

Formas communication call 2021 - 2

Opening Date: 28 September 2021, 14:00 CET

Application Deadline: 16 November 2021, 14:00 CET

Date of Decision: 27 April 2022, preliminary

Which of Formas' subject areas does the call relate to?

- Climate change
- Food and animals
- Buildings and infrastructure
- Research policy and funding
- Environment, water and ecology
- Forestry, water use and agriculture
- Spatial planning, urban and rural areas

Which of the sustainable development goals does the call relate to?

- 1. No poverty
- 2. Zero hunger
- 3. Good health and well-being
- 4. Quality education for all
- 5. Gender equality
- 6. Clean water and sanitation
- 7. Affordable and clean energy
- 8. Decent work and economic growth
- 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- 10. Reduced inequalities
- 11. Sustainable cities and communities
- 12. Responsible consumption and production
- 13. Climate action
- 14. Life below water
- 15. Life on land
- 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
- 17. Partnerships for the goals

		
<p>WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR?</p>	<p>WHO CAN APPLY?</p>	<p>HOW MUCH CAN YOU APPLY FOR?</p>
<p>Projects that communicate and popularise research on sustainable development within Formas' areas of responsibility and that contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals in Agenda 2030.</p>	<p>Higher education institutions, research institutes, private companies (except sole proprietors) and other organisations. The project team must have expertise within both professional communication and research.</p>	<p>You can apply for a grant for projects that run for up to 36 months. The maximum funding for a project is 1.8 million kronor.</p>

Revision history

Any changes to the call text are listed below.

Date	Change

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Description of the call

Introduction (lead paragraph on website)

Formas has earmarked a total of 20 million kronor to fund communication projects about sustainable development research. The purpose is to support projects that communicate and popularise sustainable development research so that the results can have a real-world impact in society. The projects must be related to one of Formas' areas of responsibility – environment, agricultural sciences or spatial planning – and must contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Agenda 2030. You can apply for a grant for projects that run for up to 36 months. The maximum funding for a project is 1.8 million kronor.

Background

Formas is tasked with communicating research and research results within our areas of responsibility. Since 2015, we have been issuing special communication calls for proposals as part of achieving the real-world impact of research and research results.

Purpose and focus

The purpose of the communication call is to support projects that communicate and popularise sustainable development research in order to achieve real-world impact in society.

The communication projects must be related to one of Formas' areas of responsibility – the environment, agricultural sciences or spatial planning – and must contribute to achieving [the SDGs in Agenda 2030](#). This includes communication projects about the climate, environment, circular economy, consumption, agriculture, aquaculture, forestry or sustainable spatial and urban planning.

Through the call, Formas wishes to enable creative solutions that spread knowledge about sustainability to relevant target groups.

In previous calls, applications have involved exhibition production, film production, theatre production, works of art, various kinds of publications, digital educational materials, games, popular science seminars and other communication activities.

Who can apply under this call

Higher education institutions, research institutes, private companies, municipalities and other organisations can apply for a grant under the call. Note that Formas does not award grants to enterprises that are sole proprietorships, so applications from sole proprietorships will be rejected.

Private companies and other organisations engaged in economic activity that want to apply for grants from Formas are subject to [state aid regulations for companies and other organisations engaged in economic activity](#). See the webpage section “Provisions on de minimis aid”.

Before you apply

All information about the contents of an application, the application process and the assessment process is described in the sections below.

Applicant and organisation requirements

The organisation that will receive and administer the funds Formas pays out to an awarded project is called an administrating organisation. Formas distinguishes between administrating organisations that can receive funds in all Formas calls, and administrating organisations that can be approved to receive funds in an individual call. Higher education institutions, government agencies with research assignments and most research institutes are approved as administrating organisations in all Formas calls. Most other public and private organisations must receive individual approval as an administrating organisation.

[Who can become an administrating organisation?](#)

Private companies and other organisations engaged in economic activity that want to apply for a grant from Formas are subject to [state aid rules](#). See the webpage section “Provisions on de minimis aid”.

