Date
2017-11-16

Registration number
2017-04432

Revised
2018-01-18

Projects for better health 2017–2018

Joint call for applications by Swelife and Medtech4Health

The strategic innovation programmes Swelife and Medtech4Health are part of a **shared investment** in strategic innovation areas **by Vinnova, the Swedish Energy Agency and Formas**. The aim of the investment is to create the conditions for international competitiveness and sustainable solutions to global societal challenges.

Through Swelife, healthcare, academia and industry collaborate to promote renewal and innovation for more value-generating healthcare and to increase growth within the life science sector in Sweden.

Medtech4Health's goal is to coordinate, lead and develop sustainable research and innovation initiatives for biomedical engineering in Sweden. One basic principle is that industry, healthcare and research collaborate in a national programme to create better opportunities for the biomedical engineering industry, thereby also improving healthcare and nursing for patients.

For more information on the programme, see www.swelife.se and www.medtech4health.se

UTLYSNING FÖR INNOVATIONSPROJEKT

Medtech4Health SWElife

EUROPEISKA UNIONEN
Europeiska regionala utvecklingsfonden

Med stöd från:
VINNOVA
Energimyndigheten
FORMAS
STRATEGISKA INNOVATIONS-PROGRAM

Content

Revision history

[To be used if the call for applications is amended after publication.]

Date	Amendment
2018-01-18	Addition of *de minimis* aid to section 8.

Med stöd från: VINNOVA Energimyndigheten FORMAS STRATEGISKA INNOVATIONS-PROGRAM

1 The offer in brief

This call for applications is for projects in cooperation between the sectors of healthcare, academia/institutes and industry. Any party within the team can be the coordinator, but if the industry party is the coordinator, it must be a Small and Medium sized Enterprise (SME) pursuant to EU rules[1].

The project is to be based on solutions which are innovative and unique and can be developed into new innovations. These could be new products, services, processes or other quality- or value-generating solutions.

The proposed solutions are expected to lead to improved prevention, diagnosis, monitoring or treatment of diseases or other conditions that require, or may come to require, healthcare.

Projects can be awarded grants up to a maximum of SEK 1 million. Co-financing from the whole project is to be at least 50 per cent at the time of decision. If a grant of SEK 1 million is applied for, at least SEK 1 million in co-financing is required, provided by the various project parties together. The call for applications has a total budget of at least SEK 19 million.

This is a combined call for applications from the two strategic innovation programmes within life science, Swelife and MedTech4Health, with Swelife as the main party responsible for the call for applications.

Contact person regarding the area and aim of the call for applications:
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Contact persons regarding Hands-on[2] support in connection with the application:
Swelife's regional coordinators (see appendix 1) or Anna Ridderstad Wollberg

Contact person regarding the assessment procedure, legal issues and other questions about the content of the call for applications:

[1] https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/dokument/eu-definition-smf.pdf
[2] For information about Hands-on support see: http://swelife.se/vi-erbjuder/affarsutveckling/swelife-hands-on-model/

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Current information about the call for applications and a link to our eServices portal (Intressentportalen) are available on www.vinnova.se.

Important dates
Opening of call for applications: 20 November 2017
Feedback on applications: offered according to the Swelife hands-on model, deadline 18 January 2018. Open to all applicants.
Close of call for applications: 25 January 2018 at 14:00
Feedback for projects to interview: 19 March - 6 April 2018
Interview dates: 19 April - 3 May 2018
Decision on funding: 14 May 2018
Earliest project start: 23 May 2018
Latest project start: 25 June 2018
Project duration: maximum one year

2 What do Swelife and MT4H aim to achieve with the funding?

The aim of the call for applications is to contribute to the goals of improved health, increased growth in Sweden and strong international competitiveness.

At the project level, the funding is expected to lead to a solution maturing to a level that can attract subsequent investments in the form of public or private

funding, to improve long-term opportunities to reach the market and end users. The project is therefore expected to develop from a minimum TRL3[3] to a higher TRL. The most important thing is to deliver results that enable the project to attract new investments in order to take the next step.

