

Call: A toxic-free environment 2018 – Combination effects

Closing date for applications: 21st of August 2018, at 2 pm

Decision date: 14th of November 2018

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Description of the call

Sweden has 16 environmental quality objectives, one being A non-toxic environment – an important matter for the future, with relevance to many of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals¹. Today, knowledge is relatively large about the effects of individual substances. How they act together, how the effect of mixtures is best analysed and how their risks are best assessed is, however, largely unknown. Therefore, the Research Council Formas has allocated 120 million SEK for research contributing to a non-toxic environment, specifically to research projects that can contribute to increased knowledge concerning combination effects of chemicals and substances, the so-called Cocktail effect.

Overall focus and scope of the call

The call aims to strengthen the knowledge concerning combination effects, and applications focusing on aspects that can increase the knowledge concerning combinations of chemicals and substances are therefore welcome in this call.

For example, applications may concern:

- Combination effects of chemicals and substances on human, animals and the environment
- Methods for measuring and analysing chemicals and substances or the effects of so called ‘cocktails’
- Methods for risk assessment of so called ‘cocktails’
- Knowledge of the types of guidelines and other social initiatives required to manage the use and exposure of various combinations of chemicals and substances

Formas welcomes applications from different disciplines.

The research financed through this call shall be of high relevance to the society and to the environmental quality objective A non-toxic environment. In the application, it is therefore important to clearly describe the relevance of the proposed research to the environmental objective A non-toxic environment and the work to achieve this objective. More about the environmental quality objective can be found at <https://www.miljomal.se/Environmental-Objectives-Portal/Undre-menyn/About-the-Environmental-Objectives/4-A-Non-Toxic-Environment/>.

In this call, applicants are encouraged to collaborate multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary, as well as internationally when relevant.

Project leaders to granted research projects are expected to actively participate in collaborative activities organised by Formas after the start of the projects.

Gender and other perspectives

The applicant must clearly describe the importance of sex, gender or other critical perspectives (based on power and normative structure with regards to, for example, ethnicity, age, sexuality, class etc.) in the questions addressed by the project, its performance and relevance for society. Refer to the following link for a [terminology definition](#). In cases where sex, gender or other critical perspectives are not regarded to be relevant, this must be clearly justified.

¹ For example, 3. Good wealth and well-being, 6. Clean water and Sanitation, 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure, 11. Sustainable cities and communities, 12. Responsible consumption and production, 14. Life below water

Mobility

The research projects may be designed in a manner that allows them to contribute to researchers' mobility. Researchers can travel to a different research environment for a shorter time or receive guest researchers at their own research environment. Mobility may also relate to interaction between researchers and stakeholders in the wider community.

International perspectives

International collaboration and use of international expertise is encouraged where relevant. How the international expertise will contribute to the project and potentially reinforce the Swedish knowledge base shall be described in the application.

Deadline for applying

The call closes **on the 21st of August at 2pm.**

Formas advises you to generate your application in Prisma well in advance so that you have time to receive help if any problem should occur. Applications can be reviewed in advance at any time during the process. Up until the deadline of the call, it is possible to retract the application and make changes to it, before reregistering/resubmitting it again. Note that it will not be possible to add information to applications after the call has closed. Please note that the support from Formas is limited during the main holiday weeks. It is recommended to write the application in English since the review panel consists of international experts.

