



Call

From research to practice – methods and tools

National research programme
for Sustainable Spatial Planning

Application Deadline: 2 April 2019 14.00

Date of Decision: 26 September 2019

FORMAS

ETT FORSKNINGSRÅD FÖR HÅLLBAR UTVECKLING

A SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Description of the call

Introduction

Sweden faces major challenges in its transition to socially, environmentally and economically sustainable communities. A key part of this transition is the ability of municipalities and other public-sector players to translate research findings and knowledge into practice. At the same time, researchers need a better, more nuanced understanding of municipalities' conditions and challenges for sustainable spatial planning. 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 in research. This will enable research results to contribute to the development of society.

The purpose of this call is to increase knowledge and the use of research results among public-sector players, particularly municipalities.

The call is aimed at researchers and municipalities, as well as other public-sector players (county councils, regions or government agencies).

Project proposals should build on ongoing or recently completed research projects and should relate to one or more of the themes and perspectives highlighted in the research agenda [Research for integrated and sustainable spatial planning](#).

Applicants can apply for grants for projects that run up to two years. It is possible to apply for a maximum of 1 million kronor per year and project. Formas has allocated 20 million kronor to the call for the period 2019–2020.

Background

Cities and communities face major challenges as they attempt to transition to a fossil-free society, adapt to climate change, and create conditions for socially, environmentally and economically sustainable cities and communities. The [global sustainable development goals](#) and Agenda 2030, as well as the [UN's New Urban Agenda](#), are major drivers in this transition process. Central to this transition are the Agenda 2030 targets of [goal 11 \(Sustainable cities and communities\)](#), as well as several other sustainability goals from Agenda 2030. These goals and the link to society's challenges are presented in the research agenda [Research for integrated and sustainable spatial planning](#). Today's complex societal challenges thus place great demands on the public sector, particularly the municipalities, to create the conditions for continuous learning and new solutions for sustainable spatial planning together with stakeholders such as higher education institutions, businesses and civil society.

Research can contribute with critical perspectives for developing complex spatial planning processes. But it must be done in close collaboration with residents, municipalities, companies and other organisations that in different ways participate in the spatial planning process. Research can also contribute to a systems perspective and bridge the gap between management and

organisational structures, where the challenges often cross organisational silos (this also applies to regional and national governance organisations). Research contributes with knowledge, but researchers also need to learn from users and problem-owners to understand their challenges and needs and to find common formats for conducting research. Collaborative research leads to mutual learning, while holding the potential to become more relevant to the needs and challenges of a municipality, for example.

Many projects are ongoing across the country in which municipalities participate and contribute to sustainable spatial planning. But there is no systematic, coherent approach to methodological development for knowledge transfer or solutions for disseminating research results and knowledge on a larger scale.

Purpose and focus

The purpose of this call is to increase knowledge and the use of research results within the field of sustainable spatial planning, particularly among public-sector players like municipalities. The call therefore focuses on further developing current methods, tools, formats, processes or approaches for transferring knowledge from research to practical activities, as well as proposing and testing innovative new practices. Methods and tools for knowledge transfer to a broad spectrum of stakeholders also play a key role. The evaluation of current knowledge transfer practices can also be part of a project.

The concept of *sustainable spatial planning* is defined in the research agenda [Research for integrated and sustainable spatial planning](#) as planning, building, using and managing cities and their peripheries, urban areas, communities and rural areas. The concept of spatial planning equally addresses the processes of planning, construction, use and management of buildings, infrastructure, cultural sites and natural environments, as well as the planning and promotion of inclusive, participatory and safe communities where people want and are able to live. In light of all these factors, sustainable spatial planning means working in a socially, ecologically and economically sustainable way. Sustainable spatial planning must take into account the links between these dimensions and must explore the tensions and conflicts of interest between them.

