FORMAS

Webinar

28 January 2026

Formas' Career Grant 2026

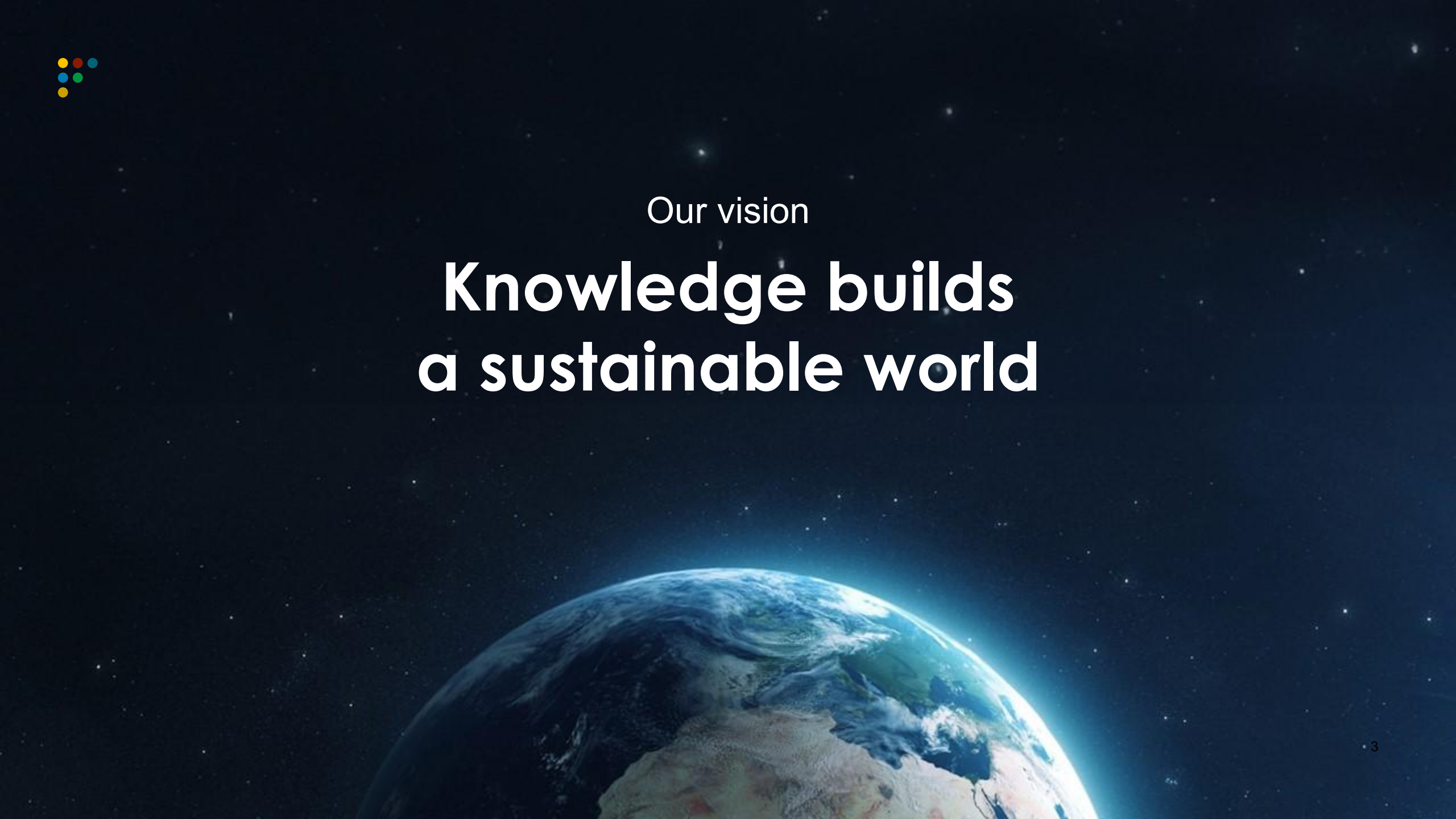
Therese Woodhill and Lucas Du Priest

What to expect today?

