

Sustainable tourism and hospitality industry

Application Deadline: 21 August 2018, 14.00

Date of Decision: 14 November 2018 (Preliminary)

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Description of the call

The tourism and hospitality industry touches upon many different parts of society that play a significant role in sustainable development. Despite this, research on sustainable tourism and hospitality is limited and fragmented. New ideas and strategic, innovative solutions are needed to counter any negative effects and to unite the strides the industry has made with a more sustainable economic, social and environmental development, in urban and rural areas alike. This is the background to Formas' current call on sustainable tourism and hospitality industry.

Formas welcomes researchers from all disciplines to set up major research projects that highlight current research questions in sustainable tourism and hospitality industry. The research project should be interdisciplinary and should aim to develop the research in this field towards becoming more coherent, strategic and innovative, and thus useful for different stakeholders.

Overall focus

With this call, Formas welcomes applications for larger research projects that highlight current research questions in sustainable tourism and hospitality industry. To ensure the sustainable development of this industry, the research projects should be relevant to today's societal challenges as described in the national environmental quality objectives and the global sustainable development goals. The call is aimed at researchers from all disciplines who are affiliated with a Swedish university, college or research institute, or government agency with research assignments.

Because the tourism and hospitality industry affects so many different areas of society, the research must be grounded in a holistic approach that takes into account a combination of social, cultural, economic and ecological sustainability perspectives. The research project should therefore be interdisciplinary and should aim to develop the research in this field towards becoming more coherent, strategic and innovative, and thus useful for different stakeholders.

With this call, we wish to encourage researchers outside the traditional domains of sustainable tourism and hospitality industry to contribute to the development of research in this field. Projects are encouraged to involve researchers at different higher education institutions, research institutes or government agencies.

The project should present research questions that focus on contributing to a more sustainable economic, social, cultural and environmental development. Such topics can be found both at a community level and a corporate level. Examples include: the importance of digitalisation and its potential for the industry, how the industry can achieve long-term sustainable development, the links between tourism and hospitality industry with other areas, such as urban or rural development, protection of the natural environment, social sustainability, attractiveness, sustainable and viable small businesses, collaboration between organisations, interactions with other sectors and stakeholder collaboration.

The new knowledge and results of the project should be able to support sustainable development in Sweden and/or globally, and to raise awareness of the flows and linkages between Sweden and the rest of the world.

With this call, Formas wishes to encourage larger/broader research projects that can help create and leverage the benefits of interdisciplinary scientific collaboration in a wider grouping. The benefits of conducting a larger research project and the benefits of the scientific collaboration and interdisciplinary approach should be clearly stated in the application.

The research project can be designed with researcher mobility in mind. This means that the researchers can visit another research environment for a short period or welcome a guest researcher to their own home institution or institute. Mobility can also refer to the interaction between scientists and actors in the surrounding community. To promote and expand collaboration between higher education institutions, we

encourage the projects to include one or more graduate students who can divide their time between institutions.

In order to strengthen both the research and the impact of the research, the research project should interact and communicate with stakeholders from the industry and the surrounding community. This interaction should be described in the project application. Any co-financing should be indicated in the budget form and described in the budget specification.

The call is for a total of 60 million SEK in funding and is intended for major research projects in the sustainable tourism and hospitality industry. An individual project can seek funding for 2-5 million SEK annually for a maximum of four years. Each research project can therefore be granted a maximum of between 8 and 20 million SEK.

Background

The tourism and hospitality industry is one with a high turnover that is expected to continue its expansion both in Sweden and abroad. In recent years, the industry's total consumption in Sweden has been worth upwards of 300 billion SEK, of which international visitors have accounted for about one-third. The industry accounts for 6 percent of Sweden's export value.