Projects that can be funded in this call must meet one or more of these goals:

- Develop existing, or propose and test new, innovative and scalable methods, formats, tools or experimental activities to transform research results into practical use (for example, guidelines and policy decision-support).
- Develop methods, processes, approaches or experimental activities for collaboration between researchers and end users/stakeholders aiming to jointly conduct research.
- Develop scalable technical or digital solutions, processes, approaches or methods that can be used jointly by different societal stakeholders and contribute to the use of the research results in society.

The projects should also:

- Build on ongoing projects (started in 2019 at the latest) or recently completed projects (completed by 2017) related to one or more of the perspectives and one or more of the themes (Figure 1) highlighted in the research agenda [Research for integrated and sustainable spatial planning](#). The projects do not need to be funded by Formas – the determining factor is the relevance of the project’s focus to the themes and perspectives of the research agenda.
- Relate to existing knowledge about the practical application and impact of research.



Figure 1. Perspectives and themes in the research agenda [Research for integrated and sustainable spatial planning](#). For more information on the perspectives and themes, see Chapter 4 in the research agenda.

The projects may also:

- Involve public-sector researchers and players (municipalities, regions/county councils and/or government agencies)
- Link several ongoing or recently completed projects
- Use knowledge and experience from international contexts
- Use knowledge and experience from other areas (school, healthcare, etc.)

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).

The results are also expected to contribute to the development of national capacity in terms of an increased user perspective, usability and impact of research within the field of spatial planning. The results may also be used by projects in future calls from Formas and other funders nationally and internationally.

Before you apply

Projects that qualify for funding

Projects should develop innovative methods, tools, processes, work approaches or experimental activities that aim to transform research results into practical use, or to promote collaboration between researchers and societal stakeholders.

The project must be related to at least one theme in the research agenda *Research for integrated and sustainable spatial planning*, and at least one of the agenda's perspectives.

Grant amount and project duration

You can apply for a minimum of SEK 500,000 for a 12-month period and a maximum of SEK 1 million per year for a maximum of two years. The project must run for a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of two years. Projects must start in 2019.

Applications where the total amount applied for exceeds SEK 1 million per year *or* a maximum of 2 million for two years *or* falls below SEK 500,000 will be rejected.

Language

You may write your application in Swedish or English. If you write your application in English, your application will be translated by a professional translator into Swedish.

Who can apply

Research practitioners and public-sector players (municipalities, county councils/regions, county administrative boards and other government agencies) can apply for funding under this call. The applicant does not need to have a doctoral degree. More than one organisation can participate in the application as a project partner and apply for funding, provided that they are research practitioners, municipalities or other public organisations. Other types of organisations that *do not* engage in economic activity can, depending on the organisational form, participate as applicants in the project (contact Formas in each individual case).

There is no requirement that several organisations must be part of the project organisation and have both research practitioners and public-sector players. Note, however, that the project is assessed according to the criteria for implementation and organisation (p. 12).

Stakeholders engaged in economic activity, such as municipal companies, private companies and public organisations, can be included in the project as a partner but cannot apply for funding under the call.

Participating researchers must be associated with the ongoing or recently completed research project that the project is based on, but it is also possible to link new researchers to the project who can contribute the necessary skills and expertise.

Co-funding is not required for this call.

How to apply

Applying in Prisma

To apply for a grant from Formas, the project leader should submit an application in the Prisma application system. For this you need:

- A personal account in Prisma for the project leader.
- An organisation account for the project leader's organisation.

If the project leader's organisation does not have an organisation account, the organisation must apply for an account. Make sure you do this on Prisma's website in good time before the call closes, as it can take a few weeks to have your application approved. If your organisation already has an organisation account in Prisma, then that account can be used.

Note that the organisation account and personal accounts may not be registered using the same email address. When you apply for an organisation account, you should also indicate which call you are applying for and send an email to the responsible research officer at Formas stating that you have applied for an organisation account.

Information your application must contain

The application you submit in the Prisma application system must include a clear description of the project under the following sections:

Abstract (max. 1,500 characters, including spaces, each in Swedish and English)

A brief and clear description of the project's purposes and goals, as well as content and implementation. Include the impact that the project can have on practical use.