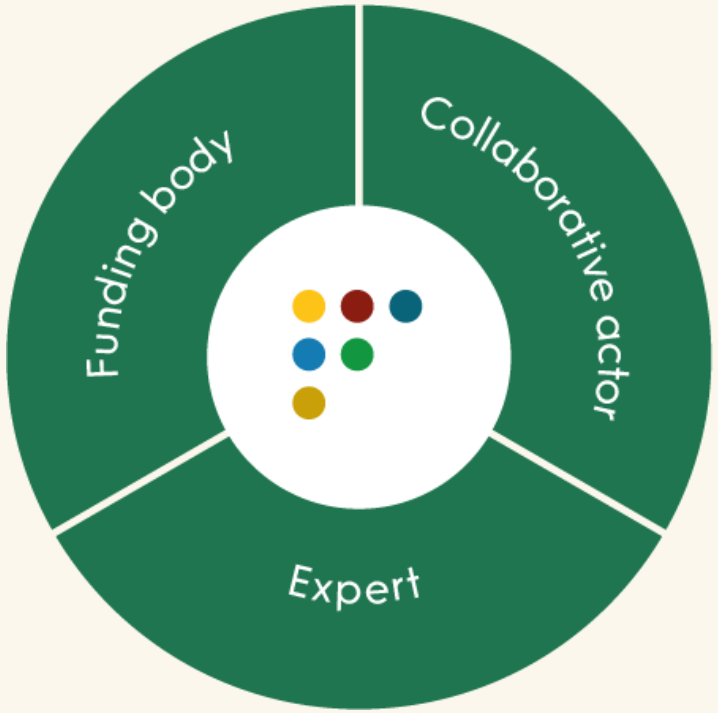
1. About Formas
2. About the call
   - Purpose and focus area
   - Budget and project period
   - Applicant requirements
   - Mobility
   - Home and host organisation
   - Letters off support
   - CV and academic profile
3. Short overview of the evaluation process
4. Questions

Our vision

Knowledge builds a sustainable world



Formas acts in various roles



Funding body
Funds innovative research and innovation of the highest scientific quality with societal relevance.

Collaborative actor
Mobilize social actors for joint commitments to sustainable transition.

Expert
Develop, analyze, compile, and communicate knowledge.

Formas' areas of responsibility

Environment

Agricultural sciences

Spatial planning

Our knowledge areas

Biodiversity and ecosystems

Oceans and water

Climate

Chemically safe environment

Food and agriculture

Forests

Resource use

Housing and built environment

Spatial planning and infrastructure

Overarching perspectives on sustainable development

FORMAS

Career grant for Early-career researchers

Purpose and aim

- Support early-career researchers in two critical stages of their career development.
- Strenghtening the researcher’s competence in leading and running one’s own project and contributing to relevant research of the highest scientific quality.

Focus area

- Clear connection to at least **one of Formas' areas of responsibility** (Environment, Agriculture sciences, and Spatial planning)
- Whether an application falls within the scope of the call can only be made based on a complete application.

Who is eligible to apply?

- **Target group:** Researchers early in their career with a doctoral degree.
- **Career age -** two tracks:
  - **0-3 years** – doctoral degree issued January 1, 2023* - October 1, 2026
  - **4-7 years** – doctoral degree issued January 1, 2019* - December 31, 2022.

** Deductible time: parental leave, longer illness (sick leave or care of child/relative), military service, appointed or elected position within a political organisation, trade union, or student organisation*

Who is eligible to apply?

- One application per applicant in one of the tracks.
- Project leader can’t have an ongoing project grant during 2027 in the calls:
  - Mobility grant for early-career researchers
  - Yearly open call: Research projects, Research projects for early-career researchers
  - The Career grant for early-career researchers
  - Explore – Formas’ open call for research projects
- New! If you send in an application in the career grant call, you can not apply in the Explore call 2026.