To support projects in the application procedure and to contribute to sustainable development within life science, Swelife offers support according to the hands-on model[4]. If you wish to benefit from this offer, you are to contact your regional Swelife coordinator. The deadline for hands-on support[5] is 18 January 2018.

Swelife's hands-on model creates the conditions to enable innovative projects all over Sweden to get support in application and commercialisation processes. In this way, we aim to achieve a national utilisation of expertise and coaching, thereby contributing to the programme's goals of making the most of the innovation potential of the entire population. Over the long term, the programme will also contribute to fostering a gender equal development of society by ensuring that both women and men, equally, can influence projects and participate actively in their implementation and further commercialisation.

This type of step 1 call for applications will occur on an annual basis. Look out for other types of calls for applications and opportunities for funding on the websites of Swelife and MedTech4Health.

3 For whom is the call for applications?

The call for applications is addressed to collaborating parties within the sectors of healthcare, academia/institutes and industry. The projects are to involve parties from at least two of these sectors. Please note that one person cannot have more than one project party affiliation. Any party within the team can be the coordinator, but if the coordinator is the industry party, it must be an SME pursuant to EU rules[6].

The end user or recipient (healthcare, patient, client, user) is to be actively represented in the project, either as a project party or as a target group in one of

[3] Technological readiness level, see section 7.1 and appendix 4 in the project description
[4] http://swelife.se/vi-erbjuder/affarsutveckling/swelife-hands-on-model/
[5] For information about Hands-on support see: http://swelife.se/vi-erbjuder/affarsutveckling/swelife-hands-on-model/
[6] https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/dokument/eu-definition-smf.pdf

the proposed activities. International parties may take part in the project, although not as coordinators, and they must have operations or a branch in Sweden to receive a grant.

The funders and the strategic innovation programmes Medtech4Health and Swelife work to promote equality between women and men. This means that the projects are to take gender equality[7] into account in the choice of project managers and the composition of project groups/project participants, in order to be eligible for funding.

The ideas in the project are to be innovative and unique with the potential to be developed into innovations. This could entail new products, services, processes or other quality- or value-generating solutions focused on the patient. The proposed solutions are expected to lead to improved prevention, diagnosis, monitoring or treatment of diseases and other conditions that require, or may come to require, healthcare.

4 What do we finance?

4.1 Project content

The project is to propose a clear solution to a recognised problem. The project idea/solution is to be verified biologically/clinically or technically and from a business perspective (or as a savings/efficiency benefit) in cooperation with those who need the solution or the end users. This verification does not necessarily need to take place during the project period.

In order for funding to be awarded, there must be a significant need and demand from patients, healthcare, clients or users of the product or service.

The project proposals are to include a description of the expected final result, showing that the project will continue to be worthy of investment in the next step towards taking the project results to a commercial market or to implementation with users within healthcare above all. Such subsequent investments can originate from both private and public capital or be government funding.

The project is to present at least two work packages and to identify the critical activities and expected deliveries. Each project party’s activities and costs are to be accounted for in the budget.

[7] https://www.vinnova.se/m/jamstalld-innovation/

One of the work packages **must** contain business intelligence and development. Such activities can include developing/implementing business strategies, payment models, competition situations and certain patient activities that are eligible for support.

4.2 Activities for which funding may be sought

Example of activities that are eligible for funding

- Investigation of market conditions, e.g. identifying clients, client needs, potential cooperation partners and competitors.
- Investigation of the technical and design conditions.
- Production of documentation on which to base major development work.
- Production of new knowledge and development of prototypes of goods or demo versions of services. Can include pilot work, testing and validation.
- Showing that the implementation of the proposed solution (or components of it) gives the desired boost to quality, saving or efficiency gain in a pilot project with sample management or in a patient study.
- Show that the solution functions in practice, e.g. through a proof of concept (PoC) in an experimental study with patient material.
- Investigation and development of copyright strategies and protection.
- Investigation of regulatory conditions and requirements for e.g. documentation and permits.
- Investigation and development of production methods.

