

Promoting Swedish Participation in Horizon Europe; Planning Project in Sustainable Industry

A call for applications within Vinnova's Sustainable Industry area¹



The call can be updated within the application process timeframe. Updated information about the call, templates and link to the application portal can be found at the application's webpage at vinnova.se

¹ [Vinnova's area Sustainable industry | Vinnova](#)

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Revisions

Date	Change in call text
2021-06-04	p.4, application deadline and decision dates
2021-08-24	Updated before the deadline 2021-10-18
2021-09-07	Translated to English

1 The offer in short

Horizon Europe is EU's new funding program (2021-2027) for research and innovation. Participating in Horizon Europe can provide resources for Swedish organizations to strengthen their positions in the global innovation system and, through collaboration with other European actors, drive a sustainable transformation in the industry. With this call, Vinnova aims to strengthen Swedish actors into participating in Horizon Europe's calls relevant to Vinnova's area **Sustainable industry**. The offer is aimed at actors who have well-founded project ideas and the opportunity to translate these into competitive applications for Horizon Europe's work program.

This offer is one of Vinnova's funding within **Sustainable Industry**, which is one of Vinnova's priority areas. The results of the upcoming projects within Horizon Europe are thus expected (after implementation) to contribute to one or more of **Sustainable Industry's** long-term impact goals *Climate neutral and circular production, Resource efficient and resilient value chains, Global competitiveness, A socially sustainable industry*.

This call is divided into two offers depending on the role (**coordinating** or only **participating**) the Swedish actors are expected to have in the future project within Horizon Europe. If one of the participating partners in the planning project is coordinator of the intended project in Horizon Europe, you can apply for a maximum of SEK 500,000 from Vinnova. If the partners in the planning project participate, without being the coordinator, in the future project within Horizon Europe, the maximum funding is SEK 300,000.

For all planning projects it is also required that:

- The consortium consists of at least **three (3)** Swedish partners², of which at least **one** is a company.
- The project's activities must be of the nature *Feasibility studies*³.
- The grant may not exceed 80 percent of the project's total costs.
- The project is completed in connection with the proposal to Horizon Europe.
- All granted projects must submit a proposal⁴ to Horizon Europe that addresses one of the topics designated in Appendix 1 (Bilaga 1) of the program. The area that is addressed must be stated in the proposal to Vinnova.

² In this respect, foreign organizations are equated with "Swedish" parties that have a registered branch or place of business in Sweden, and where the costs of the project are attributable to the branch's or place of business's activities.

³ See [Stödnivåer, definitioner m.m. för bidrag enligt Vinnovas stödordning](#)

⁴ Some applications for EU program are made in two stages. In the case of a two-stage application, the proposal for step two must have been submitted upon final reporting.

The following dates apply to this call:

Please note that the dates are preliminary. For current information, see www.vinnova.se.

The next opportunity to apply for planning projects for the designated topics within Horizon Europe in calls that close in 2022 (see Appendix 1, Bilaga 1).

Call opens	18 May 2021
Deadline for applications	18 October 2021 at 14:00
Decision date	15 November 2021
Earliest date for project start	15 November 2021
Latest date for project start	15 November 2021

Subsequent application opportunities will be published gradually on the call's website. Sustainable Industry at Vinnova plans to offer support for planning projects throughout the program Horizon Europe.

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Current information about the announcement and a link to Vinnova's portal is available at www.vinnova.se.

2 What do we want to achieve with this call?

2.1 Promoting Swedish participation in Horizon Europe

The participation in Horizon Europe is expected to give Swedish organizations better conditions to drive a sustainable transformation of the industry through collaborations with other European actors. With this call, we want Swedish actors to develop their ability to plan and write applications to Horizon Europe⁵, and thereby strengthen the conditions for participation in Horizon Europe's calls relevant to the **Sustainable Industry** area⁶.

Horizon Europe is the EU's new investment program (2021-2027) for research and innovation. Great focus is put on addressing the global challenges that the EU and the world are facing, including climate change and global sustainability goals.

