

# The Chalmers Environmental Initiative;

example of a research program funded by  
Chalmers University Foundation

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Basic Data

Aims and Strategy of CEI

Funding of CEI

Positive Effects

Key Elements



Chalmers Environmental Initiative

# Chalmers Environmental Initiative, CEI

## Basic Data

**€10.5 million investment, 2000-2008 by Chalmers Foundation**

**€43 million, additional funding 2000-2008**

**7 new professors**

**4 (+12) senior scientists**

**8 (+20) PhD students**

**A number of guest professors and exchanges**

**Matrix organisation, no common institute or building**



Chalmers Environmental Initiative

## Aims of the CEI

- Further strengthen Chalmers (re-)positioning within environmental science and sustainable development.
- Develop synergies between CEI and existing Chalmers activities.
- Integrate CEI activities in Chalmers departments and in education.
- Cooperation with universities, industry, and other relevant stakeholders.

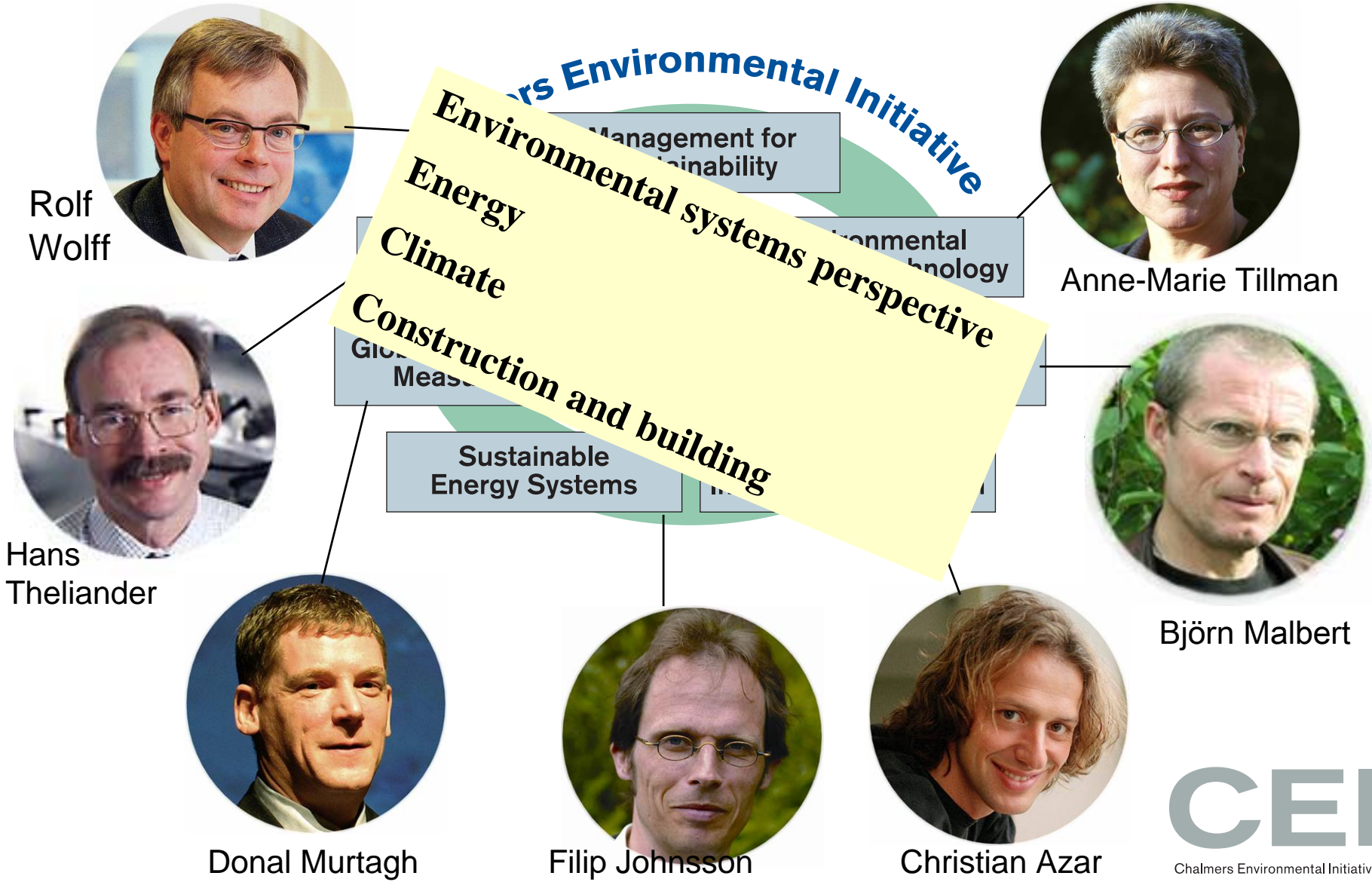


Chalmers Environmental Initiative

# CEI strategy

- Focus on local strength areas
- Go for defined areas with common interest
- Scientific depth and holistic approach
- Define and establish an international frontline
- Establish education within the area
- Continue to work in a matrix organisation





# Swedish (and European?) Funding



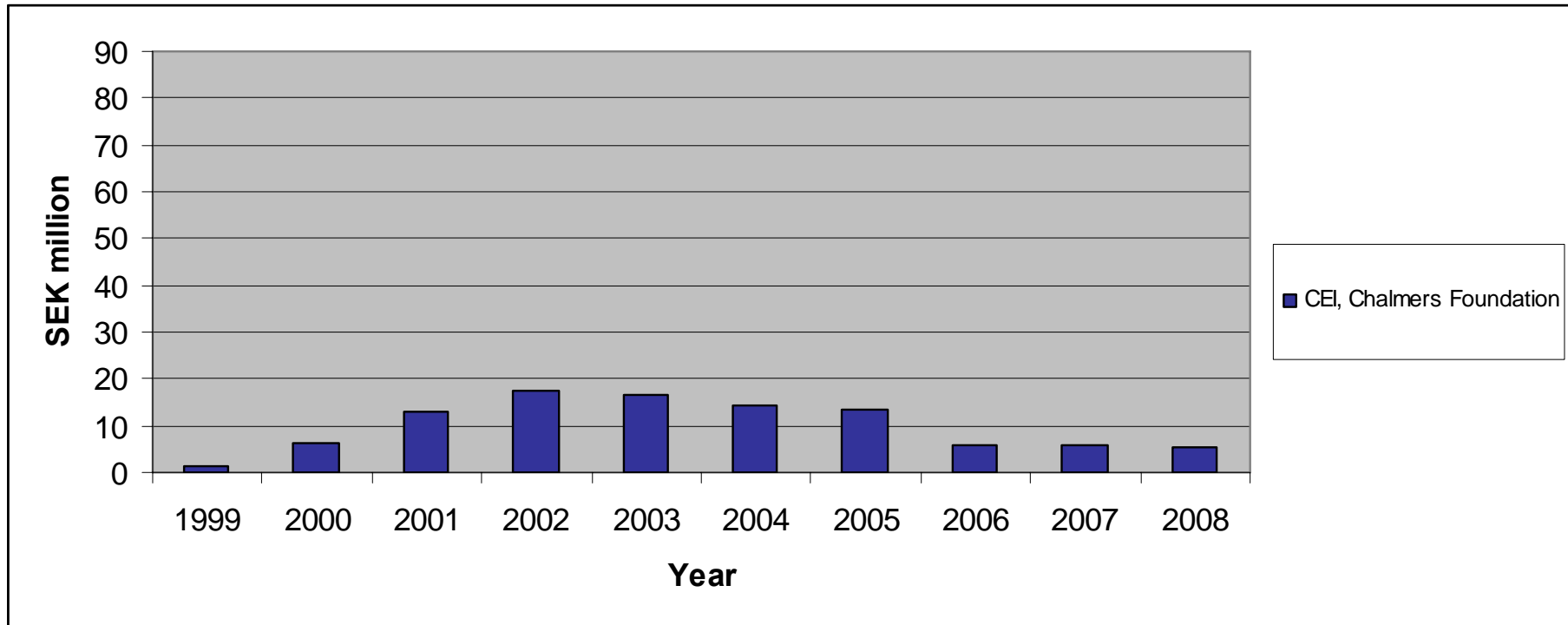
Large-scale projects  
Heavy administration  
Long run-up  
Little variation  
Low flexibility

