Proof of Concept for food

A call within the National Research Program for Food

Closing date for applications: **2018-04-26 (at 14.00)**

Decision date: Preliminary 2018-11-14

Contents

Formas – Forskningsrådet för miljö, areella näringar och samhällsbyggande

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The call in brief

The purpose of this call is to fund Proof of Concept (PoC) project to bridge the gap between research and utilisation/commercialisation of research results in the food area.

The call is aimed at researchers who wish to implement a PoC project. As a researcher, you must be active at a university, research institute or authority with research assignments. The PoC project must be based on research results from projects in the food area that are being or have been funded by Formas or the Swedish Research Council between 2010 and 2017.

PoC funding can be used to verify the usefulness and appropriateness of a new method, product or process that has been developed from an earlier research project, and to implement activities that pave the way for utilisation/commercialisation. PoC funding cannot be used for continued research, writing articles or reports, communication initiatives or general product development.

Formas encourage the PoC project to interact with relevant stakeholders/end-users, as well as commercialisation expertise to strengthen the need for utilisation/commercialisation.

Who can apply?

The main applicant must be a researcher with a doctoral degree at university, research institute or authority with research assignments. Main applicants or participating actor must have received funding, between 2010 and 2017, from Formas or the Swedish Research Council for research project within the food area. The PoC project must relate to research results within the scope of the funding granted previously. The main applicant can apply for funding for one PoC project.

Focus area for the PoC project? The food area

How much can be applied for? SEK 200,000–1,500,000

How long can the project be? Between 6 and 12 months

How big is the budget framework for the call? SEK 7.5 million

What applications must include:

- The aims and purpose of the PoC project
- Information on research funding received previously from Formas or the Swedish Research Council and the research results on which the PoC project is based
- Project description
- Budget
- CVs
- Publication lists for the main applicant and participating researchers and other actors

Formas recommends compiling applications in **English**. Formas' expert panels include international reviewers, and applications in Swedish will be translated into English before being submitted to the

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evaluation panel for review. The applicant will not have the opportunity to read or make changes to the application when it has been translated.

The following dates are applicable to the call.

Note that these are preliminary dates. Please see www.formas.se for up to date information.

Opening date	**March 8, 2018**
Closing date for applications	**2pm April 26, 2018 (at 14.00)**
Latest decision date	**November 14, 2018**
Earliest project start	**December 1, 2018**
Latest project start	**December 20, 2018**

Contact

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Description of the call

Background to the call

Within the scope of the National Research Programme for Food, Formas is announcing SEK 7.5 million for Proof of Concept (PoC) projects to bridge the gap between research and utilisation/commercialisation of research results.

The call is the second within the National Research Programme for Food. The research programme is a part of the government's action plan for the Swedish food strategy *A National Food Strategy for Sweden – more jobs and sustainable growth throughout the country* (2016/17:104), the strategic area of "knowledge and innovation". Its purpose is to support the knowledge and innovation system to help bring about increased productivity and innovation in the food supply chain and sustainable food production and consumption. Find out more about the National Food Research Programme.

The call for PoC projects is linked directly with the purpose of the National research programme for food by reinforcing the importance of utilization/commercialisation of research results and the development of new methods, products or processes within the food system.

The PoC funding will provide an opportunity for researcher who is receiving or has received funding from Formas or the Swedish Research Council for food research to develop their research results by implementing activities and developing strategies that reinforce utilisation/commercialisation. The programme includes PoC projects throughout the entire food system, verifying the suitability and usability of a method, product or process and establishing a strategy for long-term utilisation/commercialisation of the research results. For example, PoC projects may comprise market analyses, consumer analyses, patent strategies, technical verification, etc.

Communicating with intended stakeholders/end-users (such as companies, authorities, municipalities, county councils, etc.) to reinforce the relevance of utilisation/commercialisation of the research is a very important element in the PoC projects. Discussion with relevant experts within the university innovation systems, such as innovation offices and holding companies, as well as institutes or companies is also recommended.

Focus of the call – Utilisation/commercialisation

The call is aimed at researchers who wish to implement a Proof of Concept (PoC) project. As a researcher, you must be active at a university, research institute or authority with research assignments, and have previously received funding from Formas or the Swedish Research Council with in the food area. The PoC project must aim to bridge the gap between research and utilisation/commercialisation of research results. PoC funding can be used to verify the usefulness and appropriateness of a new method, product or process that has been developed from an earlier research project, and to implement activities that pave the way for utilisation/commercialisation. The PoC project may lead to commercial or non-commercial utilisation of an idea or solution.

