ANNOUNCEMENT   1 (12)

Date
2023-03-08

Reference number
2022-03848

Revised

Individual mobility for applied AI, automation and data sharing

Spring 2023

A call within the Artifical Intelligence programme

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Content

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1   Summary of the Call

The purpose of this offer is to strengthen strategic AI competence in Sweden. We want to achieve this by enabling individual mobility (personnel exchange) between Sweden and Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Korea and USA. The personnel exchange can last form four weeks up to six months.

The venture covers individual mobility in the areas of AI, automation and data sharing (see chapter 2 for details).

Two types of individual mobility are financed:
1. A Swedish organization can apply for funding to give an employee the opportunity to work in an organization in one of the above-mentioned countries, to strengthen the employee's skills
2. A Swedish organization can apply for funding to invite an expert from one of the countries above, with aim of strengthening the organization´s competence

The budget for this offer is a total of SEK 7 million and each project can be financed with a maximum of SEK 500,000. The offer is open to Swedish companies, public organizations and research organizations.

The following dates apply to the call:
Please note that the dates are preliminary. For up-to-date information, please visit www.vinnova.se.

Opening date	2023-02-07
Last day to apply	2023-09-05 at 14:00 (2:00 pm)
Project start	at the earliest after receiving a decision from Vinnova
Project start no later than	2023-11-01

Contact person for the call:

Erik Borälv, call manager
08-473 32 22
erik.boralv@vinnova.se

Administrative matters:

Jenny Johansson, administrator
08-473 30 13
jenny.johansson@vinnova.se

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Vinnova's IT support:

Technical questions about Vinnova's e-services
Phone: 08-473 32 99
helpdesk@vinnova.se

Current information about the call and link to Vinnova's e-service for applications can be found at www.vinnova.se.

2   What do we want to achieve with this initiative?

This offer aims to increase strategic AI competence in Sweden through individual mobility, and at the same time establish cooperation between organizations in Sweden and organizations in Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, Korea and USA.

The investment covers individual mobility in the areas of AI, automation and sharing of data.

Vinnova is tasked with promoting sustainable growth and societal development. Through Agenda 2030, the countries of the world have reached a global agreement and understanding of what characterizes sustainable development. Through our efforts, we contribute to the global commitment to achieve the goals.[1]

Within Agenda 2030, Vinnova has specifically pointed out *climate* and *gender equality* as two central sustainability perspectives to which our funded initiatives should contribute positively. Projects funded by Vinnova are thus expected to pay special attention to the climate and gender equality aspects.

One aspect that Vinnova follows up and assesses is whether both women and men in an equal way take part in the grant, participate in and have influence over the project.

Another aspect is to analyze and decide whether there are gender and/or gender aspects that are relevant to the project's problem area, solutions and utilization[2]. This question is mandatory to answer for all applicants and can be found under the

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[1] See also Our work to contribute to the goals of Agenda 2030: Agenda 2030 - the global sustainability goals as a driving force for innovation | Vinnova
[2] Read more about what our work for equal innovation means for you who apply for grants from us: Equal funding of innovations | Vinnova

heading "Project tasks". In this call, the question is the basis for assessment under the potential criterion.

Results from research and innovation that are to be made freely available provide increased opportunities for more people to contribute to solutions to societal challenges. The call will contribute to more results being made freely available to everyone and scientific publication will take place with open access.

2.1 Content explanations

2.1.1 Artificial Intelligence

There is no clear definition or generally accepted delineation of artificial intelligence (AI). We choose here to define AI as a machine´s ability to imitate intelligent human behavior, and as the application of techniques that are typically included in the term today, for example machine or deep learning. AI also denotes the field of science and technology that aims to study, understand and develop computers and software with intelligent behavior.

Applications of AI have already been of great importance in the development of internet platforms, information retrieval, image recognition and automated translation. Despite this, the practical effects of AI are still limited in most companies and public activities in Sweden. However, in the last decade, the availability of data in electronic form and computing power have increased very rapidly, which has significantly improved the conditions for implementing AI applications in various businesses.

An increased use of AI means increasingly higher eligibility requirements for individuals and organizations to continuously renew their skills. Successful AI development in various areas will depend on both specialized and general competence in AI, as well as domain and organizational competence.

2.1.2 Automation

Closely related to data-driven innovation and artificial intelligence is research and applications in automation, that is, a machine or technology performing a task.

Automation means a form of system without human supervision. Automation is an important area of the future with a clear connection to society´s objective and visions of economic recovery, a sustainable environment and a safe working life.