Examples of activities that are not eligible for support

Routine or recurrent changes to existing products, production methods, production processes, services or other ongoing activities are examples of activities that are not eligible for funding. This also applies in cases where the changes entail improvements. Other examples of activities that cannot be funded are pure marketing and sales, regular business development and ongoing operations.

4.3 Costs that are eligible for support

Funding from Vinnova takes the form of a grant which is covered by regulations on state aid. You can read about this in Vinnova's guide.[8] The regulations govern what types of costs and what proportion of them may be covered through grants.

4.4 VAT for companies

All costs eligible for support are as a rule to be accounted for excluding VAT. This means that the VAT is not a cost that is eligible for support. If your company is not obliged to report VAT, on the other hand, the VAT could be an actual cost and is then eligible for support. Only if you, as a company, can prove that VAT is an actual cost for you, may it be included as part of the costs eligible for support. In that case, amalgamate the VAT with the cost with which it is associated; do not enter the VAT in the accounts as a separate item.

5 How large a grant can one apply for?

Applying projects can obtain a maximum of SEK 1 million in grants, but you can also apply for lower amounts. The co-financing from the whole project is to be at least 50 per cent at the time of the decision. SEK 1 million in grant funding requires at least SEK 1 million in co-financing, from the various project parties combined. The call for applications has a total budget of at least SEK 19 million.

6 Conditions for the application to be assessed

Only applications that meet the following formal requirements will be assessed:

- The project team consists of at least two project parties from at least two of the areas: academia/institutes, industry or healthcare with one party as the main applicant.
- The application was submitted via the online form on Vinnova's eServices Portal (Intressentportal). The application is to be submitted at the latest by 14:00 on 25 January 2018.
- All compulsory appendices are attached.
- The application is written in Swedish or English.
- The maximum grant applied for is SEK 1 million.

[8] Read more about state aid on our website: https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/statligt-stod/. There, you will also find our general conditions for grants and a guide to the conditions on costs that are eligible for support: https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/allmanna-villkor/

- The project follows the rules for state aid.

7 Assessment of submitted applications

7.1 What do we assess?

The project is to be in line with the goals and purpose of the call for applications. This will be assessed using the following criteria:

Potential.

- How well the project meets the aims and direction of the call for applications
- How large the need and demand for the solution is for the end user
- How large the solution's business potential is in Sweden and internationally
- How large the solution's potential for savings, efficiency or quality enhancement is from a patient perspective
- How large the project's potential to solve a recognised problem within healthcare is and the significance of the results and effects if the project is successful
- To what degree the project can demonstrate growth potential and/or concentration of expertise and potential to attract investments to Sweden

Feasibility.

- To what degree the project has the potential, within the project period, to take a clear step towards converting knowledge into innovations in the form of solutions that will benefit patients and/or society.
- To what extent it is realistic that planned activities will be completed during the project period so that the expected result can be achieved.
- How well the project's plan for cooperation between the project parties and other agents of importance for the project has been thought through and supported.

Stakeholders.

- How well the project is supported by relevant stakeholders within industry, academia and healthcare.
- To what degree the project has attracted and engaged government, private or industrial cooperation partners.

- How well those who need the solution (healthcare, patients, clients, users, etc …) are connected to the project.
- How large the capacity and credibility is in the individuals in the project to be able to implement the planned activities. (Above all in the project manager and the key persons in the project).
- Whether the project group's collective expertise and experience is sufficient and relevant to enable the development of the project according to plan.

In addition to the assessment criteria listed above, the project will be assessed on whether:

- It lies at least at TRL3[9] at the start, i.e. that it meets all the requirements for TRL1-TRL3. Projects starting at TRL 7 or higher are not supported. The criteria for this are presented in the Project Description, in Appendix 4.
- It has at least one work package including business intelligence and business development activities (e.g. business strategies, payment models, competition situation and certain patent activities that are eligible for support).
- It has taken into account gender equality in various terms, both with regards to the composition of the project team and management, in the implementation of activities and in the choice of target groups.