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Focus area – Food

In this context, "food" includes the entire food system, i.e. Production, Processing, Distribution, Consumption, Food Safety or Food Waste.

Gender equality and sustainability

Formas works for equal and sustainable social development. This means that applicants should take gender into account when designing the project. The PoC project should also motivate how it contributes to sustainable development, both economically, socially and environmentally, and in relation to the objectives of Agenda 2030.

Stakeholder cooperation within PoC projects

The focus of the call makes it relevant to cooperate with both stakeholders/end-users and commercialisation experts (such as innovation offices, holding companies, companies). Other actors who are experts on utilization from a non-commercial perspective may also be relevant. The constellation of actors will be unique to each project.

Public access to official records and confidentiality

Applications submitted to Formas will become public documents. In general, the public has the right to view these in accordance with public access to official records. This is also applicable to applications that are rejected or withdrawn. Decisions about grants awarded are published on the Formas website.

However, Formas can keep information confidential when this relates to business or operating conditions, inventions and research results of an individual if it can be assumed that the individual will suffer financial loss if this information were to be disclosed. If information in the application should be kept confidential, please state which information this applies to. Formas makes the final decision when confidentiality is to apply when releasing documents.

Information about the call

Further information about the call will be presented at a seminar on 23 March. The precise time and location will be announced in the Formas calendar (http://formas.se/sv/Kalender/).

Closing date for applications

The call will close at **2pm on April 26, 2018.** Please create your application in Prisma in time so that you can get help if you encounter any problems. Applications can be previewed at any time during the process. Applications can be opened and edited by the applicant until the final day of application for the call, even if the application has been registered. When the call closes the registered applications are submitted automatically. Note that it will not be possible to add or change information to applications after the closing date and time of the call.

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Your application

What you can apply for

- Funding may be granted for projects relating to the food area.
- Applications may be submitted for funding linked with project implementation, e.g. salary for project manager, other researchers, doctoral students, technical personnel or subcontractors, premises, operating costs (e.g. consumables, travel, prototype development and manufacture) and cooperation activities.
- The funding cannot be used for scholarships or educational grants for research students.
- The total pay received by a single researcher, doctoral student or the personnel must not exceed 100 per cent of a full-time position. This means that further funds for pay cannot be granted for researchers, doctoral students or other personnel who are already receiving funding equivalent to full funding of their pay. Formas will not permit annual pay increases for project participants.
- Subcontractors are permitted if they participate in defined parts of the project. Subcontractors may, for example, be innovation offices or patent and business consultants (to be procured in accordance with the rules applicable at the university, institute or authority managing the grant). Regarding innovation offices, the costs must involve activities beyond those already conducted by the innovation offices for the university's researchers. IP companies owned by researchers may also be used as subcontractors.
- Formas' PoC funding <u>cannot</u> be paid to companies that intend to commercialise the research idea themselves.
- If such a company is involved, they must contribute in-kind funding for their part of the project, and it is desirable for a cooperation agreement to be drawn up between main applicant and the company.
- Formas will <u>not</u> provide funding for pure commercialisation or marketing.
- In this call, Formas will <u>not</u> provide funding for continued research, writing articles or reports, communication initiatives or general product development.
- Main applicants may submit no more than <u>one</u> project application to this call.
- A PoC project can receive funding only from Formas or VR (not both).

Extent of funding and project period

- It is possible to apply for funding for a maximum of one year (a total of 12 months).
- You can apply for at least SEK 200,000 and a maximum of SEK 1,500,000, including indirect costs.
- The project's start date is preselected in Prisma and cannot be edited as project funding will be paid in December 2018. The funding may be spent throughout 2019.
- Final reports, including a financial and a scientific report, as well as a short summary of the PoC results are requested three months after the end of the project period.
- No co-funding is required for this call, but it is welcomed and encouraged. For example, co-funding may, in the form of time contributions (in-kind).

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Who can apply

- To be able to apply for funding, main applicants must have completed a doctoral degree and be active at a Swedish university, research institute or authority with research assignments.
- Main applicants or co-applicants must have previously received research funding for food projects from Formas or the Swedish Research Council at some point between 2010 and 2017.
- Projects must relate to the verification of research results within the scope of the funding granted previously.
- Main applicants must have a project activity level of at least 20 per cent of a full-time position.
- Other actors participating in the project, such as research students, partners or technical personnel, do not need to have completed a doctoral degree.
- Funding shall be managed by a Swedish university, research institute or authority with research assignments which meets Formas' eligibility requirements for grant administrating organisations.
- There is no age limit for project participants, but fully retired personnel cannot obtain funding for salaries.

