health and Social Affairs

Lena Hallengren

Minister for Social Security

Ardalan Shekarabi

Ministry of Education and Research

Minister for Education

Anna Ekström

Minister for Higher Education and Research

Matilda Ernkrans

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ann Linde

Minister for International Development Cooperation

Per Olsson Fridh

Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs

Anna Hallberg

Published 09 July 2021



Nordic ministerial meeting on vaccine production cooperation

At the Government's initiative, Minister for Enterprise and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan and Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg met with colleagues from Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway on 9 June to discuss opportunities to strengthen and create synergies in Nordic vaccine production.

The global crisis caused by the pandemic has made it clear that international cooperation is needed to be able to quickly tackle future pandemics. Sweden has therefore invited Nordic ministers to a dialogue to find synergies and utilise the existing capacity of Sweden and its Nordic neighbours – which can be further developed jointly in the region.

“Through deeper Nordic cooperation, the Government sees great opportunities to improve pandemic preparedness and at the same time strengthen the Nordic region as a global leader in life sciences,” says Mr Baylan.

Last year, the Government instructed Vinnova to analyse Sweden's innovation and production capacity for vaccines and other biopharmaceuticals. Vinnova's recent report on the assignment highlighted the possibility of examining the conditions for deeper partnership with our Nordic neighbours.

“Nordic cooperation stretches far back in time and is a strength we should always build on. When we work together, we create solutions, increase our Nordic competitiveness and become a more attractive region,” says Ms Hallberg.

At Wednesday's meeting, the Government raised Sweden's proposal for a joint pilot study in the form of Nordic government cooperation. The cooperation is proposed to show how the countries' available resources and

planned investments can be coordinated and congregated into a pan-Nordic pool of resources that strengthens preparedness, capacity and expertise for the production of vaccines and biopharmaceuticals.

Published 10 June 2021



Government Offices of Sweden

Rock band Ghost receives the Government's Music Export Prize from Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg

The Government's prize for extraordinary services to Swedish music exports in 2019 has been awarded to the rock band Ghost. The Government's 2019 Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports has gone to Marie Dimberg.

The winner of the Government's Music Export Prize was presented during a ceremony in the Blue Drawing Room at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The prize is awarded each year to Swedish music creators who have contributed to export success and to spreading a modern and positive image of Sweden abroad.

“This year's winner of the Music Export Prize, the rock band Ghost, is an excellent example of the Swedish music industry's international successes. The industry has laid the foundation for unparalleled Swedish export successes, which in turn have helped spread a positive image of Sweden abroad. Ghost started off locally in Linköping and is today a global band, with fans all over the world,” says Ms Hallberg.

The rock band group Ghost has been declared the 23rd winner of the Music Export Prize, and the jury issued the following statement:

“Ghost has challenged audiences and created headlines ever since the band was formed in Linköping in 2006. Today it has fans all over the world. With its mythical and occult lyrics, cloaked in melodic metal, Ghost has gone from primarily being for the initiated audience – starting with debut album Opus Eponymous from 2011 – to today being one of the rock and metal bands with the broadest audience, regardless of category. In 2019, Ghost

highlighted its position as world leader when it continued its world tour, ‘A Pale Tour Named Death’. When the tour concluded in Mexico City in March this year, it had reached a total of 137 stages all over the world.”

Other nominees for the Government’s Music Export Prize were: Robyn, Håkan Hardenberger, Smith & Thell and Snoh Aalegra.

The Special Prize for long-standing contributions to Swedish music exports has gone to Marie Dimberg, and the jury issued the following statement:

“Marie Dimberg likes to describe her role as that of an enabler, and to a great extent she has contributed to enabling some of Sweden’s most remarkable pop and stage exports. She began her career at EMI Records. At first she worked with public relations and later held the position of Vice President International at EMI’s London office, after which she became marketing manager at EMI in Sweden. In 1997 she started her own company, with the trio Per Gessle, Marie Fredriksson and Peter Jöback as regular clients. Early on, she expanded her activities by working with director Jonas Åkerlund and others. In 2013, she topped industry magazine Musikindustrin’s first published list of the most influential women in the Swedish music industry.”