# Chalmers Environmental Initiative



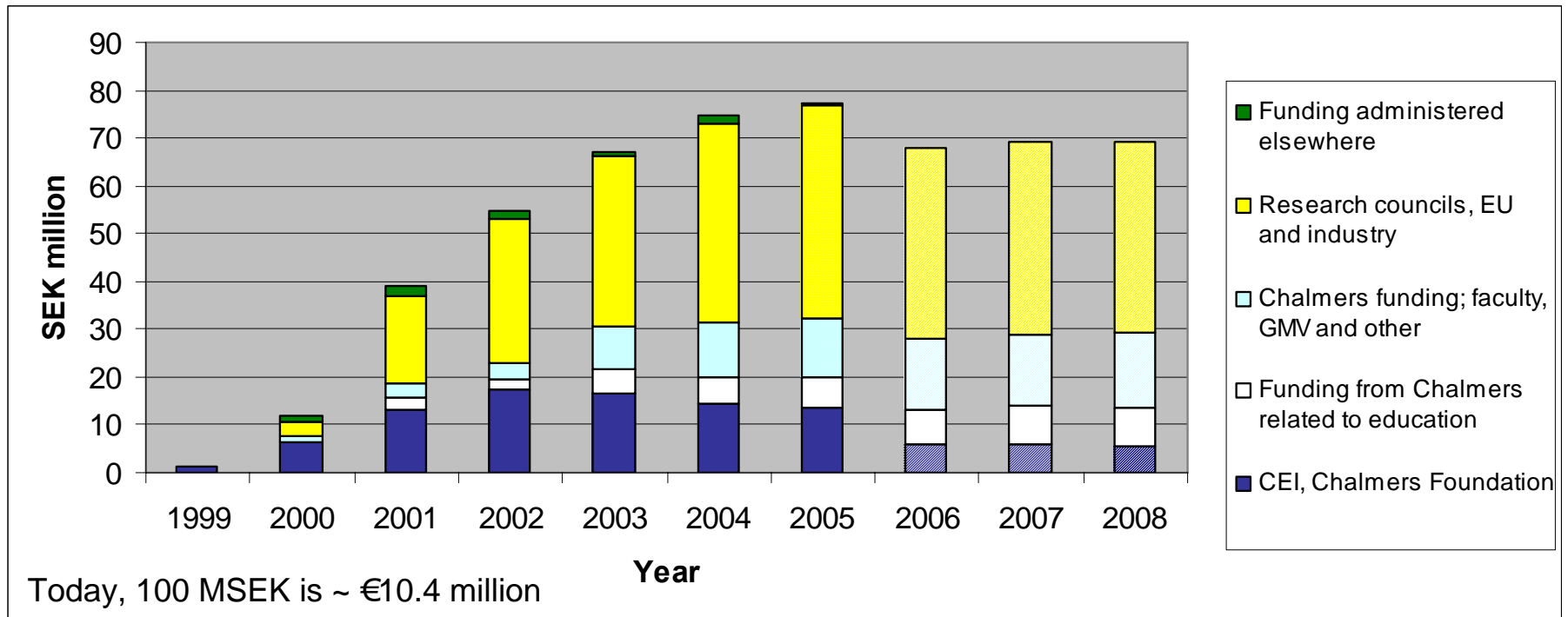
The CEI funding is used as "scientific venture capital", which has allowed the research groups to try new ideas and enter new areas.