How to apply

The Prisma application system

Applications for funding are submitted via the Prisma application system. A user account is needed to create an application in Prisma.

Prisma (https://prisma.research.se/)

Note that both you (the applicant) and an authorised representative of the fund manager must sign the application electronically in Prisma.

Language

Applications may be written in Swedish or English, but Formas recommends writing applications in English. Evaluation panel will include international experts. Applications that are written entirely in Swedish will be translated into English before being submitted to the Evaluation panel for review. It will not be possible to make changes to the application when it has been translated. The project summaries must be available in both Swedish and English. Please note that the budget specification should always be written in English: a Swedish budget specification will not be submitted for translation but will be reviewed by the international experts as it is.

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What the application must include

Basic information

- Project manager
- Number of months applied for (maximum 12 months)
- Project title in Swedish
- Project title in English
- Project goal

Note that the project's start date is preselected in Prisma and cannot be edited, as funding for the entire project will be paid in 2018. However, funding for PoC projects may be spent throughout 2019.

Swedish project summary (max. 1500 characters)

English project summary (max. 1500 characters)

Description of research funding granted previously by the Swedish Research Council or Formas (on which the PoC project is based max. 2000 characters)

Project description (max. 8 A4 pages)

- Purpose and aims of the Proof of Concept project
- Description of need/problem to be resolved, including benefit to society
- Description of the project idea, originality and expected outcome
- Description of the project's national and international innovation potential
- Description of gender equality
- Description of sustainability in the project in relation to Agenda 2030
- Project plan, including activities and schedule
- Description of the project organisation, management and roles of participants
- Description of how stakeholders/end-users and experts in utilisation/commercialisation will be involved in the project
- Plan for communication with stakeholders/end-users

Publications on which the Proof of Concept project is based (max. 2000 characters)

- Specify the most important scientific publications and patents on which the project is based.

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Budget

- Salaries, including social security contributions, for each project participant. For positions that already exist, 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.
- Specify the activity level for all project participants, including project participants who make in-kind contributions or are funded in some other way for implementation of the project.
- Specify running costs in accordance with the practice used at the grant administrating organisation.
- Premises costs should be specified in accordance with the practice used at the grant administrating organisation (unless the cost of premises is included in the overhead costs).
- In the budget summary for the project, under "Total amount applied for", indirect costs are specified in accordance with the practice used at the grant administrating organisation. Indirect costs are considered overhead costs. Formas does not permit overhead on depreciation costs for equipment or cost of premises.

Reasons for the budget applied for

- Brief reasons for all salary costs and other costs are provided here. A description of the total budget for the project, including finance from other sources, must also be included. Clear reasons must be given for all other costs. Max. 4000 characters.

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 must be described. This may, for example, involve research that uses personal data or experiments on humans or animals. Find out more about ethics in Formas' general instructions (www.formas.se/en/Financing/General-instructions/).

Classifications

- Choose a subject field.
- Choose at least one and no more than three SCB codes.
- Choose at least one and no more than three of the Sustainable Development Goals that are the best fit for the project When you categorize your project based on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals this should be based on the direct purpose or expected implementation of your project results (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300).
- Specify at least one and no more than five keywords describing the project.
- Specify which of the following parts of the food system your application relates to: Production, Processing, Distribution, Consumption, Food safety or Food waste: Categorize your application according to the aims, or the anticipated practical implications, of your applied project.

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Grant administrating organisation

- For this call, the grant administrating organisation must be a university, institute or authority with research assignments.
- Choose your grant administrating organisation and add the department or institution for the project. Find out more about Formas' grant administrating organisation requirements in Formas' general instructions (www.formas.se/en/Financing/General-instructions).
- Approved grant administrating organisations are listed as default options in Prisma. Contact your organisation if it is missing from the list. Your organisation then must create an organisation account in Prisma.
- When the call is closed, a registered application will then be sent to the grant administrating organisation manager, who has seven weekdays to sign the application.

