



Call

Increased mobility between academy and practice

Application deadline: 4 June 2019 (2 pm)

Date of decision (preliminary): 20 November 2019

FORMAS

ETT FORSKNINGSRÅD FÖR HÅLLBAR UTVECKLING

A SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Increased mobility between academy and practice

Description of the call

Introduction

Sweden faces major challenges in its transition to ecologically, socially and economically sustainable development. A key part of this transition is society's ability to translate research findings and knowledge into practice. At the same time, researchers need a better, more nuanced understanding of society's conditions and challenges for sustainable development. Addressing the challenges society faces and helping to achieve the Agenda 2030 global sustainability goals requires broad collaboration between many stakeholders as well as a user focus. This will enable research results to contribute to the development of society.

Formas is now announcing a funding call for increased mobility between academic researchers and practitioners in the private and the public sectors. In several different contexts, the need has been highlighted for investment in increased mobility to facilitate knowledge sharing and knowledge provision. Because mobility between different stakeholders and sectors is currently limited, such an increase would provide better conditions for the useful application of research results and an effective transfer of knowledge.

The purpose of this call is to help increase interaction between academic research and society at large and to increase knowledge and the use of research results within both the private and the public sectors.

The call is common to Formas' three national research programmes for Climate [\[link\]](#), Sustainable Spatial Planning [\[link\]](#) and Food [\[link\]](#), and is aimed at researchers as well as employees of organisations in the private or public sector. Projects should relate to one or more of the themes and perspectives highlighted in the strategic agendas *Research for meeting the challenges of climate change* [\[link\]](#) or *Research for integrated and sustainable spatial planning* [\[link\]](#) or fit within the frame of the *National Research Programme on Food* [\[link\]](#) and thereby in the long run contribute to the food system's sustainability and competitiveness.

The call welcomes mobility in both directions, both from research to practice and from practice to research. Researchers at universities, colleges or research institutes can apply for grants to conduct a project at a private-sector or public-sector organisation. Researchers can also apply for funds to enable an employee at a private- or public-sector organisation to participate in research at a university, college or research institute.

An applicant can apply for a maximum grant of 1 million kronor for a project that lasts 6-24 months in this call. The activity level in the project can vary, and the project can be divided into two or more sub-periods. Formas has allocated 15 million kronor under the call for the period 2019–2020.

Background

In order for research results to benefit society, they need to be evaluated, synthesised, communicated and implemented. Challenges, problem areas and important questions in the society should also be communicated to the research community. A lack of knowledge and skills represents an obstacle to the practical application of research, development and innovation. The expertise of both the knowledge providers and the beneficiaries in both directions must be improved. Contact between researchers and other stakeholders should be encouraged and facilitated. Mobility between different societal stakeholders is currently limited and must be increased to improve the exchange of knowledge, ideas and experiences. Mobility facilitates knowledge sharing and knowledge provision, and provides good conditions for the practical application of research results.

Research must be developed together with business practitioners, and we encourage contact between researchers and the surrounding community to help ensure that the research is rooted in society's needs. Financial instruments are needed to promote iterative research and innovation processes that involve the users of research results in all phases.

Formas sees several important gains in creating opportunities for better mobility and collaboration between researchers and practitioners:

- Mobility facilitates knowledge sharing and knowledge provision, and provides good conditions for the practical application of research results.
- Contact networks, collaboration and relations can be strengthened for the long term.
- Mobility gives broader experiences and lower the thresholds between society and academy
- Researchers that spends time at a private- or public-sector organisation can return to universities with practical knowledge and deeper insights about the knowledge gaps, work procedures and challenges in society, and can in turn formulate better, more relevant research questions.
- Practitioners that participate in research at a university can return to his or her organisation with a better understanding of the content of research and how research result can be used in their operations.
- Mobility also improves the prospects for identifying research needs and increases research's relevance to society.

