

Challenge-Driven Innovation

Global sustainability goals in the 2030 Agenda as
a driver of innovation

Stage 2 – Collaborative Project 2018
(spring)





CALL

Date
1/11/17

Reg. No:
2013-04314

Revised

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1 The proposal in brief

Are you ready to collaborate on the development of innovations to meet a societal challenge?

If the answer to this question is “yes”, then you may be ready to move on to the next stage in the Challenge-Drive Innovation programme.

Who can apply for funding and for what?

The call is aimed at consortia that wish to conduct a joint project to further develop the results of Stage 1 under the Challenge-Drive Innovation programme.

Vinnova’s calls within the Challenge-Driven Innovation programme use a three-stage process:

1. Initiation.
2. Collaborative Project.
3. Follow-up Investment.

This call relates to second stage, in which we will be supporting activities aimed at developing innovations. These innovations must tackle societal challenges which require widespread cooperation. Only projects which have been approved for Stage 1 may apply for Stage 2.

How much funding may be sought?

Vinnova can fund a maximum of 50% of eligible project costs *and* the maximum permissible funding is SEK 10,000,000.

What are the important dates?

See the call’s webpage for the relevant schedule. There will also be information on how Stage 2 relates to Stage 3 in terms of timing.

Is reading the call text enough?

You will need to be familiar with all the documents listed in section **Error! Reference source not found.** below, particularly the programme description.

2 What are the aims of this funding?

Vinnova's vision is for the Challenge-Driven Innovation programme to be a powerful tool in developing new, sustainable and internationally eminent solutions which tackle important challenges. The solutions should make a clear contribution to the global goals of the 2030 Agenda, see www.globalamålen.se.

The programme is based upon distinct, overall control mechanisms as defined by Vinnova. These include purpose, principles and programme goals and are detailed in the programme description available at: www.vinnova.se/UDI. However, the applicants will define such aspects as which societal challenge is to be tackled, which project goals are to be fulfilled and how these relate to the control mechanisms and global goals.

Each applicant should be able to present a demonstrable impact logic running from the start of Stage 1 to the end of Stage 3. The project's impact logic will be worked on proactively, updated as it progresses. The impact logic provides visualisation of the consortium's mutual understanding of the connection between envisaged resources, activities, project goals and changes/impacts sought. The programme's standards are high and projects must strive towards demonstrable and tangible results. Moreover, these results must help us achieve the goals of the Challenge-Driven Innovation programme and the global goals of the 2030 Agenda. See the programme description for more information.

The programme focuses on solving societal challenges. This means that gender mainstreaming is an important aspect to consider for all projects when it comes to ideas, actors and implementation. For those projects granted funding under this programme, this means:

- that women and men will face the same conditions in order to benefit from funding,
- that women and men will participate as actors in the implementation of approved projects and as a target group,
- that the outcome of the grant-funded activity (the project results) will contribute to increased gender equality.



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3 Who is the call aimed at?

The call is aimed at consortia wanting to implement a collaborative project to further develop the results of Stage 1 under the Challenge-Driven Innovation programme. The solutions must be able to bring about impacts on a systemic level.

Given the programme's principles, it is important to involve needs owners (such as customers and users) at the time of application. It is often crucial to involve foreign actors and naturally they are welcome to take part, but not as Coordinators. For foreign actors to be eligible for funding they must have a premises or branch in Sweden.

Since the challenges under the 2030 Agenda cross multiple boundaries (including fields of expertise and organisational boundaries), extensive partnerships are required which can bring about tangible solutions. The work should be clearly based on a user and needs perspective. This means that solutions from a single industry/sector would not be sufficient.

4 What will we fund?

4.1 Activities for which funding may be sought

At Stage 2, we will support activities aimed at developing innovations. These innovations must tackle societal challenges which require widespread collaboration.

Activities at Stage 2 may vary but they all involve starting to develop, test and assess (partial) solutions. Projects at Stage 2 will always involve customers and users in development work and working to disseminate the results. Examples of relevant activities include:

- *conducting tests*: often in a limited and controlled environment such as lab experiments involving a limited number of users,
- *in-depth needs and market analysis*: a limited updating, augmenting and enhancement of the analysis conducted prior to Stage 2,
- *developing demonstrators and prototypes*: everything from very simple demonstrators and prototypes with limited functionality to more sophisticated real-world examples,
- *analysing and influencing structural factors*: to better understand obstacles and opportunities and to initiate the work of changing structural factors such as laws, rules, policies and standards.