All projects seeking funding from Formas must have a responsible project manager and be carried out by the people listed in the application.

The administrating organisation must have a Swedish corporate identity number.

In order to secure both the scientific and the communicative quality of the output, we require that the project team has both research expertise and communication expertise.

At least one person who has studied communications at the university level or has equivalent professional experience in communications must be a member of the project team. In addition, at least one researcher with a PhD degree, or a scientific committee, must be associated with the project.

Costs that qualify for funding

When you apply for project funding, you can apply for a grant to cover both direct and indirect costs. Direct costs include, for example, staff expenses. Indirect costs are costs that are shared with others in your organisation, such as for administration, IT and renting of premises. Indirect costs are sometimes called overhead.

We do not award grants for an organisation’s regular communication efforts, or for internal courses or projects that mainly relate to an organisation’s own educational activities. The grant must therefore be clearly linked to the project you wish to fund and must be used to fund activities that are not part of your ordinary activities or operations.

Grant amount and project duration

In Formas' communication call, a project can apply for a maximum of 1,800,000 kronor, for a maximum of 36 months. Projects must start sometime between June 2022 and December 2022. We disburse the awarded funds once a month.

Information to companies and organisations engaged in economic activity involving the [de minimis aid rules](#) as well as [grant terms and conditions](#) are available on the Formas website. Note that the de minimis aid rules do not apply to higher education institutions, research institutes or other generally approved administrating organisations.

At a later stage of the process, companies and organisations engaged in economic activity must submit proof of de minimis aid in order to qualify for a grant in this call. Formas will notify the relevant organisations when this statement of proof is due. The statement should indicate the extent of the de minimis aid received, including the amount sought in the call. The reporting must cover the current tax year and the two preceding tax years. In total, the de minimis aid received by the organisation during this period must not exceed EUR 200,000 (approximately 2 million kronor). Prior to any decision, we also conduct credit checks on all companies and financial activities that may be relevant to the awarding of a grant.

Language

We recommend that you write your application in Swedish, since the review panel that will assess your application is Swedish-speaking. You can write your application in English, but it will then be translated into Swedish prior to assessment. Abstracts should be available in both Swedish and English.

Who can read the application?

According to Swedish law, your application and its appendices are considered as general public documents once they have been submitted to us. This means that anyone can request and read your application. Information can only be concealed if it is confidential as defined in the Public Access to Information and Confidentiality Act (2009:400).

Formas has limited possibilities to keep personal data confidential. Therefore, your application should not contain the personal data of anyone who is not included in the application.

The popular science description and project abstracts in Swedish and English will, if the project is awarded funding, be published in open-access project databases without a confidentiality review. Therefore, the contents of these fields should not contain sensitive information.

Environmental considerations when planning your project

We at Formas are eager to fund projects that maximise positive and minimise negative impacts on the environment and climate. We therefore encourage grant applicants to design their projects so that collaboration takes place primarily through online meetings and that any necessary travel takes

place in a climate-smart way. We also suggest that you include measures that minimise energy use and other resource consumption, emissions and waste in project planning. However, this will not be part of the assessment of your application at this time.

Please read about [Formas' own sustainability work](#).

How to apply

You apply in Prisma

You apply for a grant in our application system, Prisma, where you add the information needed for your application.

Personal account

In order to fill in information in the application, you need a personal account in Prisma. Apply for this in good time.

[Apply for a personal account in Prisma](#).

Organisation account

The organisation that will receive and administer the funds Formas pays out to an awarded project is called an administrating organisation in Formas' application system. At the time of application, the organisation must have an organisation account.

Formas distinguishes between administrating organisations that can receive funds in all Formas calls, and administrating organisations that can be approved to receive funds in an individual call. In this call, we welcome applicants from both groups.

Applicants from administrating organisations approved for all Formas calls

Higher education institutions, most research institutes and government agencies with research assignments are approved as administrating organisations for all Formas calls and already have an organisation account.