Budget and project period

- **Project period:** 3 or 4 years
- **Budget:** 1,5 million SEK/year on average (max 4,5 mkr or 6 mkr)
- **Start date:** 1 January 2027

Costs you can apply for

Salary: funding for your own salary (can never exceed 100% of full-time employment)

Indirect costs: Administration, IT, rent etc

Running costs: travel, accommodation, additional cost supplement, consumables, technical know-how, consulting services etc

Equipment and depreciation costs

Premises: if not already included in the overhead cost

Applicant requirements

- **Researcher mobility:** national and/or international
- **Activity level in the project:** minimum 60%
- **Individual grant**, no co-applicants
- Applicant must be **employed by the home organisation** during the whole project period (not when applying).

Researcher mobility

- **Purpose:** Change of environment strengthens the quality of research and creates conditions for good career paths.
- **Aim:** To broaden your perspectives and expand your network.

Researcher mobility

Mandatory requirement: National and/or international researcher mobility to at least one research environment other than your home organisation.

Optional: Mobility to other types of organisations, such as public sector, private sector, civil society etc.

Total length of mobility stays:

- **3-year projects:** minimum 4 months, maximum 24 months.
- **4-year projects:** minimum 5 months, maximum 32 months.

Flexibility:

- Stays may be divided to multiple periods
- No requirement for length per individual stay
- Plan mobility according to your own needs and that of the project

Home organisation - requirements

- A Swedish higher education institution, research institute, or government agency with a research mission.
- Is the administrating organisation of the awarded grant.
- Is your employer and pays your salary throughout the project period

Home organisation - expected support

- Provide infrastructure and necessary conditions for you to conduct the project
- Provide you with good opportunities to develop your research and take the next step in your career development
- Enable you to be part of and contribute to your home organisation’s activities

Host organisation(s) - requirements

- Research environment in Sweden or abroad – cannot be same as your home organization.
- Choose host organisation(s) that can contribute to your project AND your career development
- Should not charge bench fees or similar

Host organisation(s) – International mobility

- Discuss how you might be employed with a stationing abroad (such as with a URA agreement or equivalent) with your host organisation before applying.
- Check how Swedish migration law might affect your possibilities to stay abroad.
- Check whether your citizenship affects your possibilities to stay abroad and to which countries

Letters of support

The letters of support are mandatory and a part of the assessment.

Home organisation letter should include:

- How will they support you during the project
- How support your career development
- Long-term ambitions for your career path

Host organisation letter should include:

- statement to welcome you and your planned research as host organisation
- description of organisation's academic position, its collaborations and ambition for continued collaboration
- statement on how the researcher and planned research will contribute to and be part of the research and expertise of the research group and institution concerned.
- assurance that necessary facilities, resources, infrastructure etc is available to the applicant.

CV and Academic Profile

CV divided into two parts:

- **CV:** information about your education working life, publications, merits and awards - *from personal account in Prisma*
- **Academic profile:** description of your academic profile and your merits and contributions to advancing knowledge relating to the project – form available in Prisma

Evaluation process

- Reviewers (researchers and stakeholders) assess applications
- Score applications according to four assessment criteria
- Each assessment criteria gets awarded points
- 7-point scale