Three overarching objectives, in line with other EU actions and policies, are highlighted:

- Competitive advantages and strategic autonomy for the European industry.
- Promotion of a climate-neutral, circular and clean industry.
- Strong funding for the inclusion of citizens in line with European social and ethical values.

Horizon Europe is built on three pillars:

- Pillar 1: "Excellent Science"
- Pillar 2: "Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness"
- Pillar 3: "Innovative Europe".

2.2 Stimulating a competitive sustainable industry

Vinnova is aiming at promoting sustainable growth by improving the conditions for innovation and thereby also strengthening the capacity to achieve the goals for sustainable development in Agenda 2030. Within the framework of Vinnova's priority area **Sustainable Industry**, we contribute through our efforts to the global commitment to achieve the goals⁷.

The EU funds research and innovation in line with the area of **Sustainable Industry** mainly through cluster 4 "Digital, Industry and Space", but also through cluster 5 "Climate, Energy and Mobility" and cluster 6 "Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment", within pillar 2 "Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness".

⁵ Read more about Horizon Europe [Horisont Europa | Vinnova](#)

⁶ [Vinnova's area Sustainable industry | Vinnova](#)

⁷ Read more about our work to contribute to the goals in Agenda 2030
<https://www.vinnova.se/m/agenda-2030/>

The projects granted in this call must submit a proposal⁸ that addresses one of the areas in Horizon Europe's work program shown in Annex 1 (Bilaga 1). The projects are also expected to be in line with the outcome targets within Vinnova's priority area **Sustainable Industry**:

Impact goals

- Climate neutral and circular production
- Resource efficient and resilient value chains
- Global competitiveness
- A socially sustainable industry

In the following paragraphs, we highlight some examples of what can be included in each impact goal.

Climate neutral and circular production

This goal focuses on the production system and the adjustment of its conversion material and energy flows. This can for example mean that fossil raw materials are replaced by renewable and bio-based raw materials without any negative impact on the ecosystem, or that, within the framework of the production system, residual products are valorized, and carbon dioxide streams are used as secondary input material. An increased degree of digitalization and automation enables excellent, responsive and smart factories and supply chains, which in turn contributes to an optimized climate-neutral energy supply.

Resource efficient and resilient value chains

This goal focuses on the product processing chain based on one life cycle perspective and aims to optimize resource use in value chain and also between different value chains. It means an effective use of materials and energy resources without negative effects on biological diversity throughout the life cycle. Among other things, this may mean a reduced use of virgin materials, new durable materials and products with high life cycle efficiency and intelligent systems that enable the use of open data, traceability and mapping of material flows in a way that contributes to resilient value chains and value networks in a regional, national and international context.

Global competitiveness

This goal's focus is to enable Sweden to create global climate benefits through international competitive innovation and production. This can, for example, take place through global cooperation within value networks⁸ or through ensuring that the definitions and standards that are used to stimulate the transition to a climate-neutral and circular economy are internationally accepted and contribute to a

⁸ Some applications for EU program are made in two stages. In the case of a two-stage application, the proposal for step two must have been submitted upon final reporting.

global market for exports of Swedish sustainable products and services. The goal also includes attracting relevant international skills and investments to Sweden and to increase the understanding of the conditions required to conduct value-creating work.

A socially sustainable industry

This goal focuses on the social aspects that are important for the Swedish industry to be an attractive workplace and remain competitive. Through, for example, skills supply, an attractive work climate and a good working environment create the conditions for a strengthened ability for transformation and increased job opportunities. Work of change characterized by security and anchoring in organization and society. The Swedish industry contributes to sustainable behaviors and working methods as a result of changing norms and values. Increased user involvement and interdisciplinary collaboration at development of new technologies stimulates sustainable investments and consumption throughout the value chain.

Gender equality is a prerequisite for sustainable growth and is found in Agenda 2030, as an objective in itself but also as a perspective that should permeate the work with all the goals. The project funded within the framework of this call will prepare for that perspective to be integrated into the proposal to Horizon Europe, with the aim of contributing to a gender-equal development of society⁹.