Published 07 October 2020



Competitiveness and reboot for research, innovation and investments

Research and innovation are crucial to Sweden's competitiveness and to rebooting the economy after the COVID-19 pandemic. In the autumn budget, the Government is therefore proposing increased funding to Vinnova, RISE and Business Sweden for measures that help reboot Sweden. The proposal is based on an agreement between the Government, the Centre Party and the Liberal Party.

The ongoing changes in society require continued investments in research and innovation in order to contribute to Swedish competitiveness in the long term. In the autumn budget, the Government is proposing a number of investments in research and innovation that develop Sweden as a prominent knowledge nation and make use of people's creativity. The purpose is to address society's challenges, increase adaptability and utilise research results.

Increased central government funding of research and innovation through Vinnova

As private investment in research and innovation temporarily declines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, central government is increasing its funding to secure research, innovation and the supply of skills. It is therefore proposed that Vinnova receive an increase in its appropriation for 2021 of SEK 545 million to mainly make systemic innovation investments. The proposal is part of the Research and Innovation Bill which will be presented during the autumn.

Reinforcement of needs-driven research through RISE

Industrial research institutes conduct needs-driven research and development in global collaboration with universities, the business sector and the public sector. The institutes play an important role in the utilisation and commercialisation of research and innovation. The focus is on developing sustainable solutions, which are the pillars of the business community's climate transition, competitiveness and growth. It is therefore proposed that RISE AB receive an increase of its appropriation for 2021 of SEK 95 million to implement initiatives that contribute to system solutions where many actors collaborate. The proposal is part of the Research and Innovation Bill which will be presented during the autumn.

Investment promotion measures through Business Sweden

Sweden is a small export-dependent country where there are many jobs with exporting companies. Foreign investment therefore plays an important role in the economic recovery. In order to strengthen investment promotion initiatives, funding of SEK 25 million is proposed for 2021, through Business Sweden.

Published 22 September 2020



Government to take action against foreign direct investments in sensitive areas

At the government meeting on 4 June, the Government decided to refer a proposal to the Council on Legislation with the aim of strengthening efforts against foreign direct investments that threaten Swedish security and public order. At the same time, the Inspectorate of Strategic Products (ISP) and the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) have been given assignments to further develop these efforts.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic could increase the risk of foreign actors making investments in the Swedish business sector and strategic infrastructure with the aim of gaining access to valuable technology and information in a way that threatens Sweden's security. The ISP and FOI have therefore been given assignments to further strengthen efforts against foreign direct investments in sensitive areas.

In 2019, the EU adopted a regulation on screening of foreign direct investments into the European Union. The aim of the regulation is to create a legal framework for how the Member States can screen foreign direct investments into the Union with regard to security or public order. The EU regulation outlines how cooperation in the Union regarding the screening of foreign direct investment is to be carried out, including through the Member States designating authorities to act as contact points. The regulation enters into force on 11 October 2020, which requires adjustments in Swedish legislation. In the proposal referred to the Council on Legislation, the Government, proposes a new act with provisions to supplement the EU regulation. It is proposed that the act enter into force on 1 December 2020.

To meet the requirements of the EU regulation and to strengthen efforts against foreign direct investments that threaten security and public order, the Government has decided the following:

- The ISP will be designated as Sweden's contact point in accordance with the EU regulation on foreign direct investments.
- Through this, the ISP will have the authority to collect certain information on foreign investors and the relevant Swedish companies, since direct investments risk affecting security and public order in the EU.
- Together with the Swedish Armed Forces, the Swedish Security Service, the Swedish Defence Research Agency and the Defence Materiel Administration (FMV), the ISP will also strengthen efforts against foreign direct investments that threaten security. A report on this assignment is to be presented on 1 October 2020.