Participants

- Main applicants invite participating actors (the researchers and other actors who are co-applicants for the project) and participating administrators (not people taking part in the project, but people who help you to fill in the application form).
- Participants must have created a separate user account in Prisma. Primary applicants invite the people who are to participate in the application by searching for their first names, surnames and email addresses in Prisma (note that names and email addresses must be spelt correctly).

CV

The applicant retrieves the relevant information from their personal profile in Prisma to be added the application. Participating researchers and other actors add their CV-information from their personal account in Prisma and should ensure that their CV in Prisma is complete and up to date. The information should include:

- **Education**: Post-graduate (doctoral) education, undergraduate and graduate education.
- **Professional history**: Current position and relevant previous longer-term positions, postdoctoral residencies, 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**:
  o Associate professorships
  o Supervision, doctoral students, postdoctoral students, and exam project students; state the total number in each respective category and provide the names of the most relevant supervisions (max 10).
  o Grants awarded in a competition, state the most relevant grants (max 10).
  o Prizes and awards, state the most relevant prizes and awards (max 10).
  o Additional merits, including publication summary: The main applicant and the participating researchers must provide a brief summary of their publication profiles for the past 5-year period and in total (max 800 characters including spaces). This must include the following: i) The number of publications of different types (such as articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, books and other monographs, conference

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contributions, popular science contributions), ii) Any other publications/citation specifications relevant to the research field of the applicant.
Under additional merits state also other merits relevant to the application, such as popular science texts and 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. Observe that the publications should be linked from the applicants' personal account in Prisma.

Evaluation of applications

The applications will be evaluated by a panel of active researchers as well as experts in the field of utilisation/commercialisation such as representatives of industry, the food sector, innovation offices and holding companies. The panel's evaluations and prioritisation of applications will constitute information for Formas' Scientific Council. Formas will have the opportunity to revise the ranking based on a portfolio perspective to facilitate high-quality projects throughout the entire food system.

The evaluation will be based on the information found in the applications. All criteria must be addressed in applications, and applicants are encouraged to relate their applications to these criteria in clear and transparent ways.

Please note that the evaluation criteria described below have been specifically designed for this targeted initiative, Proof of Concept call, and hence are not the same as those specified on the Formas website.

Evaluation criteria

Potential, relevance and quality

- How well the project is aligned with the purpose and aims of the call
- The extent of the potential in the project to resolve a relevant and required need
- The extent of the potential of the solution in Sweden and internationally
- The extent to which the project demonstrates innovation, originality and quality, and the significance of the results if the project is successful

Gender equality and sustainability

- How well thought out the gender equality aspect is (in the composition of the project group, the involvement of stakeholders/users and in the development of ideas and solutions).

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- How well thought out the sustainability aspect is, and whether the project can contribute to the Agenda 2030 sustainability goals in the short or long term.

Feasibility

- The extent to which the planned activities are realistic to achieve the expected results during the project period
- The extent to which the time schedule is realistic
- The plausibility of the budget in relation to the project layout and expected results
- The extent to which the plan for communication with potential stakeholders/users is realistic

Actors

- The ability and competence of the project manager to implement the project
- The extent to which the project organisation and overall expertise is sufficient and relevant for implementation of the project
- How well stakeholders/users are involved in the project
- How well utilisation/commercialisation/innovation experts are involved in the project

Funding decisions

The Formas' Scientific Council plans to make its decision on November 14, 2018. These decisions will be published on the Formas website shortly afterwards. These decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

Conditions for funding granted

Formas' general terms and conditions for funding are applicable to funding granted. The following special terms and conditions are also applicable to Proof of Concept (PoC) projects:

- The project must be represented by at least one project party for activities arranged within the National Research Programme for Food.
- If any information is provided about the project, and whenever project results are published, it is necessary to specify that the work has been carried out as part of the National Research Programme for Food.
- When the project submits its final report to Formas, (economic and scientific reports) a summary of max 1500 characters of the project results must also be sent to Formas (POC@formas.se) within 3 months after project end.
- It must be possible to distribute and publish the summary freely, and it must not include confidential or otherwise sensitive information.

Supplementary special terms and condition may be decided for individual projects.

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Support and shortcuts

- General instructions (www.formas.se/en/Financing/General-instructions/)
- Ethical policy (www.formas.se/en/Financing/Ethical-Policy/)
- Fund manager requirements (www.formas.se/en/Financing/General-instructions/Grant-administrating-organisation/)
- Prisma (https://prisma.research.se/Start)
- Prisma support (https://prismasupport.research.se/)

Contact

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