Applicants from administrating organisations who must be individually approved

Most other public and private organisations must be individually approved as administrating organisations in this call. These organisations must have an organisation account with Formas. If the organisation already has an account in Prisma, contact the responsible research officer [Kenneth Nilsson](#) to add the organisation to the list of possible administrating organisations in the call. This applies even if the organisation has applied for funding in other Formas calls.

If your organisation does not have an account in Prisma, an appropriate representative should apply for the organisation account on the Prisma website. Apply in good time before the call closes, **at least a week before the call closes**.

In the reason for the application, state that you are applying under Formas' communications call 2021-2 and state the type of organisation and the organisation's corporate identity number.

[Apply for an organisation account in Prisma.](#)

If you do not know whether your organisation has an account, contact research officer [Kenneth Nilsson](#).

- Domicile

To be able to register an application, a domicile within the organisation must be specified. This can be an institute or a department, for example. The person who manages the organisation account must create a structure of units and sub-units (domiciles) in two levels. If the organisation does not have departments, specify a subunit that has the same name as the organisation. For information on how to do this, see [Prisma's user support](#).

Information your application must include

All limits for the maximum number of characters refer to characters including spaces. We recommend that you choose the Arial font in font size 12 for the information you enter in all text boxes.

Your application must include a clear description of the project under the following sections:

Basic information

- **Number of months** applied for.
- **Start month**
- **Project title** in Swedish and English (max. 200 characters including spaces).
- **Popular science description** in Swedish (max. 4,500 characters including spaces). If the project is awarded a grant, the popular science description will be published in open-access project databases without a confidentiality review. The contents of this field should therefore not contain sensitive information.
- **Abstract** in Swedish and English (max. 1,500 characters each including spaces). A brief and clear description of the project and its objectives. The abstract must include an explanation of and information about the communication channels, selection of target groups, and the research to be communicated. Also include the result you expect the project to produce. Project abstracts for awarded projects will be published in open-access project databases without a confidentiality review. Therefore, the contents of these fields should not contain sensitive information.
- **Area of responsibility:**
Choose one of Formas' areas of responsibility that the project mainly relates to:

- 1) Environment
- 2) Agricultural sciences
- 3) Spatial planning

Project description – Societal relevance (max. 3,500 characters including spaces)

Describe the societal challenge that the project intends to highlight and why it is important to conduct the communication project. State how the research on which the project is based is relevant to solving the challenge.

Describe how the project is relevant to one or more of Formas' areas of responsibility: environment, agricultural sciences and spatial planning. Also describe how the project can contribute to achieving the sustainable development goals in Agenda 2030 – preferably with reasoning at the SDG target level.

Project description – Research quality (max. 3,500 characters including spaces)

Describe the research underpinning the communication project and include reasoning about the current state of research on the theme. Refer to published reports, scientific articles or other references relevant to the project (maximum 5 references, preferably with links).

Project description – Goals, communication activities, target groups and communication channel (max. 3,500 characters including spaces)

Describe the goals of the project. Explain the reason behind the choice of target groups and communication activities. Why is it important for the selected target groups to take part of what you want to convey, and how can the chosen communication channels best reach, engage or affect these groups?

Creative solutions are given priority if they strengthen the project's ability to reach, engage or affect the target groups.

Describe how you plan to measure and follow up on the project's goals.

Project description – Implementation, timetable and qualifications (max. 3,500 characters including spaces)

Describe how you will organise the work in the project and include a timetable of planned tasks.

Describe the communication and research skills involved in the project and how they contribute to achieving the project's objectives. Upload a complete list of project team members in Prisma under the heading Participants.

Take gender equality, equity and diversity into account when composing your project team and implementing the project.

Budget and other information

You report the project budget and other information about your organisation in Prisma. This should be the same organisation as the one you specify as the administrating organisation. Write out the total amount in kronor using digits. For example, 1 million kronor should be written as: 1 000 000 kronor. The following information must be stated in the project budget.

Information about the organisation

- Name of the organisation
- Corporate identity number
- Address, postal code, city, country
- Annual turnover (the total sales or turnover of the higher education institution, research institute, company or organisation during the previous fiscal year), stated using digits. Example: 3 500 000.
- Balance sheet total (the sum of either the assets page or liabilities and equity from the company's or organisation's balance sheet), stated using digits. Example: 5 500 000.
- Number of employees
- Contact person
- E-mail of contact person
- Name of the workplace, address, postal code, city and country where most of the work will be carried out.

