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Artificial intelligence for better health

A call for proposals under the Innovations for Future Health programme.

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Revision history

Date	Changes made

1 The call in brief

Vinnova is announcing grant funding to implement projects aimed at producing new solutions which, aided by artificial intelligence, have significant potential to improve public health, nursing or care in Sweden. Projects may focus on such things as disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment, nursing or processes. Projects should be able to add economic value either by bringing about new products and services which can be commercialised, or by other means such as improved healthcare or streamlining of nursing or care. For this reason, your solution should be scalable and implementable during the lifetime of the project. The project duration may be up to three years and should start no later than 4th June 2018.

This call addresses groupings of at least two project partners of differing expertise; artificial intelligence plus healthcare, nursing or care. Applicants are welcome from all sectors. This might include companies, universities, county councils and municipalities. At least one requirement owner should be included as a project partner in the group. In this call, a requirement owner means someone who needs the solution which the project intends to develop. The requirement owner is responsible for the solution corresponding to a genuine need and that the solution can be implemented within the allotted duration of the project. Users, customers and patients are examples of possible requirement owners.

A budget of SEK 20 million has been set aside for this call. Relevant information on this offer and a link to our application service (eServices Portal) can be found on the Vinnova website [here](#). Applications should be submitted to Vinnova no later than 2 p.m. on 20th March 2018. Our decision to award or decline an application will be made by post no later than 4th June 2018.

2 What are the aims of this funding?

Through its call for proposals “Artificial Intelligence for Better Health”, Vinnova wants to drive advancements in healthcare, nursing and care and thereby contribute to sustainable development, improved public health and good, equal care. Aided by artificial intelligence (AI), our aim is to benefit Swedish residents and businesses by creating solutions that facilitate disease prevention, earlier and safer diagnoses, better treatments and more effective processes.

This call addresses groupings of at least two project partners of differing expertise; artificial intelligence plus healthcare, nursing or care. Vinnova would like to see new inter-sectorial cooperations, and AI experts working in other industries such as finance technology to tackle and release the potential of AI in healthcare, nursing and care. The aim is for these partnerships to result in new

products and services which can be commercialised, thus helping enhance Sweden's international competitiveness within the field.

The solutions which are produced must also contribute indirect economic value through such things as improved healthcare or streamlining of nursing or care. For this reason, proposed solutions should be scalable and implementable during the lifetime of the project. Projects should have a clear user perspective.

Vinnova is one of 60 official bodies specially commissioned by the government to work proactively on equality integration during 2016-2018. This means that your operation should be developed so that it contributes to the equality policy goal for *women and men to have the same power to shape society and their own lives*. An equality perspective will thus guide the assessment process of this call.

3 Who are we addressing?

This call addresses groupings of at least two project partners of differing expertise; artificial intelligence plus healthcare, nursing or care. The project parties should be legal entities and independent of each other. Foreign parties may take part if they have a base of operations in Sweden. Applicants from all sectors are welcome and might include companies, universities, county councils and municipalities. At least one requirement owner should be included as a project partner in the group. In this call, a requirement owner means someone who needs the solution which the project intends to develop. The requirement owner is responsible for the solution corresponding to a genuine need and that the solution can be implemented within the allotted duration of the project. Users, customers and patients are examples of possible requirement owners.

4 What are we funding?

4.1 Activities for which funding may be sought

Funding may be sought for projects which, aided by AI methods, produce a solution of great potential to improve public health, nursing or care in Sweden. Your project may focus on such things as disease prevention, diagnosis, treatment, nursing or processes.

Your project should be able to add economic value, either by bringing about new products and services which can be commercialised, or other things such as improved healthcare or streamlining of nursing or care. For this reason, your solution should be scalable and implementable during the lifetime of the project. Your solution should generate benefit for Swedish residents. Examples of areas which would be a good fit for this call are projects focusing on:

- healthcare and patient admin solutions which optimise treatment, nursing, resources and finances
- risks and safety; for example, detection of deviations in lab results, readings and dosages
- forecasting tools based on existing data, for better planning
- semi-automation of manual processes where there is currently too much variation
- decision-making support for prevention, diagnosis and treatment based on existing data
- coordination of healthcare and nursing for people with comorbidities.

Early-stage projects are not suitable for this call for proposals. For example, projects which are beginning to measure or search for data, or which cannot deliver something new for Swedish residents or companies within the allotted project duration. Groups of actors which do not include a requirement owner are not suitable for this call either. The primary aim is not to develop new methods within AI, but to use AI to measure needs within healthcare, nursing and care.

It is for the applicant to determine what type of data and which AI methods will be used in their project. The project plan must state clearly why the chosen method is best suited for its purpose and what expertise the project partners have in the chosen method.