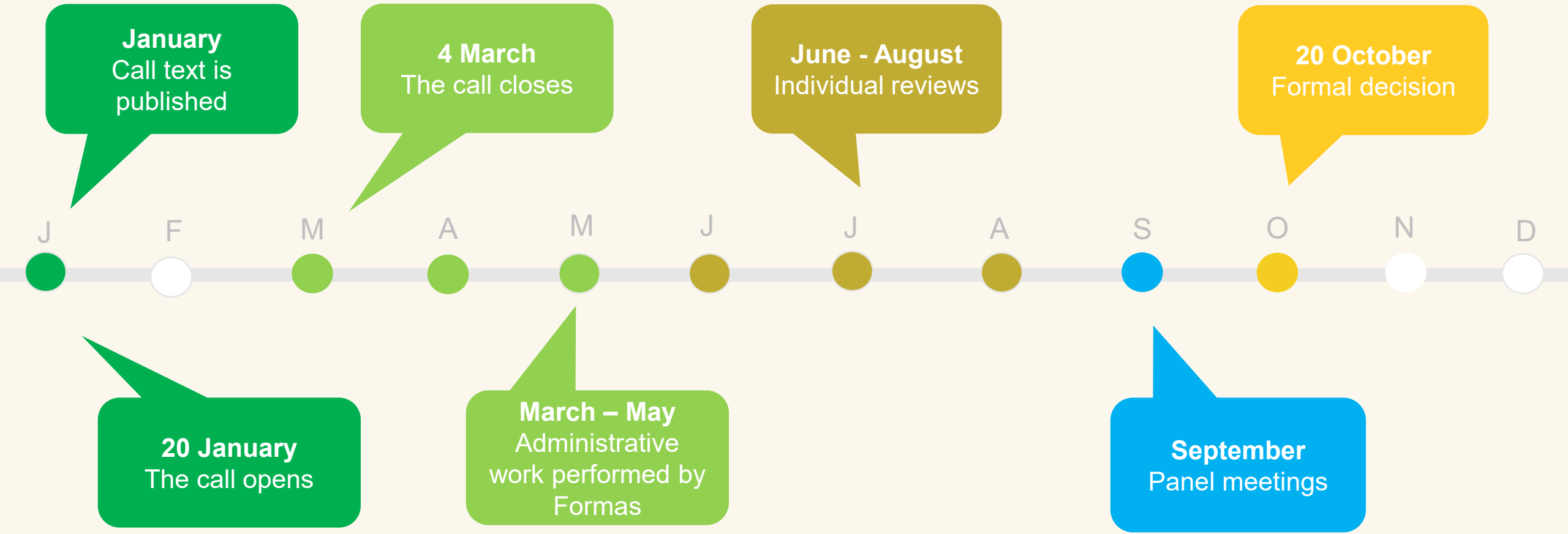
Assessment criteria

- The expected knowledge contribution
- Skills, qualifications, and career development
- Implementation plan with participating organisations and stakeholders
- Societal relevance