# CEI Funding



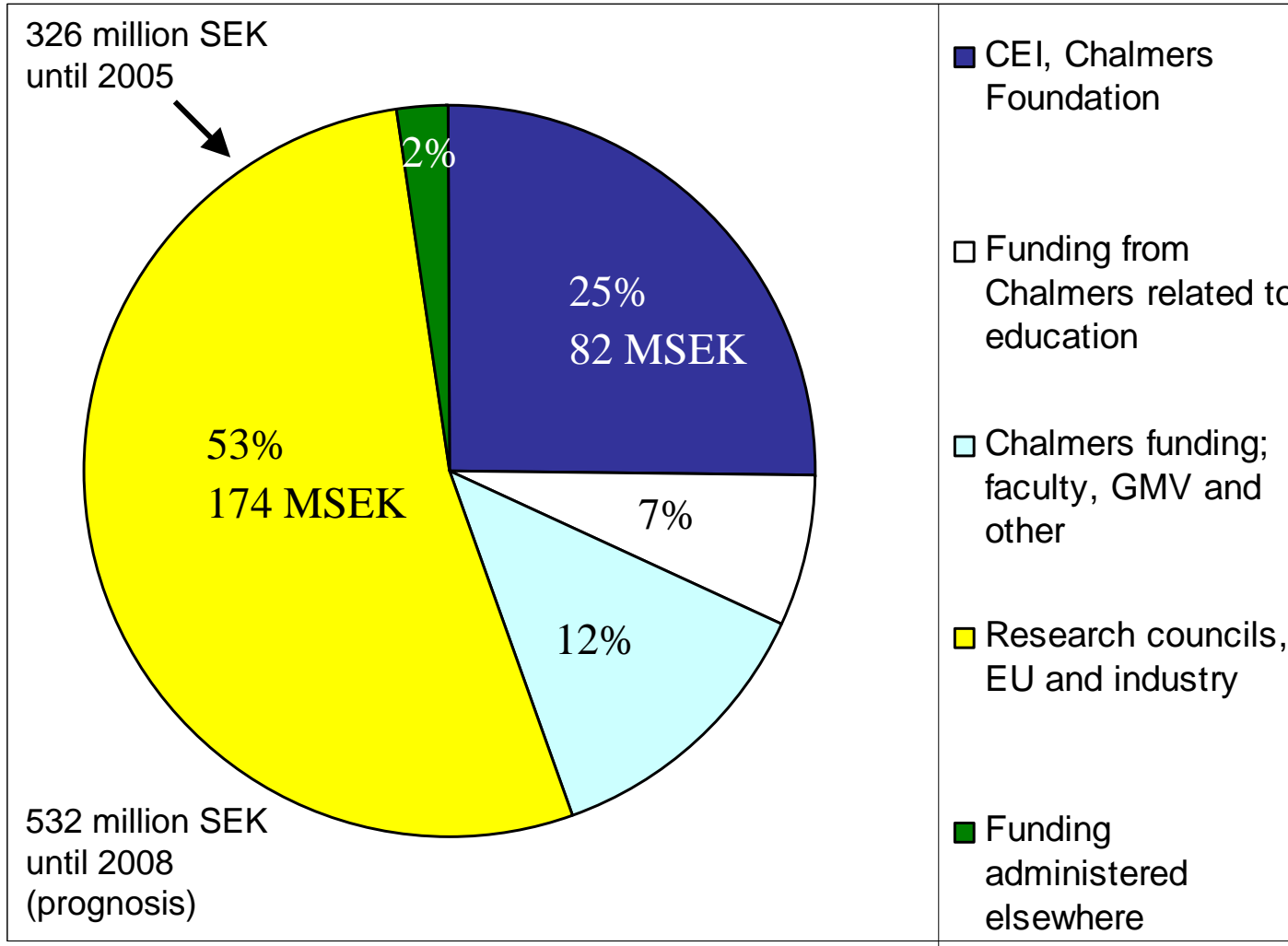
Today, 100 MSEK is ~ €10.4 million

# CEI funding



Real outcome for 1999 until 2005 and a forecast for 2006 until 2008.

# Funding until 2005



# Positive effects of CEI

- Positive impact on Chalmers.
- Credibility and identity within the area.
- CEI funding as "scientific venture capital" has allowed the research groups to enter new areas.
- Bridging between scientific areas.
- Facilitated active participation in important international cooperations.
- Attracted additional funding.
- Good publicity and increased visibility.



Chalmers Environmental Initiative

# Key elements

## General

Strategic investment related to Chalmers policy documents and the Foundation

Strong support and consistent management Pres., Mngmnt, Foundat.

