

# Vinnova – Sweden's Innovation Agency





## **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

# The Vinnova way

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





# 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”

Photo: Henrik Montgomery, TT

**VINNOVA**

# 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
- For additional information on the application process in Germany visit <https://www.zim.de/ZIM/Redaktion/DE/Artikel/International/schweden.html>
- 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>	<b>"Announcement"</b>	<i>One common document</i>
Vinnova call text ("Svensk utlysningstext", for SE side applicants)	<b>National Guidelines</b> <i>Different for SE and DE</i>	ZIM Guidelines (applies only for DE side applicants)
Vinnova	<b>Information and support</b>	AiF Projekt GmbH
According to instruction from Vinnova ("Svensk Utlysningstext")	<b>Submission of application</b> <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	<b>Evaluation</b>	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  $\leq 50$  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 of the 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 companies
  - 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/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/stodnivaer-statligt-stod.pdf>



\* § 6.1 Vinnovas allmänna villkor för bidrag 2021, <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  $\leq 50$  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\*



\* <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/allmanna-villkor/>

# The application process in Sweden

- Deadline for applications to be submitted to Vinnova through website "Intressentportalen" no later than 14:00 CET on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2021
- 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)
  - "Projektbeskrivning" 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's web 20210210

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FEB

Deadline for submission of application at Vinnova's web 20210511 14.00 CET

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MAY

Grant funding decision communicated by Vinnova 20210929

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SEP



In case of any questions please contact:

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About administrative issues about the call:

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