3 To whom is the call directed?

The offer is directed to constellations consisting of at least three (3) Swedish parties (legal entities), of which at least one is a Swedish company¹⁰, which intend to carry out a Horizon Europe-funded project in collaboration with each other, and together with European partners. The project idea for the upcoming Horizon Europe-project must be in line with one of the designated topics (see Bilaga1).

Foreign actors, without a registered branch or place of business in Sweden, can be included as project partners, but cannot receive support from Vinnova. Their participation cannot be included in the co-financing of 20 percent of the project required in this call.

⁹ Read more about what our work to promote gender equality in innovation means for you applying for funding from us [Equal funding of innovations | Vinnova](#)

¹⁰ In this respect, foreign organizations are equated with "Swedish" parties that have a registered branch or place of business in Sweden, and where the costs of the project are attributable to the branch's or place of business's activities. Most Horizon Europe calls require at least 3 participants from at least 3 different EU member states or associated countries, of which at least one is from a member state.

4 What do we fund?

4.1 Activities eligible for funding

The types of project activities that can be funded in this call must be a **Feasibility Study**. More information about support levels can be found in the document “Support levels, definitions etc. for funding according to Vinnova's support scheme”¹¹.

The planning project should aim to prepare and create conditions for competitive applications with Swedish participation in Horizon Europe calls.

Approved project activities within the framework of this call are, for example:

- Develop the idea within a selected area (“topic”) in Horizon Europe.
- Identify new partners and build networks with complementary actors in selected areas.
- Write a proposal to Horizon Europe.

What is **not** funded in this call is, for example:

- Applications based on ideas that are not in line with designated topics in Horizon Europe stated in Appendix 1 (Bilaga 1).
- Project that does not aim to submit a proposal to Horizon Europe.
- Technical development.

4.2 Eligible costs

Funding for organizations that conduct financial activities covered by state aid rules¹². The rules govern, among other things, the types of costs and the proportion of them that may be covered by funding. The costs that are eligible are stated in the document “Instructions for eligible costs”¹³.

5 How much funding is available?

The offer consists of two parts and depends on what the Swedish involvement in the planned Horizon Europe-project looks like.

If any of the parties involved in the planning project intends to have a **coordinating role** in Horizon Europe-project, the following applies:

¹¹ See [Stödnivåer, definitioner m.m. för bidrag enligt Vinnovas stödordning](#)

¹² Read more about state aid rules on our website [State aid to companies | Vinnova | Vinnova](#).

There you will also find our general terms and conditions for funding and a guide to the terms and conditions for eligible costs [Terms and conditions for Vinnova funding | Vinnova](#). Please note that we have translated our terms and conditions from Swedish. If there are differences between the English and Swedish versions, the Swedish version applies.

¹³ [Instructions to eligible costs](#)

The grant can reach a maximum of **SEK 500,000** per project and may not exceed **80 percent** of the project's total eligible costs.

If the participating parties in the planning project intend to have a **participating role**, the following applies:

The grant can reach a maximum of **SEK 300,000** per project and may not exceed **80 percent** of the project's total eligible costs.

Please note that the maximum grant percentage per *project* (80%) is not the same as the maximum allowable support level per *participant*. The level of support for each participant is limited for companies according to the rules for state aid (section 4). The maximum share of public support of participating companies' costs in feasibility studies is:

- 50 percent for a large company
- 60 percent for a medium-sized company
- 70 percent for a small business

Some applications for EU programs are made in two stages. For this type of application, a planning project for both stages can be applied for at Vinnova at the same time, but funding is then divided into two stages. The maximum funding from Vinnova is the same as in a one-step procedure.

6 Prerequisites for us to assess the proposal

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

- The idea of the project addresses a topic in the Horizon Europe work program designated by the call (see Appendix 1, Bilaga 1).
- The project parties are legal entities¹⁴.
- At the time of application, the constellation of actors must consist of at least three (3) Swedish project partners, of which at least one company. In this respect, foreign organizations are equated with "Swedish" parties that have a registered branch or place of business in Sweden, and where the costs of the project are attributable to the branch's or place of business's activities. When research organizations participate in their non-economic activities, they are not counted as companies in this context.
- The proposal is written in Swedish or English.
- The grant applied for is maximum 80 percent of the project's total eligible costs.