Assignment to FOI

FOI, in consultation with the ISP, the Swedish Armed Forces, FMV and the Swedish Security Service, is tasked with conducting a study on foreign investments [JG1] in sensitive activities. FOI will also cooperate with the Direct Investment Inquiry (Ju 2019:06) and the National Board of Trade. Under the decision, FOI is instructed to:

- Outline the risks associated with foreign direct investments in sensitive activities.
- Specify general qualities and circumstances among investors whose investments may entail a security risk.
- Identify the areas and sectors where foreign direct investments could have adverse security consequences.

A report on this assignment is to be presented to the Government Offices by 30 November 2020

Published 08 June 2020



Postponed: Prime Minister Stefan Löfven and Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg to visit South Africa

The Prime Minister's visit to South Africa on 8–10 March has been postponed because he needs to remain in Sweden to effectively and closely lead the Government's work concerning COVID-19. Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will visit South Africa on 8–10 March. Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg and a Swedish business delegation will also take part in the visit.

During the visit, Mr Löfven will meet South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa for bilateral talks. Mr Löfven and Mr Ramaphosa will take part in the tenth Binational Commission (BNC) between South Africa and Sweden. The BNC was established in 1999 as a forum for dialogue on common issues within politics, the economy, education, research, the environment, the climate and water, as well as human rights and culture.

Sweden and South Africa have a close relationship and the country is Sweden's largest trade partner in southern Africa. South Africa is a key regional actor and an important partner in the work to address global challenges, not least in the United Nations and this year when the country is Chair of the African Union. Topics for discussion during the visit include cooperation in trade and investment, global challenges, the labour market, the environment and climate, energy, research and culture.

For more information about the programme, please contact Press Secretary Gösta Brunnander.

Please send the mandatory notification of attendance to Press Assistant
Frédérique Claise.

Published 26 February 2020



Government Offices of Sweden

Ann Linde presents the 2020 Statement of Foreign Policy

Today, Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde is presenting the Government's Statement of Foreign Policy to the Riksdag. The Statement, which summarises the Government's foreign policy priorities for 2020, includes a new announcement on strengthened efforts to combat organised crime. Also notable in the Statement is a stronger focus on security in Europe ahead of Sweden assuming the role of Chair of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe in 2021.

“My principal duty is to work for security in Sweden. International developments affect us, regardless of whether they involve security in our neighbourhood, climate change or the pushback against democracy. Organised crime is a good example of this, because it has clear international links,” says Minister for Foreign Affairs Ann Linde.

Another new announcement is that the Government is strengthening its focus on trade union rights abroad as part of its Drive for Democracy, launched last year in the Statement of Foreign Policy.

The Statement of Foreign Policy will be delivered in the Riksdag on 12 February at 9.00.

Published 12 February 2020



Presentation of the new updated Trade and Investment Strategy for more jobs throughout the country

More people than ever before are now employed in exporting companies in Sweden. Exports drive the Swedish economy and keep around 1.5 million people in employment. To continue to strengthen Swedish exports, on Friday 13 December the Government launched an updated Trade and Investment Strategy to create jobs and growth throughout the country.

Since the previous export strategy was presented, the international context has changed. Threats to free trade have amplified, along with the competition for major procurements and investments.

At the same time, the previously weak export development in Sweden has turned around. In the last two years, exports from all Swedish counties have increased, and more people than ever work for exporting companies.

The 2030 Agenda's Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement have in turn created new opportunities for Swedish companies to contribute to climate transition. To address these challenges and opportunities, the Export Strategy has been updated with an enhanced focus on sustainability and regional growth.

“I am proud to be able to present a strategy that so clearly involves the regions in ensuring that the whole of Sweden exports more. When we trade with the rest of the world, jobs and growth are created that strengthen welfare throughout the country,” says Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg.