Costs

- **Staff expenses:** Eligible staff expenses for companies and other organisations conducting economic activity may be estimated at a maximum of 800 kronor per hour. Higher education institutions or research institutes are not subject to this limitation. The amount that employees of higher education institutions or research institutes may be awarded must not exceed 100% of full-time employment. So, someone who already has full salary funding from any funding source cannot receive additional salary funding. Researchers who are full-time pensioners cannot receive funding for their own salary.
- **Equipment, buildings and land:** The total maximum amount you can be granted for equipment and equipment depreciation costs is 500,000 kronor. However, this is usually not relevant for communication calls.
- **Consultancy and licensing costs:** For the costs of consultancy services and licenses to be eligible for funding, they must be purchased or licensed from external actors at market prices, and their services and scope must be stated in the project description.
- **Other direct costs:** Other direct costs can include the cost of consumables, travel, conferences and publication fees for open-access journals and databases.

- **Indirect costs:** Higher education institutions and research institutes may charge a markup for indirect costs according to the applicable full-cost pricing method. Other project participants may charge a markup for indirect costs of up to 30 percent of their eligible staff expenses. Formas does not grant funds for overhead on costs that you write off for equipment or for premises.

Funding

There are four types of funding an applicant can specify in the application:

- **Applied funding from Formas:** Indicates the amount requested from Formas under the call. The amount cannot exceed the total costs. If the amount applied for less than the total costs, the remaining amounts will be automatically calculated and reported under “Self-funding”.
- **Other funding (state):** If Formas or another public funder has provided funding for related projects. Not normally used in the communication call.
- **Other funding (private):** If another private company or organisation has provided funding for the project. Not normally used in the communication call.
- **Self-finance:** If the project party contributes its own funding, this is calculated automatically and displayed in the field for self-funding. However, self-finance is optional in the communication call.

Justification for staff expenses in budget

Here, you specify the average staff cost per hour. Staff expenses refer to salaries including social security contributions and other mandatory charges associated with salaries. (Maximum 500 characters including spaces.)

Budget specification

Here the principal applicant should explain and motivate the budget in writing and state the overhead costs included in the application. Formas does not grant funding for overhead costs that you write off for equipment or premises.

You also specify any consultancy costs and the scope of the consultant’s participation. The applicant is encouraged to clearly describe all costs related to the project activities. (Maximum 9,000 characters including spaces.)

Ethical considerations

You should specify whether or not there are specific ethical concerns in your project. If so, state what these ethical concerns are and how you plan to manage them. Examples include research that uses personal data or research involving experiments on humans or animals.

If you are conducting research on people, human tissue or are processing sensitive personal data, you must obtain ethical approval from the Swedish Ethical Review Authority. If you are conducting an animal experiment, you also need to obtain ethical approval. You can apply for approval through the Swedish Board of Agriculture's online service.

You should state in your application whether or not you have obtained ethical approval. If you have not obtained such approval and you are awarded a grant, you must obtain it before the described studies begin.

Even if you do not expect your research to involve ethical concerns, you should state this in your application and briefly explain why not.

Classifications

Formas uses the project's classifications in analyses and supporting documentation on an overall level. The classifications are made when the applicant states the subject area, research topic (SCB code), at least one sustainable development goal the project can contribute to, and keywords.

- **Subject area**

Select the project's subject area and add a sub-heading.

- **Research topic (SCB code)**

Select at least one research topic and two sublevels that together form the entire code.

- **Sustainable development goals**

Select at least one and maximum three sustainable development goals (SDGs) the project can help to achieve, in order of relevance.

[More about the meaning of the goals](#)

- **Keywords**

Enter at least one and a maximum of three keywords describing the project.

Administrating organisation – the organisation receiving the grant

The organisation that will receive and administer the awarded funds that Formas pays out is called the administrating organisation.