Purpose and focus

The call is common to Formas' three national research programmes for Climate, Sustainable Spatial Planning and Food, and aims to promote mobility between researchers and industry practitioners and other stakeholders.

Projects should relate to one or more of the themes and perspectives highlighted in the strategic agendas [*Research for meeting the challenges of climate change*](#) or [*Research for integrated and sustainable spatial*](#)

planning or in the [National Research Programme on Food](#) and thereby in the long run contribute to the food system's sustainability and competitiveness or in the [National Research Programme on Food](#) and thereby in the long run contribute to the food system's sustainability and competitiveness.

How the awarded posts are distributed among the three national programmes depends on the quality of the applications we receive. But we also consider the overall portfolio in our desire to support projects that offer different types of mobility and to ensure that different topics are highlighted.

The project can address, for example, the application of a research project or research results at a company or organisation, or someone from a company or organisation can participate in an existing or new research project at a higher education institution.

For example, a project could involve developing innovative methods, tools, techniques, processes, working methods or experimentation activities.

The results are expected to contribute to the development of national capacity regarding user perspective, the practical application and breakthrough for research within the call areas.

The results of the funded projects must be made openly accessible and have practical application for different types of users (municipalities, government agencies, private companies, civil society, researchers).

Before you apply

Projects that qualify for funding

Researchers at universities, colleges or research institutes can apply for funds to carry out projects at a private-sector or public-sector organisation. Researchers can also apply for funds to enable an employee at a private- or public-sector organisation to participate in research at a university, college or research institute.

The project can address, for example, the application of a research project or research results at a company or organisation, or someone from a company or organisation can participate in an existing or new research project at a higher education institution.

For example, a project could involve developing innovative methods, tools, techniques, processes, working methods or experimentation activities.

Grant amount and project duration

Formas is providing 15 million kronor for 2019-2020 to fund up to 15 projects. You can apply for a maximum of 1 million kronor for a project. The projects can last 6-24 months, and longer project periods can be divided into two or more periods. At least two-third of the time that grants are applied for must be spent at the organisation of the collaboration partner. The activity level in the project can vary. Granted funds can be used after 2020.

Who can apply

The call is aimed at researchers, private-sector employees, and organisations within either the public or the private sector.

Researchers at Swedish higher education institutions and research institutes can apply to work either at a company or organisation or to host someone from a company or organisation.

To apply for a grant under this call, the principal applicant must have obtained a doctoral degree (by the close of the call at the latest). Participating researchers must also have obtained their doctoral degree. Other staff involved in the project do not need to have a doctoral degree.

Grants for research projects may only be administered by a Swedish university or college. Read more about [Formas' criteria for administrating organisations](#).

There is no age limit for the principal applicant and participating researchers. However, researchers who are full-time pensioners are not eligible to receive funding towards salaries.

How to apply

Applying in Prisma

To apply for a grant from Formas, the project manager should submit an application online in the Prisma application system. To create an application in Prisma, you need a user account. We recommend that you create an account and an application as early as possible and contact Formas with any questions in good time.

[Link to Prisma](#)

In order to submit an application, the organisation where the project manager works must be an approved administrating organisation. If the organisation is not already an approved administrating organisation, the organisation must apply to become one in good time before the call closes, as it can take a few weeks to become approved as an administrating organisation.

Information your application must contain

We recommend that the application be written in English because the review panel members come from different parts of the world. Applications written entirely in Swedish must be translated into English by Formas before they are submitted to Formas' review panel for assessment. In such cases, it will **not** be possible for applicants to view or make linguistic adjustments to the application after it is translated. The popular science report must be written in Swedish, while the abstract should be in both Swedish and English. Please note that you should always write the budget specification in English; any Swedish budget specification will not be translated but will instead be reviewed as is by the international review panel.

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.