“Sweden will be the world's first fossil-free welfare nation, and we will

export solutions that lead the world to freedom from fossil fuels. We have world-leading companies in climate-smart solutions, and this will strengthen Sweden's competitiveness as all countries are now required to adapt their economies," says Minister for Environment and Climate Isabella Lövin.

"The Export Strategy has served Sweden well. By updating and adapting the strategy to a changing world, we are ensuring that it will continue to contribute to more jobs throughout the country," says Minister for Business, Industry and Innovation Ibrahim Baylan.

The five strategic goals of the new strategy:

1. Increase Sweden's exports, both in absolute figures and as a proportion of GDP
2. Ensure that more small and medium-sized enterprises export
3. Ensure that Sweden is a driving force for free, sustainable and equitable international trade
4. Use Sweden's innovation leadership to enhance the export capabilities and international competitiveness of Swedish business
5. Increase Sweden's attractiveness to foreign investors, skills, talent and visitors

Sweden's new Trade and Investment Strategy will help ensure that we meet the 2030 Agenda's global goals for sustainable development and live up to the Paris Agreement. The decision is part of the January Agreement, which is based on an agreement between the Social Democratic Party, the Green Party, the Centre Party and the Liberals.

Published 16 December 2019



The Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Trade to visit South Korea

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will visit the Republic of Korea (South Korea) on 18–20 December. Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg and a large Swedish business delegation will also take part in the visit.

During the visit, Mr Löfven will meet President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in and Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon. During their talks, they will discuss issues including trade and investment, social dialogue and gender equality, and nuclear disarmament. They will also discuss how efforts to promote a peaceful solution to the situation on the Korean Peninsula can be moved forward.

Sweden has a long-standing engagement on the Korean Peninsula, and discussions will also focus on how ties between Sweden and the Republic of Korea can be further strengthened. The Republic of Korea is Asia's fourth largest economy and Sweden's third largest trading partner in Asia. Increased trade and investments in both directions will strengthen jobs and growth in Sweden.

On 18 December, Mr Löfven will take part in the Sweden-Korea Business Summit. He will also speak at the National Assembly and meet National Assembly Speaker Moon Hee-sang. In addition, Mr Löfven will highlight Sweden's humanitarian support during the Korean War.



Government Offices of Sweden

Norstedts Agency wins 2018 Cultural and Creative Industries Export Prize

The Government's 2018 Cultural and Creative Industries Prize was presented Wednesday, 2 October, by Minister for Foreign Trade and Nordic Affairs Anna Hallberg. The Prize was awarded to Norstedts Agency for the Millennium series.

“The fact that we have national knowledge capital means that we help create new jobs and also offer innovation capacity and digitalisation. This is a sector that is at the heart of our future trade,” said Minister for Foreign Trade Anna Hallberg during the prize ceremony.

The prize aims to highlight successes across the whole spectrum of the cultural and creative industries and strengthen their internationalisation. The sectors included in the prize are architecture, computer games, design, film and television production, photography, art, literature, media and marketing communications, fashion and the performing arts.

Norstedts Agency won this year's Prize with the following citation:

From its beginnings in 2005 with Stieg Larsson's first tale of Lisbeth Salander, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, to the present day, the rights to the five novels have been sold to more than 50 countries. The novels, more than 100 million copies of which have been sold so far, have led to major international films and an increased interest in Sweden and Swedish values. Yet another Millennium film had its global premiere in 2018, and new translations and formats continue to be published throughout the world. Literary agents are one of the most important actors in making Swedish writing accessible to an international market. Behind the Millennium phenomenon are Norstedts Agency, who made the biggest Scandinavian literary export success story of all time possible.

“It feels really great! Sometime there have been ups and sometimes there have been downs. But now we’ve reached the top! We couldn’t have done better and, as I said, this is the result of a lot of great cooperation,” said Linda Altrov Berg, Director at Norstedts Agency, during the ceremony.

The other nominees were: The Hilma af Klint Foundation for the Hilma af Klint exhibitions, Josef Fares, Chimney and Mikael Jansson.

Published 03 October 2019