7.2 How do we assess?

Assessment is done in two stages:

- All projects that meet the formal requirements are assessed by an assessment group composed of external experts
- Vinnova summons selected projects to interview and thereafter takes the decision on funding

[9] Technological readiness level, see section 7.1 and appendix 4 in the project description

8 Decision and conditions

8.1 About Vinnova's decision

The decision specifies how much funding is granted to each party in the project.

The grant is given as support for newly started companies or as support to research and development projects[10] in compliance with Vinnova's regulations (2015:208) on state aid for research, development and innovation and the EU Commission's regulation no 651/2014. The grant can also be given as *de minimis* aid in compliance with EU Commission's regulation no 1407/2013.

The decision on whether to approve or reject an application cannot be appealed. Each project party is responsible for ensuring that the grant received does not exceed the support level permitted pursuant to the rules for state aid[11].

8.2 Conditions for approved grants

For approved grants, Vinnova's general conditions for grants apply.[12] The conditions entail, among other things, rules on project agreements, conditions for payment, follow-up, reporting and utilisation of results.

If you do not adhere to the conditions, you may be liable to repay the grant received. This also applies if you have been awarded grants erroneously or with an excessive amount.

9 How to apply

To apply for a grant, complete the online form in our application service (Intressentportalen), which you access from our website. You are also to upload the following appendices there[13]:

Content of the application

[10] The criteria for support for newly started companies and support to research and development projects are stated in articles 22 and 25 respectively of the EU Commission regulation no 651/2014 (https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/dokument/gber-gruppundantagsforordning.pdf) .
[11] Read more about the rules for government aid https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/statligt-stod/
[12] https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/dokument/allmanna_villkor_2017.pdf
[13] Templates for appendices are available on our website: https://www.vinnova.se/e/swelife-och-medtech4health-projekt-for-battre-halsa/forbattrad-prevention-diagnos-och-behandling--swelife-och-medtech4health/

NB! Maximum number of pages for application applies as below. Additional pages will not be used as grounds for assessment. This also applies to appendices beyond those required.

- The project description makes up the application and comprises four parts, a general part and three appendices:

1. A general part to be completed by all, of a maximum of 10 A4 pages with minimum 11 point text (Times New Roman)
2. A budget table (Appendix 1) to be completed by all and attached to the application
3. A Gantt chart (Appendix 2)
4. A pharmaceutical section (Appendix 3) to be at most 6 A4 pages with minimum 10 point text (Times New Roman) to be completed by all pharmaceutical projects

- A CV appendix: Brief CV summary for the key people (one page per person) to be uploaded separately in the portal.

When the application deadline has passed, applicants can only complement their applications if requested to do so by Vinnova.

10 Who can read the application?

Applications submitted to Vinnova become public documents, but Vinnova does not release details of individual business or operational circumstances, inventions and research findings if such disclosure could be supposed to harm any individual.

11 Checklist

- ☐ Create an account on Vinnova's eServices Portal https://portal.vinnova.se/
- ☐ Project summary, title and purpose (Swedish and English) completed on the eServices Portal
- ☐ Completed project description Appendix 1 (Budget)
- ☐ Completed project description Appendix 2, (Gantt chart)
- ☐ Completed project description Appendix 3, applies only to pharmaceutical projects
- ☐ Completed and attached CV
- ☐ Budget completed on the eServices Portal (can easily be derived from Appendix 1)
- ☐ Application on the portal + Project description (incl. appendices) and uploaded before 14:00 on the application deadline

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2017-04432

Revised
2018-01-18

Med stöd från:
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Energimyndigheten
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Appendix 1 – Hands-on support

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Extra hands-on support for pharmaceutical projects

SciLifeLab DDD platform

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