Your application

What you can apply for

- Funding can be awarded to projects that are within Formas' areas of responsibility and within the framework of the call.
- Application can be made for costs connected to the implementation of the project, for example finance of salary for researchers, doctoral students or technical staff. Salary for doctoral students can be granted for up to four years. Note that the total salary costs granted for an individual researcher, doctoral student or other member of the project may never exceed 100 per cent of a full-time position. This implies that further funding of salary costs cannot be granted for a researcher, doctoral student or other project staff member already receiving full salary funding. Note that Formas does not grant funding for annual salary increase.
- Grants for research projects may also be used to fund running costs (e.g. consumables, equipment costs of a value below 500 000 SEK, travel, collaborative activities and conferences), equipment depreciation costs (max 500 000 SEK) and costs for premises. Funding must not be used for scholarships or educational grants for research students.
- Funding may also be applied for costs related to mobility. Such costs must be described in the application. Note that funding is administered by the grant administrating organisation.
- Grants can also be sought for costs related to publication in journals and databases applying Open Access. Note that researchers receiving funding from Formas must guarantee that their research results will be available through Open Access within six months of publication. [Find out more about the Formas policy for open access to research data](http://www.formas.se/PageFiles/15559/Beslut_policy_oppna_data.pdf) (in Swedish) (http://www.formas.se/PageFiles/15559/Beslut_policy_oppna_data.pdf).

Funding amounts and project duration

- It is possible to apply for funding for a maximum of four years.
- The total amount applied for an individual research project can be up to a maximum of SEK 12 000 000 and must not exceed SEK 3 000 000 on average per project year. If the total amount applied for exceeds an average annual amount of SEK 3 000 000, the application will be rejected.
- The start date for all projects is preselected in Prisma and cannot be edited. Project funding for the first 12 months of the project will be paid in 2018 (no payments will be done in 2022). The funds for research projects may be disposed one year after the end of the project period.
- Financial reporting will be required annually for projects exceeding 18 months and a scientific part-time report will be carried out after half of the project time for projects exceeding two years. Financial and scientific final reporting will take place at the latest three months after the end of the disposal period.

Who can apply

- To be able to apply for funding, main applicant and participating researchers must have completed a doctoral degree.
- It is possible to include other individuals/functions in the project without including them as participating researcher (or ‘co-applicants’) in Prisma. This can be done through a description in the project description and/or in the budget. These individuals will not be linked to the application form in Prisma, and will therefore not contribute with data from their CV. This may include, for example, administrative personnel, research students, technical personnel or other partners, and they do not need to have completed a doctoral degree.
- Funding may only be administrated by a Swedish university, university college, research institute, government agency with research assignments or any other Swedish public organisation that meets Formas’ eligibility requirements for grant administrating organisations ([read more on eligible grant administrators \(http://www.formas.se/en/Financing/General-instructions/Grant-administrating-organisation/\)](http://www.formas.se/en/Financing/General-instructions/Grant-administrating-organisation/)).
- There is no age limit for applicants or participating researchers, but fully retired researchers cannot obtain funding for their salary.
- Main applicants may submit no more than one project application to this call.
- You are eligible to apply in this targeted call even if you have an ongoing project grant from any of Formas’ previous calls, or if you have an application currently undergoing review in any of Formas’ other calls this year.

How to apply

Applications for funding are submitted via the Prisma application system. A user account is required to create an application in Prisma. A user account is required for the main applicant, but also for participating researchers. It is recommended to create an account and an application as early as possible, and to contact Formas with any questions in good time. Please note that Formas has limited support during the main summer holiday weeks.

[Link to Prisma \(https://prisma.research.se\)](https://prisma.research.se)

It is recommended to write the application in English since the review panel has an international composition. Applications that are entirely written in Swedish will be translated into English before they are distributed to the evaluation panel for assessment. Note that it is **not** possible to review or make changes to the application after it has been translated. The popular scientific description must be written in Swedish, but the project summary must be written in both Swedish and English. Please note that the budget specification must always be written in English. A Swedish budget specification will not be sent for translation, but will be assessed by the international review panels in its original format.

What the application must include

All the limits for the maximum number of characters refer to characters including spaces.

Basic information

- The number of years the application refers to
- Project title in Swedish and English (max 200 characters each)
- Popular scientific description in **Swedish** (max 4500 characters)
- Abstract in **Swedish and English** (max 1500 characters each)

Please note that the summary should include a summary of the research project including the relevance to society and the environmental quality objective A non-toxic environment of the research.