Real impact on Chalmers research and education for long-terms effects

## Academic

Enough "free" money and time to make (new) things happen

Mutual interest and driving forces. No conflict between CEI-project and other undertaknings

Personal academic freedom vs project loyalty

## Project support

Governance and transparency Basic conditions known (less argumentation)

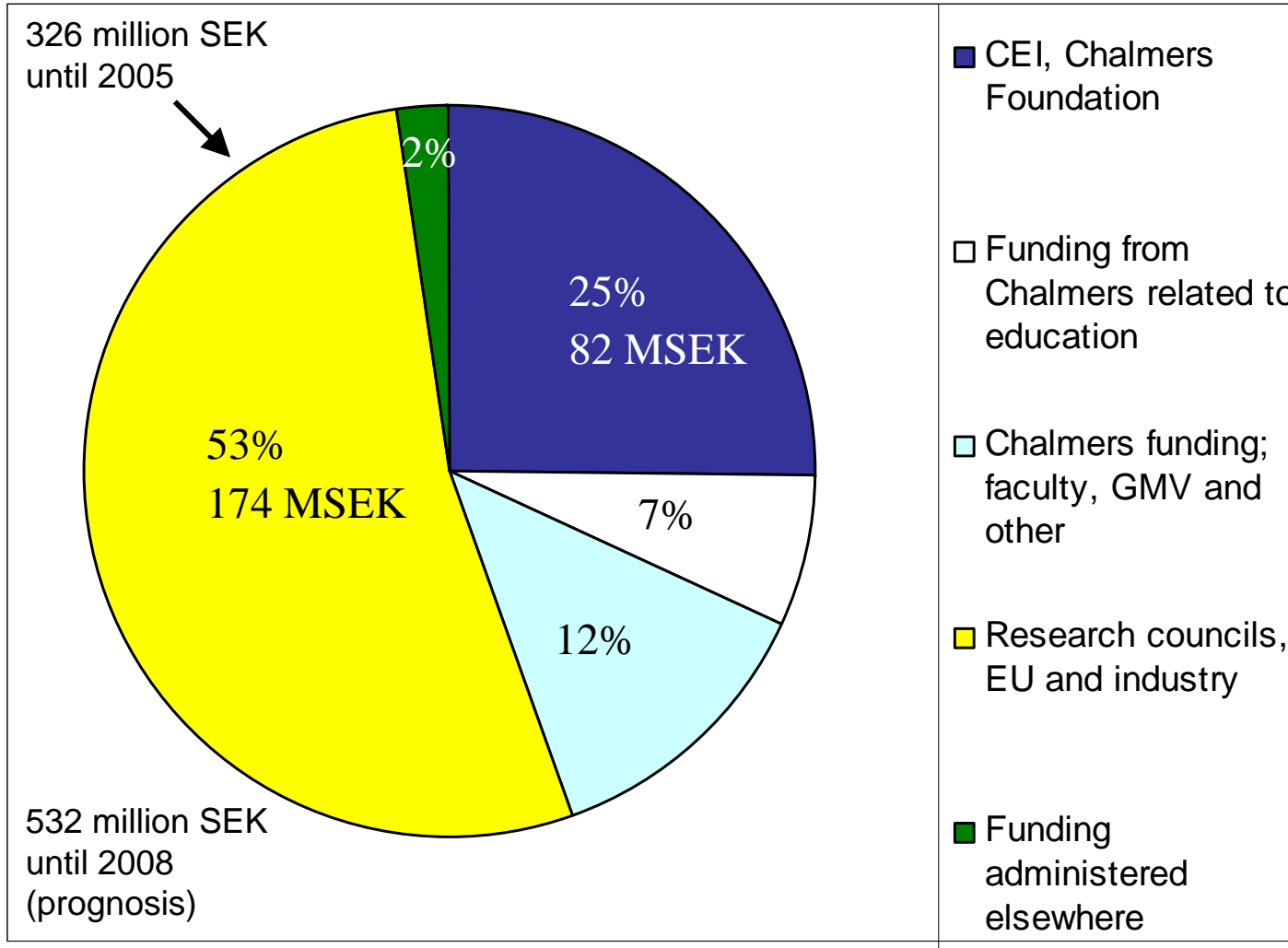
Plan for integration into regular activities after project ending

Additional values for the CEI-professors, for their groups, and for Chalmers



Chalmers Environmental Initiative

# Funding until 2005





**Boosting R&D investment**

**Increased freedom of scientific content and partners**

**—► the individual scientist will use his/her creativity in the best way possible**

**CEI**

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