

Vinnova – Sweden's Innovation Agency

VINNOVA
Sveriges innovationsmyndighet

A modern office interior with large windows and people in the background. The scene is brightly lit with natural light from the windows and artificial lights from the ceiling. In the foreground, three people are engaged in a conversation. A man in a white shirt is smiling and looking towards a woman on the left. A woman with glasses is smiling and looking towards the man. In the background, other people are visible, some standing and some sitting at tables. The office has a clean, professional look with a mix of wood and metal accents.

About VINNOVA

- 200 employees
- Stockholm, Brussels, Silicon Valley and Tel Aviv
- Government agency under the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation
- Annual budget of around 310 million EUR

Three roles



Investment in research and innovation



National EU node



Expert agency

A white autonomous shuttle bus is parked on a snowy street. The bus has a license plate that reads 'YKT 710'. On the front of the bus, there are logos for 'Helsinki', 'SLOVENIA', 'SACSON', and 'Helsinki'. A person is riding a bicycle on the street in the background. The scene is set in a city with modern buildings and bare trees. The entire image has a teal color overlay.

Research aimed at impact for society



Innovation through Collaboration

VINNOVA PROVIDES INCENTIVES

Vinnova makes it possible to develop new solutions

BEFORE IT IS PROFITABLE



The Vinnova way

- Experimentation
- Trust the stakeholders
- Stimulate global links
- Encourage collaboration
- Address societal challenges





GLOBALA MÅLEN
för hållbar utveckling

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Five Priority Areas



Smart Cities



**Next Generation Travel
and Transport**



**Circular and
Biobased Economy**



Life Science



**Connected Industry
and New Materials**

3834

Projects funded in 2017

Selection of activities



Strategic innovation programs

COLLABORATION FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

17 programs with key innovation stakeholders in the driver's seat. The programs cover areas of importance for Sweden. Co-funding by Vinnova, Formas and the Swedish Energy Agency

Strategic Innovation Program

2013

Metallic materials

STRIM

Production2030

LIGHTer

PiiA

2014

Smart Electronic
Systems

IoT Sweden

BioInnovation

Innovair

Graphene

Swelife

2015

InfraSweden 2030

RE:Source

Medtech4Health

Smart Built
Environment

Drive Sweden

2016

Viable Cities



PUBLIC SECTOR

Key Stakeholder for Innovation

Vinnova supports regions, municipalities, and government agencies to become a driver for the development and implementation of innovations.

VINNOVA



**Support Universities' capacity
to interact with other
innovation partners**

A woman with short hair, wearing a white t-shirt and denim overalls, is sitting at a desk in a dimly lit office. She is looking towards the camera with a neutral expression. Her hands are on a laptop keyboard. In the background, there are blurred office shelves and a coffee cup with the word 'ORIE' on it. The entire image has a teal color overlay.

Innovative Startups and SMEs

Vinnova funds early stage research and innovation projects to lower risk and promote collaboration.



EU and International Cooperation

Vinnova supports the development of international networks for Swedish innovation stakeholders through bilateral co-operation, Eureka network and Innovation partnerships with for example countries such as Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, South Korea etc.

Horisont 2020

EU's program to support research and innovation. The worlds largest program with a total budget of 80 mill euros 2014-2020.



Background to the Call-for-Proposals

*Innovation and cooperation for a sustainable future
A German & Swedish partnership for innovation
(31 January 2017)*



“The German & Swedish partnership for innovation is an important step for bilateral cooperation between our countries. It brings together governments, businesses and institutions, and paves the way for deepened future cooperation”

Aim of this initiative (call for proposals)

- Support R&D cooperation between Small and Medium Sized companies (SME's) in Germany and Sweden
- Create opportunities for companies to strengthen their technological base and competitiveness as well as international network and opportunities
- Co-develop products, technology-based services or methods which will in subsequent steps generate sustainable solutions with market potential and potential to address societal challenges
- Open to all technological and application areas

Structure of the call

- Cooperation between Vinnova and AiF Projekt GmbH (assigned by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy in Germany)
 - Sweden; Vinnova funding
 - Germany; Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM)
- Two parallel, and not identical, processes for submission and evaluation of project application in Germany and in Sweden
- Vinnova and AiF Projekt will make the final selection of successful proposals to be funded
- Important to read all three documents available on the home page!

Structure of the call



AiF Projekt GmbH

<u>Sweden</u>	<u>Documents/ processes</u>	<u>Germany</u>
<i>One common document</i>	”Announcement”	<i>One common document</i>
Vinnova call text (“Svensk utlysningstext”, for SE side applicants)	National Guidelines <i>Different for SE and DE</i>	ZIM Guidelines (applies only for DE side applicants)
Vinnova	Information and support	AiF Projekt GmbH
According to instruction from Vinnova (“Svensk Utlysningstext”)	Submission of application <i>”Proposal Application Form” submitted on <u>both sides</u>, ”Consortium agreement” only DE</i>	According to ZIM/AiF rules <i>(DE side applicant must ensure they follow these)</i>
Vinnova procedures	Evaluation	ZIM procedures