Research project

- Specific aims and objectives of the proposed project and a background description containing an overview of the research area. Describe the specific aims, objectives and originality of the proposed project. This section should also include a background description containing an overview of the research area as well as a description on how the goals and objectives of the project relate to the aim of the call and, if applicable, other relevant objectives and strategies (max 7 000 characters).
- Project description, including project design, theory, methods, implementation and a plan for scientific publication (max 15000 characters).
- Description of the potential societal value of the research questions and planned communication with stakeholders/end users. Under this heading, you should describe the potential societal relevance of the project, as well as the relevance to the environmental quality goal A non-toxic environment. You should also describe planned targeted communication activities and interaction with stakeholders. Describe the relevant stakeholders/users and how they will be included in the research (where applicable). Describe how results from the project will be communicated and how the potential impact of the research may affect different groups in the society (max 8000 characters).
- References included in running text under the items above is specified in a separate field (max 4000 characters).
- Do you have an application under review in any of Formas' other calls 2018? Please indicate if you have an application submitted to any of Formas' other calls this year. Also indicate the Reference number ("diarienummer") of any such application, and explain how they relate to one another. Formas wants to know if the applications are the same, overlapping or different. Formas does not grant funds for the same research twice and the information herein will be used to make an initial assessment to identify if there is a risk for this or not. (max 1000 characters)

Budget

- Salaries, including social-security contributions for each project participant. For existing employment positions, the current salary at the time of application (including social-security contributions) must be used for all subsequent years. For new employment positions the starting salary at the grant administrating organisation must be used for all subsequent year. Note that Formas does not grant funding for annual salary increase.
- Activity level/dedicated time in the project for all project participants. Also include activity level for project participants who contribute with time in-kind or have funding for participating in the project from other sources.
- Running costs are specified in accordance with the practice used at the grant administrating organisation.

- Depreciation costs for equipment is specified if relevant to the application.
- Premises costs are specified in accordance with the practice used at the grant administrating organisation (unless included in the overhead costs).
- Total budget. This heading refers to a budget summary.

Specified costs. Information that was filled in the tables above will automatically be transferred to this table. Specify indirect costs in accordance with the practice used at the grant administrating organisation. Indirect costs refer to overhead costs. Formas does not permit overhead on depreciation costs for equipment or costs for premises.

Other costs. “Other costs” are costs which are not applied for from Formas but that are of relevance to the implementation of the project, e.g. any co-funding from project partners.

- Budget specification. In the budget specification, a brief motivation for all salary costs and other costs is required. A description of the total budget for the project, including finance from other sources, must also be included. Clear justification must be specified for all other costs, such as participation in conferences, purchasing data, publication via Open Access, etc.

Note that the budget and budget specification should be written in English, a Swedish budget specification will not be submitted for translation but will be reviewed by the international review panel in its original format. Note that amounts should be written out in full in Prisma, e.g. one million SEK is entered as SEK “1 000 000”.

Ethical considerations

Applicants should always specify whether there are special ethical aspects in the project. If so, the ethical issues in question and how they are to be handled in the context of the research project must be described. This may, for example, involve research that make use of personal data or involves experiments on humans or animals. Find out more about ethics in [Formas' general instructions](http://www.formas.se/Financing/General-instructions/) (<http://www.formas.se/Financing/General-instructions/>).

Classifications

- Select at least one, and at the most three, subject areas.
- Select at least one, and at the most three, SCB codes.
- Select at least one, and at the most three, of the 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals that best apply to the project. If more than one goal is considered relevant, the goals should be indicated in order of priority. The most relevant goal should be indicated in the first box. For more information on the Sustainable Development Goals, <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.
- State at least one, and at the most five, key word(s) that describe the project.

Appendices

The following appendix may be uploaded if relevant to the application:

- Appendix J. Illustrations. If figures, tables or images are needed to describe the proposed project, an appendix may be enclosed. A maximum of one 4 MB appendix in PDF format can be uploaded.