Your solution should be innovative. It is therefore important to have a thoroughgoing situational analysis, incorporating the international perspective and describing how your solution differs from existing ones. Vinnova does not fund pure product development.

Projects may run for up to three years and your project should start no later than 4th June 2018. Development work that has already been carried out will not be compensated by Vinnova. Any legal obstacles to the use or cross-checking of data should be documented in your report to Vinnova.

4.2 Eligible costs

Our funding is in the form of grants. Grants to organisations which are conducting economic activity are restricted by rules on state support. These rules govern such things as the type of costs and what proportion of them may be covered by a grant.

5 What size grants can we make?

Under this call for proposals, grants are made under the framework for experimental development in accordance with Vinnova's regulations, SFS 2015:208 R&D support (§ 9 / Art. 25). This means that organisations which are

conducting economic activity may be given a grant of 25-60% of the [eligible costs](#) for each party. The level of grant depends on such things as the size of the company, the project parties and how they plan to disseminate their results. More information about this may be found in the table on page 2 [here](#).

Grants to research organisations and publicly funded nursing and care in Sweden do not count as state support when these organisations are involved in their non-economic activity. In this call, those organisations which do not fall under the state rules may be given a grant of up to 80% of their [eligible costs](#).

This call has a budget of SEK 20 million.

6 Conditions for us to consider an application

We will only consider applications which meet the following requirements:

- the application makes it clear that the project can contribute to what Vinnova wants to achieve through its funding under this call.
- the application is submitted and formatted in accordance with section 9 below
- the group of actors consists of at least two project parties with differing expertise – artificial intelligence and healthcare, nursing or care.
- at least one of the requirement owners is part of the project group
- the level of support for each party in the application is in accordance with what has been stated under section 5 above
- all project parties are legal entities
- the application arrives no later than 2 p.m. on 20th March 2018.

Once the application date has expired, applications may only be made upon request from us.

7 Assessment of applications

7.1 What do we assess?

Potential

- Potential to meet the objectives of the call.
- Potential to improve public health, nursing or care in Sweden by meeting the existing needs of the requirement owner.
- Potential to contribute economic value.
- International competitiveness.

- Scalability and potential for national and international dissemination of results.
- Potential to contribute increased equality.

Practicability

- Probability that the project will be able to deliver something new for residents of Sweden or companies, within the allotted project duration.
- Relevance of the choice of AI method to the proposed solution.
- Project's integration in the requirement owner's organisation
- Realistically planned activities in regard to time and budget.
- Situational analysis and how it incorporates the international perspective.

Actors

- Project parties' capability and reliability in regard to implementing the project.
- Commitment of the respective project parties to implementation and funding.
- Representation of the groups that the solution will benefit.
- Project parties' expertise and experience in the chosen AI method.
- How well the project team (key people) is composed in regard to gender distribution, including commitment and influence.

7.2 How do we assess?

With reference to the equal treatment principle, only those applications meeting the requirements under point 6 will be considered. Applications which meet the requirements under point 6 will be assessed according to the above assessment criteria in competition with each other. The applications will be assessed by Vinnova and by experts appointed by the Agency. Applicants may be called to interview. Vinnova will then make its decision on funding and notify this to all applicants.

8 Decision and terms

8.1 About our decisions

Grants are made under the framework for experimental development in accordance with Vinnova's regulations SFS 2015:208 R&D support (§ 9 / Art. 25).

Our decision to award or decline an application will be made by post no later than 4th June 2018. Decisions may not be appealed. If funds have been awarded in error, or an overpayment made, the recipient may be liable for repayment.

8.2 Terms for granted funds

Our [general terms](#) apply to granted funds and are in force from the date a decision is made. These terms include rules on project contracts, conditions of payment, monitoring, reporting and utilisation of results.

In addition to our general terms and conditions, the following special conditions apply: for its duration, a project must be represented by at least one project partner at any programme seminars and conferences which Vinnova arranges. The costs of such participation may be claimed.

Additional special terms may be stipulated for individual projects.

9 How to apply

To make an application, complete a web-based form on our application service (eServices Portal), which can be accessed via the [call webpage](#). You can also upload the following appendices in PDF format:

- Project description, max. eight A4 pages, formatted according to the template on the [call webpage](#).
- Curriculum vitae (CV), max. five A4 pages, formatted according to the template on the [call webpage](#).

No other appendices are permitted.

10 Who may read applications?

Applications submitted to us become public documents. However, we may not lawfully disclose information on commercial or operational conditions, inventions and research results, if it may be assumed that individual financial loss would occur upon publication of such information.

In practice, this means we must supply documents if requested, but that we mark as confidential any information deemed personally damaging were it to be released.

Further information on confidentiality rules can be found [here](#).