IMPORTANT to understand the different process for Sweden (Vinnova) and Germany (AiF Projekt)

- The Swedish applicants should follow the Guidelines provided by Vinnova (“Utlysningstexten”)
- The German applicants should follow the ZIM guidelines
- The information requested by Vinnova and by AiF Projekt, respectively, differ to some extent
- The only common documentation requested on both sides is the “Proposal Application Form”
 - Draft Consortium Agreement has to be submitted in DE. In SE Swedish applicants do not need to submit it, a testimony in the project application that a draft exists is sufficient

Projects – types and set-ups

- An *obvious advantage* and *added value* resulting from the cooperation between participants from the two countries
- Actual and active cooperation between project partners!
 - Companies, with opportunity to engage research performing organizations (universities, research institutes)
- At least one SME in Sweden and one in Germany
 - Companies in Sweden and in Germany from 1- 499 employees with ≤ 50 MEUR turnover/year or a balance sheet total of max. 43 MEUR)
- Industrial research
- Experimental development
- “**Novelty**” - We do not fund market-related or marketing, market or customer adaption of existing products, improvement and etcetera

Industrial Research (state aid definition)

- ‘**Industrial research**’ means the planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services.
- It comprises the creation of components parts of complex systems, and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation [COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 651/2014; “*GBER*”]

Experimental development (state aid definition)

- **‘Experimental development’** means acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services. This may also include, for example, activities aiming at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes or services; [examples can be found in COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 651/2014]
- Experimental development does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may represent improvements;

Target group and consortium in Sweden

- Small and medium-sized enterprises who wish to cooperate with partners in Germany (SMEs up to 499 employees and ≤ 50 MEUR turnover/year or a balance sheet total of max. 43 MEUR)
- Project consortium set up:
 - One Sweden-based SME is the main applicant and project coordinator taking a distinct ownership and leadership responsibility
 - Universities, colleges, research institutes and large companies (500 employees or more) are eligible as project partners, but large companies are not eligible for grant funding
 - An equal contribution, added value and resources/financial capability must be shown on a project level
 - An equal influence of men and women in the project is encouraged
 - Project duration should in principle not exceed 2 years



Grant levels in Sweden

- Vinnova can finance eligible costs* based on *Förordning (2015:208) om statligt stöd till forskning och utveckling samt innovation art. 9*, as well as *Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.4 European Parliament and of the Council art 25*:
 - Up to 3 000 000 SEK per project as grant
 - Support of activities under “Industrial research” and “Experimental development”
 - Up to 50 % of eligible costs for SMEs can be supported
 - Companies with 250-499 employees are not officially labelled as SME according to current state aid regulations, they fall under category Large co’s
 - Up to 100 % of eligible costs for research organizations can be covered by grant (universities, colleges and for research institutes participating as a part of their non-financial activities –”icke-ekonomisk verksamhet”)
 - Companies with 500 or more employees or a higher annual turnover than 50 MEUR or a balance sheet total of more than EUR 43 MEUR are not eligible for funding (but can participate at their own expenses)
 - State aid regulations: <https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/dokument/tabell-stodnivaer-statligt-stod.pdf>



* § 6.1 Vinnovas allmänna villkor för bidrag 2019, <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/allmanna-villkor/>,

Formal requirements in Sweden

- Main applicant One SME in Sweden (SMEs here; up to 499 employees and ≤ 50 MEUR turnover/year or a balance sheet total of max. 43 MEUR)
- Project carried out in collaboration as a Swedish – German partnership, project application must be submitted both in Sweden and in Germany according to Vinnova's and AiF Projekt's respective guidelines
- Grant amount applied for to Vinnova is not to exceed 3 MSEK and conform with allowed state aid levels (is based on the category of the participant)
- Project manager reporting to Vinnova is employed by the main applicant (SME)
- Equal contribution, added value and financial capability for project delivery must be shown between the Swedish and German side on a project level (FTE cost/month)
- Establishment of draft Consortium Agreement between all project partners to be confirmed but not submitted. Document to be in accordance with Vinnova's regulations*



The application process in Sweden

- Deadline for applications to be submitted to Vinnova through website "Intressentportalen" no later than 14:00 CET on November 14th, 2019
- Documents to be submitted to Vinnova:
 - Joint Proposal application form for the full project (English)
 - Intressentportalen: Only for the Swedish side budget and participants (Swedish/English)
 - "Projektbeskivning" only for the Swedish side (Swedish/English)
 - Existence of a draft of Consortium Agreement between all project partners to be confirmed but not submitted (English)
 - CV for key stakeholders only for the Swedish side (Swedish/ English)
 - Copy of latest registered annual report for the Project coordinator only for the Swedish side (Main applicant Sweden-based SME) stating the company's turnover, the number of employees and the overall financial capacity to carry out the project (Swedish/ English)



Time line for project application in Sweden

Call opening at Vinnova web 20190828



AUG

Deadline for submission of application at Vinnova web 20191114 at 14.00



NOV

Grant funding decision communicated by Vinnova 202005



MAY



In case of any questions please contact:

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