Project purpose and objectives (max. 3,000 characters including spaces)

Briefly describe why it is important to conduct the project and what the project aims to accomplish.

Background, current state of knowledge and relevance (max. 5,000 characters including spaces)

Describe the challenges that the project addresses and how the project can help to solve them. Clarify which previous or ongoing research projects form the basis for the current project. Describe how the project relates to existing knowledge and experience regarding practical application, knowledge transfer and research impact. Justify the need for the project. Describe the target groups that will make use of the project and its results. State the expected impact.

Justify the relevance of your project based on the themes and perspectives from the agenda's national research programme [Research for integrated and sustainable spatial planning](#).

Project proposal for solution (max. 5,000 characters including spaces)

Describe what the project aims to develop and how it will help to transfer knowledge from research to practical use or help to develop forms of co-creation between researchers and societal stakeholders, with a special focus on public-sector players. Describe the content and methods, tools, processes, work approaches, technologies or similar that you will use in the project.

Project implementation and organisation (max. 5,000 characters, including spaces)

Describe how you will implement the project. Describe the project's activities and milestones. Describe how you will organise and manage the project. Describe the roles and activities of all project partners as well as their skills and experience. Describe how you will conduct the project in practice. Indicate a timeframe for the project.

Project's expected results and effects (max. 3,000 characters, including spaces)

Describe the expected results and impact of the project in relation to identified target groups and their activities. Also describe the potential scalability of the project results and the stakeholders and target groups that will benefit from the results.

Budget

You report the project budget in Prisma. The budget should include:

- Salaries, including social security contributions for each project participant

Formas does not grant funding for annual salary increases. You can therefore apply for funding for salaries that apply at the time of the application, but not for funding to cover salary increases. For any current job positions, you must state the salary in effect at the time of the application submission. This will then apply to all subsequent years in the project. For new job positions you must state the starting salary at the administrating organisation (the organisation that will manage the project funds).

- Activity level in the project

Activity level refers to the percentage of full-time service a project participant contributes.

- Operating costs

Operating costs include the cost of consumables, consultancy services, travel, conferences and publication fees for open-access journals and databases. Equipment costs and depreciation costs for equipment used in the project are also considered operating costs.

- Premises (rental costs for the project)

You can apply for funding for the cost of premises if this is not already included in the projects' overhead costs.

- **Indirect costs**

When you state the cost of overhead in the application, do so according to the practice of the grant administrating organisation that will manage the funds. Formas does not grant funding for overhead costs that you write off for equipment or premises.

- **Budget specification**

In your own words, explain how the grant amount you are applying for will be distributed each year, as well as the total amount per organisation if several organisations are applying.

Example: University X is the principal applicant and will receive the funds as the grant administrating organisation. Municipality Y participates in the project and will receive part of the grant. So, indicate how much University X is applying for in total, distributed over each year, as well as how much Municipality Y is applying for in total, distributed over each year.

Please note that you should upload the budget specification as an attachment (PDF, max 4 MB, max 7000 characters including spaces).

Ethical considerations

Fill in only if relevant for completing the project. You must describe the relevant ethical issues and how they should be managed. Examples include research that uses personal data, or experiments on humans or animals. Read more in [Formas' general instructions](#) under the section on ethical considerations.

Classifications

Formas uses project classifications in analyses and supporting documentation on an overall level. The classifications are made by the applicant, who states the subject area, SCB codes and at least one global sustainability target the project can contribute to.

- **Subject area**

Select the project's subject area and add a sub-heading.

- **SCB code**

Next, select at least one SCB code with two sub-levels that together form the entire code. Select at least one and a maximum of three keywords describing the project. Choose what best represents your project, even if it does not entirely match the field you work in.

- **Global sustainable development goals**

Select a minimum of one and a maximum of three global goals for sustainable development that best fit your project.