The principles of the programme are to fund projects which:

- are based on societal challenges that are part of the 2030 Agenda and have clear needs owners,
- adopt a systemic approach, looking at everything needed to solve the societal challenge, not just individual parts,
- are able to manage a high level of complexity. This will require a widespread collaboration between private, public, civil, non-profit and academic organisations,
- are based on active and interdisciplinary collaboration between the actors needed for successful implementation; in particular users, customers and other relevant stakeholders,
- develop innovations (in a broad sense and based on user needs) that can challenge mental models and provide systemic impacts,
- result in innovations which combine international business potential with benefit to society,



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- integrate international aspects, such as developing solutions for a global market and building capacity to attract international expertise and investment to Sweden,
- contribute to gender equality through the project's results and implementation.

The programme description comprises the programme principles and other key aspects which the projects need to incorporate, see www.vinnova.se/UDI. The document also contains further information about what the programme can accommodate, including areas that would be unsuitable.

4.2 Eligible costs

Our funding is provided as grants. Grants to organisations conducting economic activity are subject to state aid rules¹ which govern such things as the types of costs and what proportion can be covered through Vinnova's assistance.

¹ Please see our website for more information on state aid: <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/statligt-stod/>. Our general terms and conditions for grants and a guide to the eligibility criteria may be found here: <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/allmanna-villkor/>

5 How much grant support do we offer?

At Stage 2, there are three constraints, **all** of which must be met:

Firstly, the grant may total 50% of the eligible costs of the project.

Secondly, the grant may be a maximum of SEK 10,000,000.

Thirdly, the maximum level of aid² for each project partner that may be granted is as follows:

- non-economic activity: 100%,
- economic activity:³
 - small enterprise: 80%,
 - medium-sized enterprise: 75%,
 - large enterprise: 60%.

² The level of aid is the same as Vinnova's grant expressed as a percentage of the grant recipient's eligible costs.

³ Organisations that engage in economic activity include, in principle, most organisations which are not universities, colleges or research institutes. In the spirit of the regulations, examples of organisations engaged in economic activity are companies, membership organisations and trade organisations. The aid levels above assume that the project meets certain additional conditions. Please see Section 10.2, point 6 for more information.

6 Conditions for us to evaluate an application

We will only evaluate applications which meet the following requirements:

- the project partners must be legal entities,
- the project manager must be employed by one of the project partners in the consortium⁴,
- the final report on the initiation project must be submitted to Vinnova no later than 18th January 2018 and include an appendix which follows the final reporting template for Stage 1 of the Challenge-Driven Innovation programme⁵,
- the final report for the initiation project must be approved by Vinnova before the collaborative project may commence,
- the coordinator of the collaborative project must be a project partner in the initiation project which forms the basis of the collaborative project,
- applications must be written in Swedish or English,
- the project must commence between 3rd and 17th May 2018 and be concluded no later than 27th August 2020.

⁴ Irrespective of the project manager's organisational affiliation, the coordinator is responsible to Vinnova for the project manager. For further information, see § 1.6 of Vinnova's general conditions for grants.

⁵ A final report template may be downloaded at: www.vinnova.se/UDI

7 Evaluating applications

7.1 What do we evaluate?

Applications are evaluated based on how well they meet the principles of the programme, through the criteria of potential, actors and implementation. This means the consortium must have made sufficient progress in Stage 1 for the development work of Stage 2 to follow relatively quickly. Please note: key concepts are defined and explained in more detail in the programme description.

1. Potential

Potential to help create impactful and innovative solutions to a societal challenge, in keeping with the programme's principles and the global goals of the 2030 Agenda.

2. Actors

The credibility to build a consortium which can be responsible for the project's performance and impact goals, in keeping with the programme's principles.

3. Feasibility

The way in which the project has been designed to achieve its performance and impact goals, in keeping with the programme's principles.

For a project to receive funding, the application must have been evaluated as being of sufficiently high quality on all criteria.

7.2 How do we evaluate?

Applications are evaluated by a group comprised of external assessors and Vinnova administrators. Vinnova strives to make the group balanced in regard to:

- *gender*: the ratio should be within the range of 40-60,
- *geographical distribution*: chiefly Swedish assessors from all over the country,
- *field*: a mixture of assessors from a variety of sectors such as research, industry, civil society and the public sector,
- *experience*: a mixture of assessors who have previously evaluated applications in the programme and new ones, but with a preponderance of experienced assessors,
- *expertise*: specialists as well as generalists.



