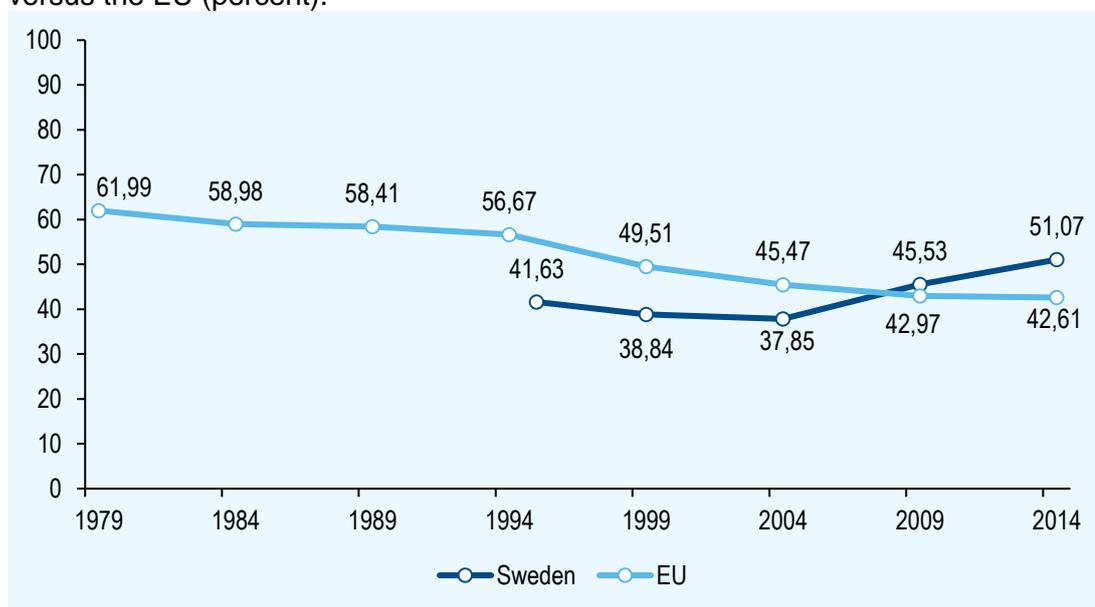


# Sweden a trend breaker regarding electoral turnout

While the total turnout in the European Parliament elections is decreasing in the EU, the turnout in Sweden is increasing steadily, especially since the election in 2004. The last election in 2014 showed the highest turnout result for Sweden so far, 51,07 percent. Since the 2009 election, the Swedish turnout has also been higher than the average in the EU, even though the turnout in the European Parliament elections is lower than the turnout in national elections (Berg & Oscarsson, 2015). The Swedish development with an increase in turnout for the European Parliament elections is trend breaking since the average turnout in the EU has been decreasing since the first election in 1979. At that point, the turnout was at 62 percent, while the turnout in 2014 was 42,61 percent, a decrease of nearly 20 percentage points. One explanation for this development is the enlargement of the EU from 12 to 28 Member States. Some of the newer Member States have generally had lower turnouts for both national and European Parliament elections.

Figure 1. Electoral turnout in the European Parliament elections 1979-2014. Sweden versus the EU (percent).



Source: TNS/ScytI in cooperation with the [European Parliament](#).

Comments: Turnout in European Parliament elections is calculated as the total number of votes cast in all Member States as a percentage of the total number of registered voters in those countries at actual time of the election. Since the number of member states in the EU has increased over time, from 12 to 28, the number of number of registered voter has also increased significant. The Swedish turnout is calculated as the total number of votes cast as a percentage of the total number of registered voter in Sweden at actual time of the elections.

## Referenser

Berg, Linda & Oscarsson, Henrik (2015) *Supervalåret 2014*. Demokratistatistik, rapport nr 20. Stockholm: Statistiska Centralbyrån (SCB)