Decision support system for health care and social services using artificial intelligence

Background and purpose

Vinnova is Sweden’s innovation agency. We strengthen Sweden’s innovation capacity for sustainable growth and social benefit.

Within the framework of the government mandate (N2016/04455/IF) to implement continued digitization initiatives for better health care and social services, Vinnova is inviting private and public players to submit applications for the project ‘Beslutssstöd för hälsa, vård och omsorg med hjälp av artificiell intelligens’ (English title: Decision support system for health care and social services using artificial intelligence).

The purpose of the call is to promote the development of intelligent decision support systems to benefit patients and users. As the call for proposals targets constellations of players with various competencies, Vinnova hopes to contribute to partnerships between companies and researchers active in artificial intelligence and the health care sector.

Vinnova is one of 60 public authorities to receive a special government mandate to actively work with integrating gender equality during 2016–2018. This means operations will be developed to contribute to the gender equality policy goal that women and men will have the same power to shape society and their own lives. Accordingly, the assessment process for this call for proposals will take gender equality into consideration.

Target of the call for proposals

The call targets constellations of at least two project partners from different areas of expertise. Applicants are welcomed from all sectors and may include companies, institutions of higher education, county councils and municipalities.

Description of the call for proposals

Vinnova is announcing funding for conducting projects aimed at developing decision support systems for health and medical care and social services with the help of artificial intelligence (AI). The decision support system should support health and medical care and social services and have a clear user perspective. The
system is to benefit patients and users, making it important that these groups are represented in the project in some way.

It is up to applicants to choose what type of data and which AI method to use in the project, but the solution is to be innovative. This makes it important to conduct a thorough situation analysis and describe how the solution differs from existing solutions.

The project may take up to two years and must start within three months from the deadline for submitting. Funding may be sought for part or all of the process to develop and clinically evaluate and implement the decision support system. However, Vinnova will not compensate for development initiatives that have already been conducted. Please note that costs for subcontractors can only make up for a smaller part of the total budget, you can find more information about this in Vinnova’s general terms and conditions for grants.

Any legal obstacles to using or coordinating data must be documented when reporting to Vinnova.

Goal of the call for proposals
The goal of the call is to develop and implement intelligent and competitive decision support systems, produced using AI, to benefit patients and users. The decision support system should be able to contribute to economic value through improved health or streamlining of health and medical care and social services.

Vinnova also wants to help small and medium-sized companies and researchers active within AI to explore the potential of AI in health and medical care and social services and for this to lead to new partnerships. The goal is for these partnerships to result in new products, thus contributing to increasing Sweden’s international competitiveness in the field.

By revealing legal obstacles, Vinnova hopes to contribute to improving future conditions for implementing and spreading decision support systems for health and medical care and social services.

Conditions for financing
Budget and schedule
A budget of SEK 20 million is reserved for the call. The call will remain open as long as there are still funds available, but will close no later than October 2017. Applications will be assessed on several different occasions in 2016 and 2017. The following timeline shows the final application deadlines for each assessment occasion. Note that the exact dates may change, as well as the call description.
Information about any changes will be stated on the call page. The call page will also state the remaining funds in the budget for the call.

### State aid rules

The maximum support level for this call is **80 per cent of the eligible costs for each party**. However, there may be additional limitations with respect to state aid rules, as grants from Vinnova that are given to organisations with commercial operations are limited by these rules. In general, the rules limit how much an organisation can receive in grants to part of its eligible costs. More information about this is available [here](#). Eligible costs can be seen [here](#). We have estimated that applications within this call most probably will fall in under the category “experimentell utevckling”. Vinnova’s ability to provide grants are regulated in the ordinance SFS 2015:208 on state aid for research, development and innovation.

In some cases, organisations engaged in commercial activities may also be given grants according to Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 on de minimis aid. More information about de minimis aid is available [here](#).

### Formal requirements

To be considered for assessment by Vinnova in accordance with the criteria stated in the Assessment section below, the following requirements must be met.

- The application must make it clear that the project will be able to contribute to the goal of the call.
- The constellation of players must include at least two project participants and comprise multiple areas of expertise.
- All project participants must be legal entities.
- The application must include, be completed according to and be structured like the content specified in the Application section below.
- The project may not have been initiated before submitting the application. Vinnova will not compensate for development initiatives that have already been conducted.
Assessment

Assessment process
Received applications will be assessed according to the following assessment criteria. The applications will be assessed by Vinnova and external experts. Vinnova will then decide on funding and inform all applicants about the decision.

Assessment criteria

Potential
- potential to benefit patients and users and to be able to contribute economic value
- potential to develop a new solution or a solution that is significantly better than currently existing solutions
- potential for dissemination of the results nationally and internationally

Feasibility
- relevance and reliability of the described budget, activities and schedule
- how well it integrates the gender equality perspective into the project plan

Players
- obligations of the project participants, as well as abilities and reliability regarding the implementation of the project
- how well composed the project team (key individuals) is in terms of gender breakdown, including obligations and influence

Application

How to apply
Applications are completed using an online form at Vinnova’s eServices Portal. A Vinnova user account must be created to submit an application. Existing Vinnova user accounts may be used. The individual who submits the application must be authorised to do so on behalf of the organisation. Note that to be considered for assessment on each assessment occasion, the application must be received by 2:00 p.m. on the date specified on the call page. Applications received after that time will be assessed on the next assessment occasion. Once an application has been submitted, no additions may be made to it unless requested by Vinnova.

Application content
When completing the application using the online form at the eServices Portal, two required attachments must be uploaded: a project description and a CV annex. The attachments must be formulated in accordance with the templates on the call page. In addition to these two attachments, where applicable (see the section State aid rules above), the “Certificate of de minimis aid” form must be attached. Only
**these three attachments are permitted.** Attachments must be in PDF format.

**Terms**

Vinnova’s [general terms and conditions for grants](#) apply to this call for proposals. The terms include, for example, rules regarding reporting, follow-up, revisions and conditions for payment.

The following applies in addition to the general terms and conditions. At least one project participant must represent the project at the programme seminars and conferences arranged by Vinnova during the project period. The cost of participation is eligible for funding.

**Confidentiality**

Applications to this call for proposals are public documents. The public has the right to access them as a general rule, according to the principle of public access. This also applies rejected or revoked applications. Vinnova’s decisions and decision statements are also public documents. However, Vinnova is required to maintain the confidentiality of all information about an individual’s business or working conditions, inventions and research findings if it can be assumed that the individual would suffer economic damages if the information were made public. Find more information about this on Vinnova’s website under “[Legal information](#)”.

**Contact**

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