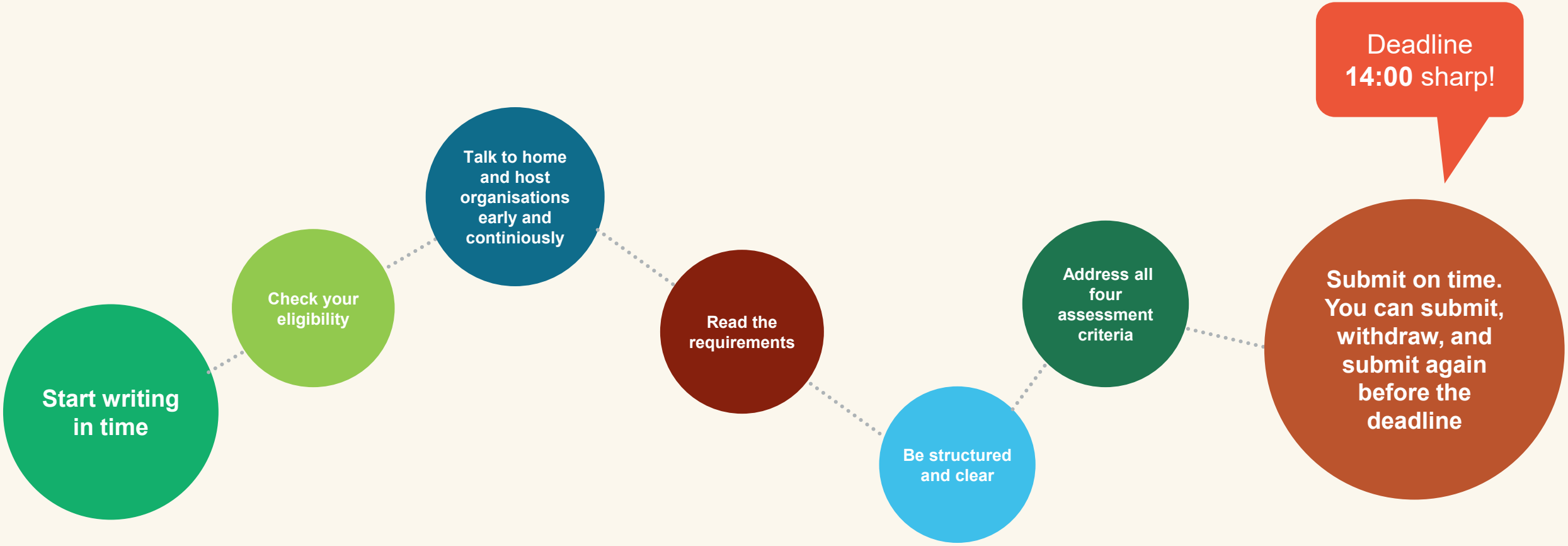
Review panels

- We will form review panels bottom-up, based on the content of the application, to improve the quality and fairness of the review process
- We will use a clustering tool to support the formation of the review panels.

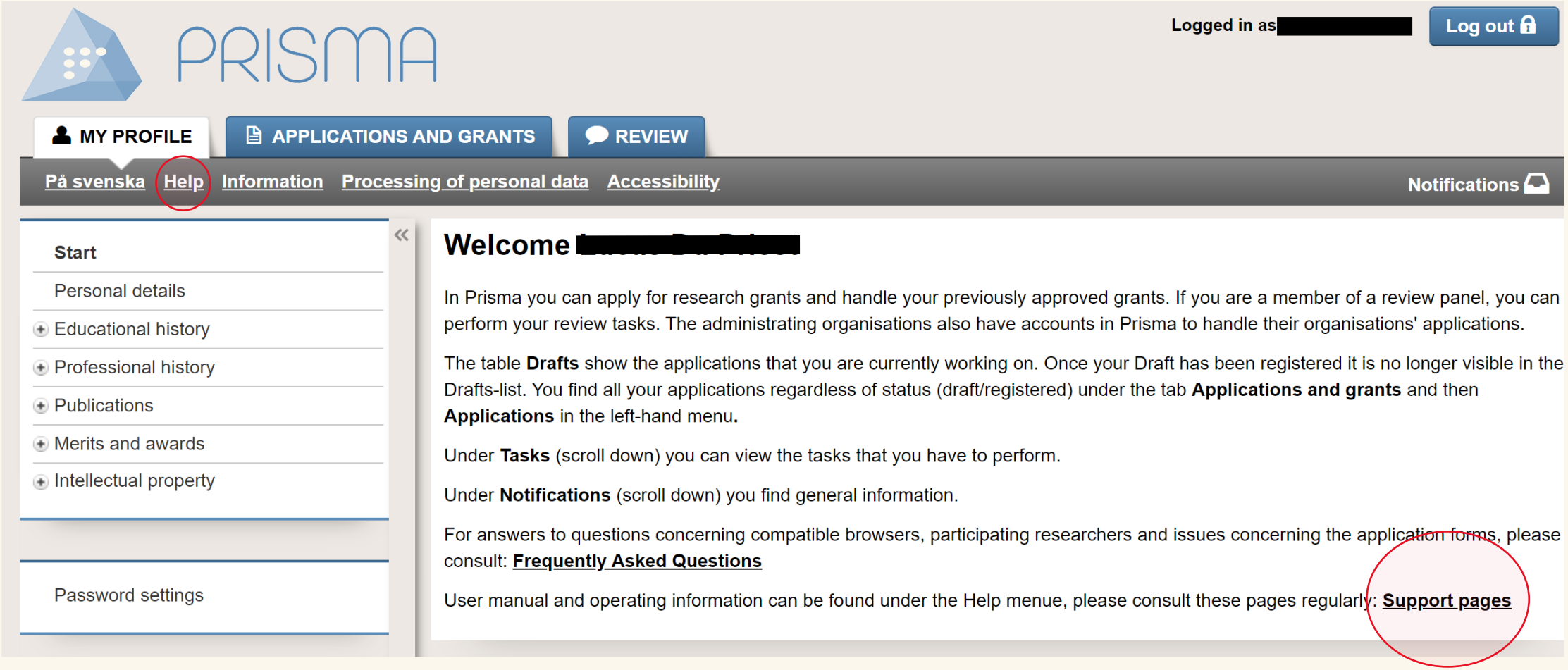
Timeline 2026



Advice when applying



Having Prisma issues?