Administrating organisation – the organisation receiving the grant

The administrating organisation is the organisation that receives the grant money from Formas when a grant is awarded. Applicants under this call must be administrating organisations that are approved by Formas. Applying for an organisation account in Prisma means that you are applying to become an administrating organisation under this specific call. If your organisation is already an administrating organisation, you do not need to submit this application. If you are not sure whether your organisation is already approved as an administrating organisation, contact the responsible research administrator at Formas. A registered application is automatically sent to the administrating organisation after the call is closed. The administrating organisation then has seven business days to digitally sign the application.

The administrating organisation is responsible for transferring part of the grant to any co-applicant project partners. This grant money must be transferred, not invoiced.

Project leader's CV

Add the following information to the application. The project leader retrieves the information from his or her personal account in Prisma:

- Education – Basic education. If the project leader is a researcher, also state postgraduate education.
- Employment – A maximum of three job positions.
- Other relevant qualifications.

In addition, the CV of the project leader can be uploaded as an attachment (maximum of 4,000 characters including spaces).

CVs for project participants

If the project has several project participants, the CV for at least one and a maximum of three project participants should be uploaded as attachments. CVs may contain a maximum of 4,000 characters including spaces.

List of publications for project participants

The project leader can add a maximum of 10 publications in the list of publications (scientific or popular science). If other participants want to add publications (such as reports or articles), this can be done in an appendix.

Appendices

Mandatory appendices

- A description of the recently completed or ongoing research project that forms the basis for the current project. Maximum 4,000 characters including spaces.
- If the project has several project participants or parties, the CV for at least one and a maximum of three project participants should be uploaded as attachments. CVs may contain a maximum of 4,000 characters including spaces.
- The budget specification should be uploaded as an attachment.

Other appendices

You can upload a maximum of 4 additional attachments as PDF files. Examples of such other appendices are:

- CV for the project leader: If the project leader is not a researcher, this person can also upload their CV as an attachment (maximum 4,000 characters including spaces). Note that the principal applicant must also upload their CV from their profile in Prisma. This is, however, primarily designed for researchers.
- A list of publications that are not scientific articles, such as reports or popular science articles.
- Illustrations and figures.

Assessment of applications

All applications are assessed based on their contents, so it is important to write the application as clearly as possible and include all important and relevant information.

Any applications containing technical errors will be rejected. For example, a technical error can be a budget that exceeds a maximum of SEK 1 million per year or exceeds the total amount applied for over two years corresponding to a maximum of SEK 2 million. Another example would be a budget that falls below SEK 500,000. An application that does not fall within the scope of the call will also be rejected (refer to the focus area from the research agenda)

Relevance

- Motivate why it is important to solve the challenge that the project addresses as linked to the need to transform the research results into practice.
- Describe how the proposal in the application relates to ongoing or previous research projects.
- Justify the relevance of your project based on the themes and perspectives from the agenda's national research programme [*Research for integrated and sustainable spatial planning*](#).

Potential

- Describe how the project proposal can contribute to a greater practical application of the research.
- Describe the areas that are relevant for the expected impact. Explain why the stakeholders you chose are important for the impact in each area.
- Describe the potential of the proposal to contribute to greater gender equality, diversity or democratic participation in society.

Implementation

- Describe the project plan: What activities are you planning in order to achieve the project's purpose and objectives?
- Describe the activities you are planning in order to achieve impact for the results.
- Describe how the needs of different stakeholders and users are taken into account in the design of the project.
- Explain how the timetable and budget are appropriate in relation to the project's purpose.

Organisation

- Describe how resources, skills and experience correspond to the needs of the project organisational structure to implement the proposal. Also describe how you have taken into account gender equality in the project organisation.
- Describe how you intend to enable the practical application of your research through the project organisation. Are there any stakeholders in the project who can contribute to the practical application of the research results?
- Describe any need for international anchoring and how to implement it.

How does the assessment process work?

Applications are assessed by a review panel consisting of practitioners and researchers. Each application will be read and assessed by several people representing both practitioners and researchers.

Grant award decisions

Formas' scientific council is expected to reach a decision on 26 September 2019 concerning which projects will be 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

- [Prisma](#)
- [Prisma's user support](#)
- [Ethics policy](#)

Contact information

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