The tourism and hospitality industry touches upon many different areas of society that play a significant role in sustainable development. It is a major employer, especially of women, new arrivals and young people. It relates to areas such as food consumption, forestry, agriculture, reindeer husbandry, fishing, urban planning, land and water issues, infrastructure, construction, digitalisation, biodiversity, accessibility, culture, competence, events, major meetings, sport and outdoor activities as well as the interrelationship between different locations and between different areas, both locally and nationally. The industry can thus contribute to sustainable development in many different ways and in many different areas. However, the industry can also generate problems. For example, it can contribute to emissions from air travel, car traffic and cruise ships as well as tourism overcrowding and the effect on sensitive environments. New ideas and strategic, innovative solutions are needed to counter any negative effects and to unite the strides the industry has made with a more sustainable economic, social and environmental development, in urban and rural areas alike.

Despite its great significance and scope, research on the sustainable development of the tourism and hospitality industry is limited and fragmented. This fact was highlighted in the Official Report of the Swedish Government SOU 2017:95 on a comprehensive policy for sustainable tourism and hospitality industry (in Swedish, "Ett land att besöka – en samlad politik för hållbar turism och växande besöksnäring"). This investigation suggested that Formas should establish a research programme dedicated to this topic. Already in 2017 Formas announced calls for research syntheses on the current state of knowledge and knowledge gaps within the industry. Formas also runs three national research programmes – on sustainable spatial planning, climate and food – which are closely linked to the research questions of interest within sustainable tourism and hospitality industry.

Purpose of the call

To strengthen the strategic development of research in sustainable tourism and hospitality industry and to make it more cohesive, innovative and useful, Formas is launching a funding call that allows the creation of larger projects involving new or broader research collaborations that take a multidisciplinary approach. The call intends to provide the means for a holistic approach in which the research takes into account a combination of social, cultural, economic and ecological sustainability perspectives.

Questions about the call

Formas will not offer any informational meeting or other occasion for obtaining more information, but we will respond to questions by email and phone.

Application deadline:

The call closes on 21 August 2018 at 14.00 Central European Time. Please create your application in Prisma in good time so that you can get help if problems arise. You can preview your application at any time during the process. Up until the call closes, you can de-register your application and make changes. Note that it is not possible to add or change information in your application after the call is closed.

Your application

Projects that qualify for funding

- Funding can be awarded to projects that are within Formas' areas of responsibility and within the framework of the call. Grants can be sought to cover costs associated with the project's implementation, such as salary funding for researchers, doctoral students or technical staff.
- The total amount of the salary for a single researcher, student or other staff must not exceed 100 percent of a full-time employment. This means that additional salary funding cannot be granted to researchers, doctoral students or other staff who already receive grants or contributions with full salary funding. Formas does not allow annual salary increases for project participants.
- Subcontractors are allowed only if they have limited participation in the project. Subcontractors include other stakeholders in society, such as municipalities, private companies or trade associations. Other stakeholders can also contribute their time in-kind. Such contributions to the project should be described in the application.
- Grants can be sought to fund operating expenses, such as travel, collaborative activities, conferences and workshops, data or material purchases, analyses, premises and other related costs (though not for scholarships or educational grants for graduate students).
- Grants can be sought for costs related to publication in open access journals. Note that researchers who receive funding from Formas must ensure that their research findings are available via open access within six months of publication.

Funding amounts and project duration

- Funding can be requested for a maximum of four years (48 months in total).
- A research project can be granted a maximum total of 20 million SEK, divided into an average of 5 million SEK per project year. If the total amount applied for exceeds the average annual amount of 5 million SEK, 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 2021). The funds for research projects may be disposed one year after the end of the project period. Financial statements must be submitted each year for projects longer than 18 months. Financial and scientific final reporting will take place at the latest three months after the end of the disposal period.
- Although no co-financing is required in this call, it is welcomed.

