# The Swedish National Agency for Higher Education

# Background: There has always been a person/institution that have acted as advisor to the government when it comes to questions about universities and higher education.

# From 1477 up to 1960 it has been person a “university chancellor”

# When the first expansion of higher education began in the 1960ies the government felt that there must be more direct control of the higher education sector. An agency The University Chancellor´s Agency was founded.

# The tasks of this agency were to decide about the subjects taught at the institutions, syllabus, course plans, number and categories of employees at each institution and the most important the distribution of budget to the institutions.

# This way of govern higher education institutions existed until 1992.

# “The freedom reform”

# Higher education institutions became independent institutions direct under the government i.e. The Ministry of Education.

# The got the right to decide about their budget within given frames, to decide about the subjects, syllabus etc. They also got the right to decide about staff under the position as professor.

# The office the University Chancellor was closed.

## Two new agencies were created

# The Chancellor’s Office

# The Agency for support to higher education institutions.

# To fulfill the need of follow up studies and analysis of higher education the government used NGOs, consultants and ad hoc working groups.

# This structure existed until 1995…

# The new social democratic government decided that it was necessary to have a central agency for quality control, juridical inspection (the rights of students), statistics and analysis, recognition of foreign degrees (Enic/Naric office) and information. The Agency also administered the programmes for higher education from EU.

## The Swedish National Agency for Higher Education was founded. The head of the agency is the University Chancellor (General Director).

## The Agency is only financed from the government and had about 160 employees.

# The agency for service to higher education institutions remained with the tasks to coordinate the admission to higher education.

BUT

## The present government has decided to make the roles of the agencies more” transparent”

## The” Swedish national Agency” will turn into an agency of more inspection and control.

# The agency for service to higher education institutions will take over the Enic/Naric functions, information about higher education and the right to issue by laws when it comes to admission. This agency will also take over the administration international programmes like Life long Learning, Tempus, Grundtvig etc.

At Last….

## In Sweden we do not carry out accreditation of Higher Education Institutions.

## We carry out accreditation of their rights to award degrees according to the Swedish law.

## Anyone can set up an institution and call it university, but it not allowed to award “Swedish” degrees.

# We do have a number of “semi-private” institutions. They have the right to award Swedish degrees and they are financed by the government for this.

# Non-profit or for-profit institutions is not the important question. The important question is whether they are able to give good quality education and that their finances are sustainable.

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