The following appendix is mandatory for all applications:

- Appendix K. – Research Data. Appendix K should be filled out and uploaded for all project applications. If data collection is not part of the project or if it is not possible to make the data available through open sources this should be stated in the Research Data form. Please note that Swedish universities, university colleges and other authorities are responsible for the safe storage of data collected as part of their activities. Funding to enable data storage that can be regarded to be within the responsibility of these authorities must not be included in the application. Formas recommend that scientific data is published within a reasonable period of time and made accessible via relevant national and/or international organisations for data publication. [Use this template for appendix K](http://www.formas.se/Documents/Prisma_appendices/Bilaga_K.pdf) (http://www.formas.se/Documents/Prisma_appendices/Bilaga_K.pdf). The appendix will not be reviewed but will be used in Formas' forthcoming development work on open data. [Find out more about the Formas policy for open access to research data \(in Swedish\)](http://www.formas.se/PageFiles/15559/Beslut_policy_oppna_data.pdf) (http://www.formas.se/PageFiles/15559/Beslut_policy_oppna_data.pdf).

Grant administrating organisation

- Select your grant administrating organisation and add the project department or unit where the project is based. [Read more about Formas requirements for grant administrating organisations here](http://www.formas.se/en/Financing/General-instructions/Grant-administrating-organisation/) (<http://www.formas.se/en/Financing/General-instructions/Grant-administrating-organisation/>).
- Approved grant administrating organisations are listed in Prisma. If your research organisation is not included in the list, contact your organisation as it must create an organisation account in Prisma.
- A registered application is automatically sent to the grant administering organisation for approval, once the call closes. The administrating organisation has seven calendar days to sign the application.

Review panels

- Select the review panel 'A non-toxic environment'.

Participants

- The main applicant invites “participating researchers” (the participants who are intended to be co-applicants for the) and participating administrators (not part of the project, but persons that help you fill out the application form).
- Participating researcher must themselves be registered and have their own personal account in Prisma. The main applicant invites participants by searching their name and e-mail in Prisma (note that correct spelling of names and e-mails is required).

CV

The applicant retrieves information relevant to the application from their personal profile in Prisma. “Participating researchers” themselves add CV information from their profile to the application and should ensure that their CV in Prisma is complete and up to date. This information should include:

- **Education:** Post-graduate (doctoral) education, undergraduate and graduate education.
- **Professional history:** Current employment and relevant previous longer-term positions, postdocs, research exchange visits relevant to the described research project, as well as any extended period of interruption to the research (for example parental leave, illness, military or public service).
- **Merits and awards:**
 - **Associate professorship**
 - **Supervision:** doctoral students, post-doctoral students, and exam project students; state the total number in each respective category and provide the names of the most relevant supervisions (max. 10).
 - **Grants awarded in competition,** state the most relevant grants (max. 10).
 - **Prizes and awards,** state the most relevant grants (max. 10).
 - **Additional merits, including information on publications:** Here the main applicant and the participating researchers must state the number of their publications over the past 5-year period and the total number of publications if the applicants have been active within the profession for a period longer than five years (max. 800 characters including spaces). This summary should also include the number of publications of different types (such as articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, books and other monographs, conference contributions, popular science contributions). For participating stakeholders outside academia, previous relevant experience of research and development should be included as well as expertise and experience relevant to the project in question. Under additional merits other merits relevant to the application may also be listed, such as documented experience of collaboration and research communication (max. 10).
 - **Intellectual property:** For example, patents and public access software programs developed by the applicant (max. 10).

List of publications

The main applicant and participating researchers should specify up to ten of their most relevant publications. Please note that the publications should be linked from the applicants’ personal profile in Prisma.

Evaluation of the applications

The applications will be assessed by an international expert panel consisting of active researchers and people (users of research) who are qualified to assess the relevance of research. All criteria must be addressed in applications, and applicants are encouraged to clearly and specifically relate the application to these criteria. The applicant is encouraged to be thorough with the structure and clarity of the application, as the evaluation will be based solely on the information provided in the application.

The review panel will assess the applications according to scientific quality and relevance for the society and the aim of the call. The review panel will assess the application based in regards to the following criteria. In addition to the assessment criteria, call specific aspects are also being assessed according to below.