Who can apply

- To be able to apply for funding, main applicant and participating researchers must have completed a doctoral degree. Other staff involved in the project, such as graduate students, partners or technical staff, do not need to have a doctoral degree.
- Grants may be administrated by a Swedish university, college, research institute, government agency commissioned to conduct research or other public-sector organisation that meet Formas' criteria for [administrating organisations](#). Read more about administrating organisations below.
- 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. 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. Note that it is possible to apply for funding under this call even if you have already been granted funding for an ongoing project under Formas' annual open call. However, the total salary from Formas must never exceed 100 percent of full-time employment.

How to apply

Submit your grant application using the application system Prisma. To create an application in Prisma, you need a personal account.

[Link to Prisma](#)

Language

You may write your application in Swedish or English, but Formas recommends that you use English. This is because the review panel is composed of international members, so applications entirely written in Swedish must be translated into English by a professional translation agency before they are submitted to Formas' review panel for review. It is not possible to make changes to the translation. 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.

Information your application must contain

Basic information

- Number of months for which funding is requested and estimated project duration
- Project title in Swedish and English (max. 200 characters)
- Popular science report in Swedish (max. 4,500 characters)
- Abstract in Swedish and English (max. 1,500 characters each)

The 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. You should also describe planned targeted communication activities and interaction with stakeholders. 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. 8,000 characters).References included in running text under the items above is specified in a separate field (max 4000 characters).

Budget

Specify the following information:

- 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). In the total amount requested for the project budget, specify any indirect costs in accordance with practices at the administrating organisation. Indirect costs relate to overhead costs. Formas does not allow overhead for equipment depreciation costs or costs of premises.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.

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/>).

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.

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/>).
- 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.

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).
- Other participants, such as municipalities.

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.

How applications are evaluated

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 application is evaluated on the basis of criteria for scientific quality (research topic, methodology and implementation, as well as scientific excellence) and societal relevance (the topic's potential benefit to society, targeted communication initiatives and interactions with stakeholders). Budget reasonableness is evaluated in relation to the project's structure and expected results.

Please note that the review criteria described below are formulated specifically for this targeted call and therefore differ from the criteria mentioned on Formas' website.

Evaluation criteria for scientific quality

Research question:

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

Clarifications

The research question should focus on one or several challenges that fall within the scope of the sustainable growth of tourism and hospitality industry under this call.

Method and performance:

- 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

Clarifications

The advantages of a larger research project and of scientific collaboration should be clearly stated in the application, as well as the advantages of the proposed interdisciplinary approach. You can also describe if or how the project creates a long-term active research environment, if relevant.

Scientific expertise:

- Scientific quality of the publications
- Ability to carry out the project according to the project plan
- Experience in supervision of younger researchers (postdoctoral and doctoral students, as well as degree project students for applicants who are themselves young researchers)
- Experience in project leadership
- National and international activities, including projects, networks, commissions, honorary commissions, participation in, or organisation of, workshops or conferences
- Interest, 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**Potential societal benefits of the research topic:**

- The research topic addresses important social/sector issues within the focus areas of the call,
- Stakeholder/end-user needs have been taken into account in the design of the project

Clarifications

Taking account of stakeholder or user needs can consist of references to directives, different goals and strategies, or discussions with relevant groups in society.

Communication with stakeholders and users:

- The key areas where impact can be expected are identified
- Clear, realistic and appropriate targets for impact are formulated
- Realistic and appropriate impact goals and initiatives/activities for communication and interaction that contribute to utilisation of the research are well described
- Realistic and appropriate impact goals and initiatives/activities for communication and interaction that contribute to utilisation of the research are well described
- 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

Clarifications

Guiding questions to be answered by the applicant: Which initiatives are planned? For whom? Are there different initiatives for different stakeholders or groups in society? What is the goal of the initiatives? What previous experience does the research team have of communicating research findings and involving or engaging stakeholders? Are there other planned communication initiatives or resources that the project will provide?

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. <http://www.formas.se/sv/Finansiering/Bedomning-av-ansokningar/>

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](#)
- [Ethics policy](#)
- [Criteria for administrating organisations](#)
- [Prisma](#)

- [Prisma support](#)

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