Basic information

- Number of years for which the application applies
- Project title in Swedish and English (200 characters including spaces)
- Popular science report in Swedish (4,500 characters including spaces)
- Abstract in Swedish and English (1,500 characters each including spaces)

Research programme

- Goals and objectives of the project, and a background description containing an overview of the research area (7,000 characters including spaces).
- Project description, including structure, theory, methodology and implementation as well as a plan for publication (15,000 characters including spaces). Describe especially the collaboration between academy and practice in the project. Which processes, and competences can be developed through the collaboration.
- Description of the potential societal benefit of the project and a plan for communicating the research and its results to stakeholders and end users, aspects of collaboration and who the relevant stakeholders are and how the project results are planned to be communicated with the stakeholders (8,000 characters including spaces).
- References. List the in-line references pertaining to the above sections in a separate field (5,000 characters including spaces).

Budget

- Salaries including social security contributions. For any current employment positions, the salary in effect at the time of the application (including social contributions) must be used for all subsequent years. For new employment positions, the starting salary at the administrating organisation must be used for all subsequent years. Note that Formas does not grant funding for annual salary increases.
- Activity level in the project. Specify the level of activity for all project participants, including participants that provide in-kind services for their time or have other funding sources for completing the project.
- Operating costs. Specify operating costs in accordance with practices at the administrating organisation.
- Equipment depreciation. Specify equipment depreciation costs if relevant to the application.
- Premises. Specify the costs for premises (if not part of overhead costs) in accordance with practices at the administrating organisation.
- Total budget. This heading refers to a budget summary.

Itemised costs: Data already completed in previous budget tables will be automatically transferred to this table.

Specify the indirect costs in the project budget in accordance with the practices at the administrating organisation. Indirect costs relate to overhead costs. Formas does not allow overhead for equipment depreciation costs or costs of premises.

Other funds: “Other funds” refers to funds that are not sought but that are relevant for completing the project. An example is co-funding from collaborative partners. Also specify whether the project receives funding from another source.

- Budget specification. Provide a brief justification for all salaries and other expenses. A description of the total project budget, including funding from other sources, should also be included. All other costs must be clearly justified, such as costs for participating in conferences, publication fees for open access to publications and data, etc. The budget specification is part of the application assessment.

Note that you should always write the budget and budget specification in English; any Swedish budget specification will not be translated but will instead be reviewed as is by the international review panel. In Prisma, write out the total amount you are applying for in kronor using digits. For example, SEK 1 million should be written as: 1 000 000 kronor.

Ethical considerations

You should specify whether there are specific ethical concerns in your project. If so, you must describe the relevant ethical considerations and how they will be managed. Examples include research that uses personal data, or experiments on humans or animals. [Read more about how to report ethical concerns.](#)

Classifications

- Select a minimum of one and a maximum of three subject areas.
- Select a minimum of one and a maximum of three SCB codes.
- Select a minimum of one and a maximum of three global goals for sustainable development that best fit your project. When selecting more than one goal, specify the goals in priority order. The goal that is most relevant to the project should be stated in the first box. Read an explanation of these goals on the [UN Development Programme website](#). As the meaning of the goals is sometimes narrower than what the title indicates, we encourage you to follow the link and read in more detail about the goals you intend to specify to ensure that the intended research contributes towards achieving that particular goal.
- Select a minimum of one and a maximum of five key words that describe the project.

Appendices

The following appendices must be attached to the application:

- **Appendix L.** The invitation from the home organisations and host organisations. This appendix must include an invitation from both the home organisation and the host organisations. The invitations should include an assurance that the necessary facilities and resources will be made available. A maximum of one attachment (PDF) of 4 MB can be uploaded.
- **Appendix J.** Illustrations. If you need figures, tables or images to describe the project, you can upload them as attachments here. A maximum of one attachment (PDF) of 4 MB can be uploaded.