Evaluation criteria for scientific quality

1. Research question

- Scientific significance of the research question
- Originality and novelty of the purpose, theory and hypotheses
- Possibility of significant scientific results
- Objectives consistent with the call

Call-specific aspects in regard to the research question:

- Multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches are regarded as being advantageous when appropriate for the research topic

2. Methods and performance

- Feasibility and suitability of the scientific methods
- Innovativeness of the methods
- Specific and realistic work plan
- Specific and realistic plan for scientific publication and dissemination of information
- Coordination of the project and the research group
- Suitability of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach
- Ethical considerations
- Feasibility of the budget in relation to the structure of the project and the anticipated results

Call specific aspects in regard to methods and performance:

- Collaboration with the external stakeholders, for example business community and other stakeholders, in the planning and implementation of the project will be considered positive where relevant to the research question
- Equality and gender or other critical perspectives is assessed when applicable

3. Scientific expertise

- Scientific quality of the publications
- Ability to carry out the project according to the project plan
- Experience of supervision of younger researchers (postdoctoral and doctoral students, as well as degree project students for applicants who are young researchers themselves)
- Experience of project leadership

- National and international activities, including projects, networks, commissions, honorary commissions, participation in or organisation of workshops and conferences
- Interest in, experience and ability to disseminate research and research results to stakeholders/users
- Strength and competitiveness of the research group

Clarifications:

- The quality of scientific publications must be assessed with regard to standards in each scientific field
- When several researchers and stakeholders collaborate, the competence and expertise of each individual participant as well as the overall expertise and experience of the team, and their ability to implement the project, will be assessed

Evaluation criteria for societal relevance

1. Potential societal value of the research topic

- The research topic addresses important social/sector issues within the focus areas of the call, nationally and/or internationally
- The project can, over a short-term or long-term perspective, contribute to sustainable development nationally and/or internationally
- Stakeholder/end-user needs have been taken into account in the design of the project
- The objectives are consistent with the call

Call-specific aspects in regard to societal relevance:

- The relevance of the research question to the environmental quality objective A non-toxic environment
- Collaboration and/or dialogue with the business community and other stakeholders in society in the design of the project will be considered positive

2. Communication with stakeholders/users

- Description of relevant stakeholders/users
- Specific and realistic plan for the involvement of relevant stakeholders/users in the project and for the communication of the research and its results to these parties

Clarifications:

- Realistic and appropriate impact goals and initiatives/activities for communication and interaction that contribute to utilisation of the research are well described
- Stakeholders/users should be regarded in a broad sense as stakeholders outside the research community, nationally as well as internationally, who can benefit from the research results or facilitate the future use of the results in society
- Communication with stakeholders/users may be tailored in different ways and with different timeframes, depending on the research question at hand, but should include various forms of dialogue with stakeholders and potential users of the research and the research results. [See Support for addressing the communication criterion.](#)

How will the assessment process be implemented?

Formas will assess the applications according to the instructions and directives provided in the call text. The research must be of relevance to sustainable development of society and of highest scientific quality.

[Find out more about the evaluation process on Formas website.](#)

Funding decisions

Decisions on grant funding will be made by Formas' Scientific Council on the 14th of November 2018. The decisions will be published on Formas' website shortly afterwards. Decisions about funding grants cannot be appealed.

Support and shortcuts

- [General instructions](http://www.formas.se/sv/Finansiering/Allmanna-anvisningar/) (<http://www.formas.se/sv/Finansiering/Allmanna-anvisningar/>)
- [Ethics policy](http://www.formas.se/Finansiering/Etikpolicy/) (<http://www.formas.se/Finansiering/Etikpolicy/>)
- [Grant administrating organisations](http://www.formas.se/sv/Finansiering/Allmanna-anvisningar/Medelsforvaltare/) (<http://www.formas.se/sv/Finansiering/Allmanna-anvisningar/Medelsforvaltare/>)
- [Prisma](https://prisma.research.se/Start) (<https://prisma.research.se/Start>)
- [Prisma support](https://primasupport.research.se/) (<https://primasupport.research.se/>)

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