2.1.3 Data sharing

The national data strategy[3] begins with:

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[3] Data – en underutnyttjad resurs för Sverige: En strategi för ökad tillgång av data för bl.a. artificiell intelligens och digital innovation - Regeringen.se

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Good access to data is an increasingly important prerequisite for innovation, sustainable growth, and reduced resource use. The development towards ever greater data flows has taken place gradually through increased digitalization of processes, new digital services and the spread of mobile devices and sensors that all generate a continuous flow of data. and reduced resource use. This has gradually increased the availability of data and after a gradual increase a paradigm shift is taking place. This means that data goes from being part of support operations to taking on a central role in core operations. Data can also be used for a variety of services that span organizational boundaries and sectors.

Research on and applications in areas such as pseudonymization, encryption and distributed AI are developing rapidly and have potential to fundamentally change the conditions for a more secure data sharing while maintaining control over, among other things, secondary use.

Many countries are working on increasing the ability to share data. The EU data strategy[4] emphasizes the importance of exploiting the opportunities that come with increased access to data and the goal is to create an internal market for data that can flow freely between countries, sectors and companies. Swedish companies, authorities, regions and municipalities will therefore need to develop an ability to share and use data at a national and European level in order to benefit from data-driven innovation.

3   Who is the call aimed at?

This offer is open to applications from Swedish companies[5], public organizations and research organizations.

4   What do we fund?

4.1   Activities for which funding can be applied for

The funding can cover individual mobility for a minimum of four weeks but a maximum of six months. The exchange can be spread over a 12-month period.

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[4] EUR-Lex - 52020DC0066 - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)
[5] In this respect, a foreign organization that has a branch or place of business is equated with a Swedish company in Sweden. The costs in the project must be attributable to the operations of the branch or establishment.

The funded individual must work within a project concerning AI, automation or data sharing, but the work may also include non-technical aspects, such as ethics, law or other necessary expertise.

We would like to remind you of the following point in Vinnova´s general terms and conditions:

> **§4 Changed conditions**
> Participant may not, without Vinnova's approval, carry out the project if the conditions for using the project results are significantly reduced. This also applies if technical, financial or other circumstances arise that have a significant impact on the implementation of the project.

We would like you to describe in proposal how you plan for the implementation of the project and risk management within the project.

4.2 Eligible costs

Our funding is done through grants. Grants to organizations carrying out economic activities are subject to state aid rules[6]. The rules govern, among other things, the types of costs and the proportion of them that may be covered by grants.

In this call for proposals funding support will be granted as below:

1) With support of § 2 p. 2 regulation (2015:208) on state support for research and development and innovation, i.e. as support of minor importance (de minimis) according to regulation (EU) no. 1407/2013. Before you can be granted support of minor importance, you must submit a certificate in which you give an account of previously received support of minor importance.

2) Organizations that carry out non-economic activities can be granted funding that does not constitute state aid when they participate with their non-economic activities.

Funding will be granted with a maximum of 50% aid intensity and a maximum of SEK 500,000 per project.

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[6] Read more about state aid on our website: Rules for funding | State support for economic activities | Vinnova. There you will also find our general terms and conditions for contributions and Instructions to Eligible costs: Vinnova's general terms and conditions for funding | Vinnova

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Which costs that can be financed can be seen from the documents Vinnova´s general terms and conditions for funding, as well as Instructions for Vinnova´s terms on eligible costs.

Common costs in this offer can be:
- Travel costs, accommodation costs and salary costs for employee or invited expert
- Direct costs for, for example, mentoring, skills transfer and office premises
- Other extra costs within the host organization for the exchange.

5   How much financing do we contribute?

The maximum grant per project is SEK 500,000. Applicant organization must co-finance the project with at least the same amount as the grant received.

6   Prerequisites for assessment

We will only assess applications that meet the following formal requirements:

- Proposal must contain a project description that is written in the template on the offer's website, and which follows the template's limitations regarding content and number of pages
- Only attachments in the form of the project description above, and, where applicable, the certificate of minor support, may be attached to proposal
- Individual mobility must last for a minimum of four weeks and a maximum of six months
- If the grant is to finance a Swedish employee visiting an organization in Brazil, France, Canada, Korea, Israel, Germany or the USA, the person must have documented education in AI and/or experience that enables him to acquire expert knowledge in the area. The same applies in reverse: If the grant is to cover the costs of a Swedish organization to hire a person from one of the countries in question, this person must have expert knowledge about AI, for example a doctorate or other documented expert knowledge that is important for the AI project. We may require certificates or references that prove information about the key personnel's expertise
- Individual mobility must apply from or to an organization in Sweden. The individual/partner organization must come from/be located in Brazil, France, Canada, Korea, Israel, Germany or the USA.
- The Swedish organization sends in proposal and acts as coordinator for individual mobility

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- Proposal is written in Swedish or English
- Requested funding is a maximum of SEK 500,000 and constitutes a maximum of 50 percent of the project's eligible costs.