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Depending on the assessors' individual evaluations, Vinnova may opt for further elucidation. A combined evaluation meeting will then be convened and the applicants interviewed. From there, the external evaluation group will submit a recommendation to Vinnova regarding which projects should be approved. The results of this work and the evaluation meetings from other stages will be compiled and presented to Vinnova's steering group for Challenge-Driven Innovation. The Agency will then make a decision as to which projects should be approved or rejected.

8 Decision and conditions

8.1 About our decisions

The award amount for each part of the project will be given in the decision. Grants will be awarded on the basis of “Industrial Research”, as per Commission Regulation SFS 2015:208 on state aid for research, development and innovation.

Our decision to approve or reject an application may not be appealed.

8.2 Conditions for approved projects

Our grant awards are subject to our general conditions on aid.⁶ These conditions include rules on project agreements as well as conditions on payment, follow-up, reporting and utilisation of results.

The following special conditions apply, over and above our general conditions:

1. At programme conferences and other activities organised by Vinnova (maximum three during the project), the project must be represented by one or more project partners. The costs of participating in such activities are eligible for aid.
2. In the first status report, the coordinator must state the date on which the project partners signed the project agreement⁷.
3. An updated situation and market analysis must be attached to the second status report (optional format).

Additional special conditions may be stipulated for individual projects.

If you do not comply with our conditions of service, you may be liable to repay your grant. The same applies if you have been awarded a grant in error or overpaid.

⁶ Applicable conditions may be found on our website, as well as guidance for understanding and complying with them: <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/allmanna-villkor/>

⁷ In accordance with § 1.4 of Vinnova’s general conditions for aid, the project partners must have signed the agreement no later than the date on which the first situation report is due to Vinnova. However, we strongly recommend that the agreement should be signed before the initial report falls due.

9 How to apply

To apply for a grant, you must complete a web-based form via our application service (eServices Portal), accessible on our website. Table 1 summarises the various parts of the application. Once the deadline has passed, you may only complete an application if we request it.

Table 1. Summary of project application contents*

Application sections	Description
<i>General pages</i>	This section is for more general background information, such as budget. Remember that a budget must be given for all project partners.
<i>Potential</i>	This section is for information relating to the assessment criterion “Potential”, such as the societal challenge you are tackling, your envisaged solution and how you can contribute to the global goals of the 2030 Agenda.
<i>Actors</i>	This section is for information relating to the assessment criterion “Actors”, such as which project partners are included in the application and their roles.
<i>Implementation</i>	This section is for information relating to the assessment criterion “Implementability”, such as project plan and organisation for Stage 2, plus gender mainstreaming relating to implementation.
<i>CV</i>	A special CV template must be completed for key project personnel.
<i>Appendices</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact logic (compulsory): optional format giving your outline of the project’s impact logic. 2. Project plan (compulsory): optional format giving your outline of the project plan. A Gantt chart, for example. 3. Work distribution - Work-effort-table (compulsory): use template. 4. Cost distribution for each work package (compulsory): use template. 5. Final report for Stage 1 (compulsory): use template.** 6. Other images (optional): optional format for images, tables etc.

* Please note: you will need to generate an application in the eServices Portal to see in more detail what the application should comprise and the scope of each part. The content of the application is structured based on what information the assessors need to evaluate each criterion.

** In other words, the document should first be uploaded as an attachment when you finalise Stage 1 and subsequently when you apply for Stage 2. The template can be found at: www.vinnova.se/udi and you should upload only this file and not the financial report for Stage 1.

10 Other key information

10.1 Who may read the application?

Applications submitted to us become public records, but we will not disclose information about an individual's business or operating conditions, inventions and research results if it may be assumed that an individual would suffer a loss if such information were to be released.

10.2 Supplementary documents

In addition to the call text, you should also read and observe the following documents:

Programme description

1. Description of the Challenge-Driven Innovation programme.

This document may be accessed at: www.vinnova.se/UDI

Conditions and rules

2. Vinnova's general conditions for grants.

3. Guide to Vinnova's conditions on eligible costs.

4. Guide to Vinnova's conditions on exploitation rights.

These documents may be accessed at: <http://www.vinnova.se/sv/Ansoka-och-rapportera/Villkor-och-kostnader/>

State aid

5. Vinnova's regulation SFS 2015:208 on state aid to research, development and innovation.

6. Table of support levels for state aid.⁸

These documents may be accessed at: <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/statligt-stod/>

Supporting documents

7. Various documents providing support before and during Stage 2, based on the assembled experience of assessors, project managers and administrators in the programme.

These documents may be accessed at: www.vinnova.se/UDI

⁸ Above all, please refer to the table and information relating to "Industrial Research (§ 9 / art. 25)"