- Select the administrating organisation from the dropdown list. If you cannot find the organisation, see the "Organisation account" heading under "How to apply".
- Select the domicile from the dropdown list. If you cannot find the correct domicile, see "Applicants from administrating organisations who must be individually approved" under "How to apply".

Participants

Report all project participants including their name, organisation and their role in the project. Also include the individuals who sit on a scientific committee associated with the project, if applicable. Fill in the information in the linked table, save the document as a PDF file, and upload under the mandatory appendices in Prisma. You can only upload files in PDF format in Prisma. (max. 4 MB) [List of participants](#).

CVs

Add the CVs for all project participants as a combined PDF of a maximum of 10 MB. We recommend a maximum length of two A4 pages per CV. It is not possible to link to already registered CVs via Prisma, which is otherwise often possible in calls for research project funding. This is so that we can make an equal assessment of applications and CVs from different types of organisations.

List of publications

It is possible to add lists of the participants' relevant publications (scientific or popular science) as a single PDF in "Other appendices". (max. 4 MB). Maximum 5 publications per person.

Appendices

It is also possible to upload appendices that can aid in understanding the project, such as illustrations, images or sketches. Upload any attachments as a single PDF (max. 10 MB). Maximum five A4 pages.

After submitting your application

Verification of the application

First, Formas verifies that the application meets the formal requirements set out in the call. If the application does not meet these requirements, it is rejected.

The following requirements will be verified in this call:

- The administrating organisation has signed the application. This must be done within seven calendar days after the call closes.
- The application has been approved by the administrating organisation.
- The application's focus falls within Formas' areas of responsibility.
- The focus of the application falls within the call's areas.

- The application is complete and contains all mandatory information.
- The requirements for project managers, project participants and organisations under “Applicant and organisation requirements” are met.
- The principal applicant responsible for other projects or activities funded by Formas has submitted any requested reports by the stated deadline.

How does the assessment process work?

Applications in the communication call are evaluated by an external review panel composed of experienced communication specialists and researchers within Formas’ areas of responsibility. The assessments are made based on the contents of your application. It is therefore important to write the application as clearly as possible and include all important and relevant information. Several people will assess each application.

The applications are assessed based on the following criteria.

Societal relevance

- The societal challenge the project addresses is important to solve, and the research on which the project is based is relevant to solving the challenge.
- It is important that the target group takes part of the research results.
- The project’s expected results contribute in the long term to achieving one or more of the SDGs.

Research quality

- The project is well grounded in the research it is based on.
- The project’s description addresses the current state of research in the field.
- The application refers to published reports, scientific articles or other sources relevant to the project.

Goals, communication activities, target groups and communication channel

- The project’s goals are described well and are relevant.
- Identified target groups, channels and activities are relevant for the desired result.
- The communication activity has creative quality.
- There is a relevant plan for monitoring the project’s goals.

Implementation, timetable and qualifications

- The application has a plan that is appropriate to achieve the project’s objectives.

- The timetable and budgeted costs are reasonable and appropriate in relation to the project's objectives.
- The resources, skills and experiences required to complete the project are relevant and clearly described in the application. This applies both to the communication and the research.
- The project design addresses gender equality, equity and diversity perspectives in a relevant way.

Grant award decisions

Decisions on which projects are granted funding are expected to be taken on 27 April 2022. We publish our decisions the following day at the latest on the Formas website and later by email from Prisma. Grant award decisions cannot be appealed. [Read more about receiving your funding decision.](#)

Reporting for granted projects

All awarded projects must submit a report to Formas containing financial and project results within three months of the end of the availability period. For projects longer than 18 months, a financial statement must also be submitted to Formas annually. All reports are submitted in Prisma.

[Financial reporting in Prisma](#)

Formas may impose requirements on how projects must be reported in terms of content and results to enable distribution and application. In such cases, the award decision will contain more information about this. Formas may also require you to participate in conferences and similar events in order to create synergies and platforms for learning and knowledge sharing.

Support and shortcuts

- [Prisma](#)
- [Prisma's user support](#)

Contact information

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