7   What do we assess?

The applications will be assessed according to the main criteria Potential, Actors and Feasibility, which are described below.

We also assess proposals according to how well they fulfill the purpose of the call: to increase strategic AI competence in Sweden through individual mobility and at the samte time establish cooperation between organizations in Sweden and organizations in Brazil, France, Canada, Korea, Israel, Germany and the USA (see also chapters 1 and 2). We reserve the right to reject applications that do not meet this purpose.

Potential

• The value of the knowledge transfer for the applicant organization
• The exchange's potential to lead to long-term cooperation between the countries and the organizations
• The project's potential to contribute to increased gender equality. (Note that assessment is made based on the applicant's answer to the mandatory question under \" Project tasks\")
• Potential for knowledge transfer outside the organizations
• The project's potential to contribute positively to the global goals in Agenda 2030 - with a particular focus on objective 17 where applicant must justify how their project increases lasting and sustainable collaborations and relationships via personnel exchange, as well as to what extent these partnerships create added value in Sweden and internationally

Actors

• The actors' ability to contribute to knowledge transfer
• The project constellation's access to relevant sustainability expertis
• The degree of relevant AI expertise within the project team and of the person making the exchange
• How well the team (key people in the project) is composed with regard to gender distribution, as well as distribution of power and influence between women and men

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Feasibility

• That the plan for the project and the personnel exchange is feasible within the envisaged budget
• That the plan for knowledge transfer both within and outside the organization is realistic
• How well relevant sustainability perspectives have been integrated into the project plan[7]
• How well gender equality aspects have been integrated into the project plan

7.1 How do we assess?

Applications that meet the requirements of chapter 6 will be assessed against the above assessment criteria in competition with each other. The applications are assessed internally by Vinnova. Our decision on grant or refusal will be sent by e-mail to the applicant.

8 Decisions and conditions

8.1 About our decisions

How much each party to the project is awarded in grants is stated in the decision. Funding will be granted with support of § 2 p. 2 of the regulation (2015:208) on state support for research and development and innovation and the Commission's Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 on Support of minor importance (de minimis support). The basis for support appears in the decision and also governs which costs are eligible for support, see 4.1.

Organizations that carry out non-economic activities can be granted funding that does not constitute state aid when they participate with their non-economic activities.

Our decision to grant or reject an application cannot be appealed.

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[7] Relevant sustainability perspectives refer to Agenda 2030 with a particular focus on climate and equality.

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8.2 Conditions for grants

For granted applications, our general terms and conditions for grants apply[8]. The terms contain, among other things, rules on project agreements, conditions for payment, follow-up, reporting and utilization of results. Scientific publication must take place with open access in accordance with Vinnova's instructions.

Additional specific conditions may be decided for individual projects.

If you do not comply with our terms and conditions, you may be liable for a refund. This also applies if you have been awarded a grant incorrectly or with an excessive amount.

9 How to apply

To apply for a grant, you fill in a web-based form in Vinnova's e-service for applications, which can be accessed via www.vinnova.se. There you also upload the following attachments[9]:

1. Project description, maximum six A4 pages, written in the template on the offer´s website
2. Minor support certificate, signed by the project partners applying for de minimis support, in cases where it is relevant

Keep in mind that it takes time to make an application. You can start filling in information, saving and then continue at a later time. When the application is ready, mark it as ready. You can at any time fully unlock the application and make changes, right up to the last application date.

Mark the application ready well in advance of the closure of the call.

When the call has closed and the application has been registered with Vinnova, a confirmation will be sent out by e-mail to you who are responsible for the user account, project manager and signatory/head of department. It may take a few hours for you to receive the email.

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[8] Current terms and conditions can be found on our website, along with help to understand and comply with the terms and conditions: [Vinnova's general terms and conditions for funding | Vinnova](#)
[9] Templates for the attachments can be found on our website: [Staff exchange for applied AI, automation and data sharing 2023 | Vinnova](#)

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If you have not received a confirmation email within 24 hours of closing the call, please let us know.

When the application period has expired, completion of the application can only be made at our request.

10 Who can read the application?

Applications submitted to us become public documents, but we do not disclose information about an individual's business or operating conditions, inventions or research results if it can be assumed that an individual will suffer damage if the information is disclosed.