Administrating organisations

- Select your administrating organisation and add your project's department or institution. [Read more about who can become an administrating organisation.](#)
- Prisma contains a default list of approved administrating organisations. Contact your organisation if it is missing from the list. In that case, your organisation will need to create an organisation account in Prisma.
- After the call is closed, a registered application will be sent automatically to the administrating organisation, which will have seven business days to digitally sign the application.

Participants

- Principal applicants invite project participants (doctoral researchers who are considered co-applicants for the project) and participating administrators (people not involved in the project but who help you fill in the application form).
- Each participant must have created a user account in Prisma.
- Principal applicants invite people to participate in the application process by searching for their given name, surname and email address in Prisma (note that exact spelling of names and email addresses is required).

CVs

Project participants who do not have a doctoral degree cannot attach their CV in Prisma. A brief description of the qualifications of non-doctoral participants can instead be entered in the application's research programme under the heading Project Description. Applicants retrieve the data from their personal profile that are relevant for their application. Participating researchers add their CV details from their profile to the application themselves. They should review their CV in Prisma in good time to ensure that it is complete and up to date. The CV information must include:

- **Education:** postgraduate, undergraduate and graduate level.
- **Professional experience:** Current employment and major relevant prior positions, postdoctoral stays, postgraduate exchanges that are relevant for the research, and any significant gaps in the research (such as parental leave, illness, military service or political duties).
- **Qualifications and merits:**
 - **Lectureships**
 - **Number of advisor engagements:** Doctoral students, postdocs, graduate theses; specify the total number for each category and name the most relevant ones (max. 10).
 - **Grants received in competition:** Specify the most relevant ones (max. 10).
 - **Awards and distinctions:** Specify the most relevant ones (max. 10).
 - **Other qualifications, including bibliometric indicators:** Here, the principal applicant and participating researchers should state their number of publications during the past five years, and the total number of publications if the applicant's active research period exceeds five years (max. 800 characters including spaces). This bibliometric summary should include: (i) the number of publications of various types, such as articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, books and other monographs, conference papers and popular science contributions, and (ii) any other publication or citation specifications relevant to the applicant's field of research. Under "Other qualifications," you can list other qualifications that are relevant to the application, such as any popular science publications or proven experience of collaboration and research communication (max. 10).
- **Intellectual property:** For example, patents and open source software that you have developed (max. 10).

List of publications

The principal applicant and participating researchers should list up to ten of their most relevant publications. Note that the publications should be linked from the applicants' personal profiles.

Assessment of applications

Submitted applications are assessed by a review panel consisting of researchers, as well as beneficiaries with relevant subject-matter expertise and users of the research results who are qualified to assess the potential societal benefit. Most of the panel members are researchers. The panel members have the expertise required to assess applications within the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, health sciences and engineering sciences within the call areas.

Criteria

Applications are assessed with respect to scientific quality and societal relevance. This includes the following five criteria.

Criteria for scientific quality:

- Research topic
- Methods and implementation
- Competence

Criteria for societal relevance:

- Potential societal benefit of the research topic
- Communication with stakeholders and users
- Collaboration between research and practice

All the criteria must be addressed in the application, and we advise applicants to clearly relate their application to these criteria. We also strongly advise applicants to clearly and accurately structure and write the application, as the review is based solely on the information contained in the application. Gender perspectives should be considered in project proposals where applicable.

[In-depth information about Formas' assessment criteria and review process](#)

Grant award decisions

Formas' Scientific Council is expected to reach a decision on 20 November 2019 concerning which projects are granted funding. Decisions will be announced the following day at the latest on Formas' website and later sent via email from Prisma. Grant award decisions cannot be appealed.

Reporting for granted projects

Each project that is awarded funding must submit a report to Formas containing a financial and a popular scientific summary in accordance with the decision. Read more about the reporting requirements on the Formas website.

Formas may impose requirements on how projects must be reported in terms of content and results to enable distribution and practical 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

<https://prisma.research.se/Start>

<https://prismasupport.research.se/>

<http://www.formas.se/en/Financing/Ethical-Policy/>

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