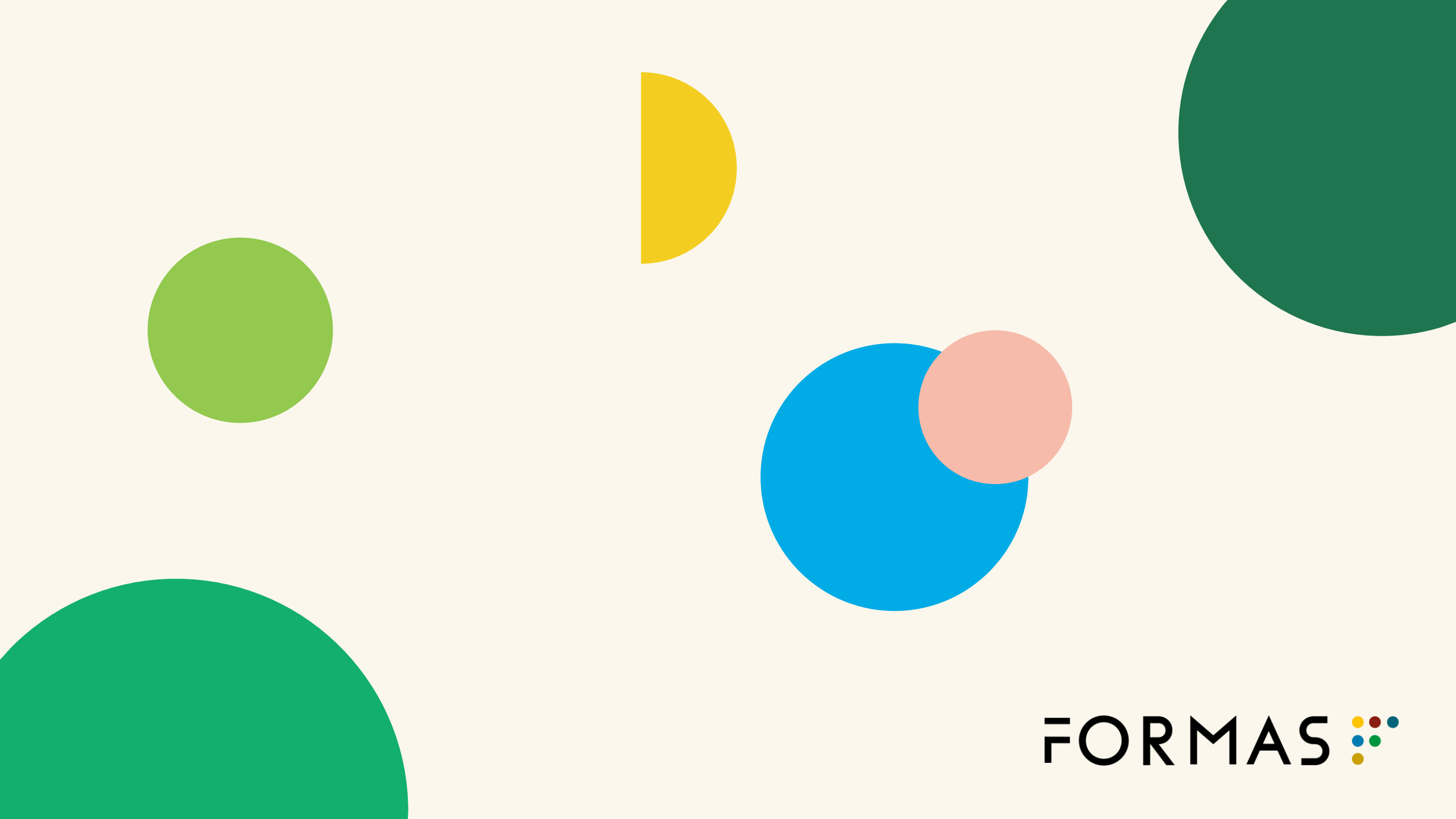


Need help in your application process?

- Grants Office
- FAQ: Frequently asked questions and answers – Formas
- Contact us at careergrant@formas.se

FORMAS

Questions?


FORMAS