¹⁴ Note that sole proprietorships or sole proprietorships are not legal entities. Different workplaces in an organization (e.g. different institutions at a university) are counted as a participant as they are a legal entity.

- The project manager is employed by one of the project parties.
- The proposal strictly follows the instructions given in section 9.
- Consulting costs constitute a maximum of 20 percent of the project's eligible costs.

Applications that do not meet the formal requirements will not be assessed, and will be rejected without further justification.

7 Assessment of applications

7.1 What do we assess?

The project proposals must be in line with the aim and objective of the call and are assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

Potential (*i.e.* the importance of the results and the effects if the project is successful)

- The project's potential to result in a competitive proposal to Horizon Europe within one of the designated topics.
- The idea's relevance and potential to stimulate a competitive and sustainable industry (in line with section 2.2).

Actors (*i.e.* who the project partners and other actors are and how the collaboration between them is organized to carry out the project and achieve the project's objective)

- Composition, competence, ability and commitment of the actor constellation in relation to the planning objective and implementation.
- Credibility, capacity and ability to create an appropriate constellation with good grounding in the issues to be addressed in the forthcoming Horizon Europe proposal.
- Consideration of gender aspects in the planning project and before the proposal to Horizon Europe

Feasibility (*i.e.* how the project has been designed to achieve results and impact goals).

- The realism, credibility and relevance of the project plan and budget.
- Approach, organization and involvement of project partners and relevant actors.

7.2 How do we assess?

The assessment is based on the electronic proposal submitted to Vinnova via Vinnova's portal (see section 9).

The applications that meet the formal requirements according to Chapter 6 are evaluated against the assessment criteria in section 7.1 by an expert project coordinator at Vinnova supplemented by a specially appointed external evaluation panel. The overall evaluation results in a recommendation, on the basis of which Vinnova makes a decision.

8 Decisions and conditions

8.1 About Vinnova's decisions

How much each party in the project is granted in funding is stated in the decision. Funding can be granted based on Article 25 of European Commission Regulation No. 651/2014. Funding can also be given in accordance with ordinance (2009:1101) with instructions for the Swedish Agency innovation system. The basis for the grant will be specified in the decision letter and it determines which costs are eligible for funding.

Vinnova's decision to grant or reject a proposal cannot be appealed.

8.2 Terms and conditions for grants

For granted funding, our general terms and conditions for funding apply¹⁵. The terms and conditions include rules on project agreements, conditions for payment, follow-up, reporting and utilization of results. Scientific publications shall be available in open access in accordance with Vinnova's instructions¹⁶.

For all projects that are granted funding in this call, the following special conditions also apply:

- A confirmation that the proposal to Horizon Europe has been submitted must be attached to the final report¹⁷. The payment of the project grant in connection with the final report is conditional on a submitted proposal.

¹⁵ You can find the terms and conditions, together with help to understand and fulfil the conditions [Terms and conditions for Vinnova funding | Vinnova](#). Please note that we have translated our terms and conditions from Swedish. If there are differences between the English and Swedish versions, the Swedish version applies.

¹⁶ [Anvisning för öppen tillgång till vetenskapliga publikationer](#)

¹⁷ Some applications for EU program are made in two stages. In the case of a two-stage application, the proposal for step two must have been submitted upon final reporting. If a proposal for step one is approved, the proposal for step two must have been submitted at the final reporting. If the proposal for step one is rejected, the project is canceled.

Additional special conditions can be determined for individual project.

If you do not comply to the terms, you may be liable for repayment. This also applies if the grant decision was incorrect or with an excessive amount.

9 How to apply

To apply for funding, fill in a web-based form on Vinnova's portal, which can be accessed via www.vinnova.se.

In addition to the web-based form, you also upload the following mandatory attachments¹⁸ in PDF format:

- A project description according to the template, maximum 7 pages
- CV for the project manager and other key people in the project according to the template, maximum 1 page per person

Keep in mind that it takes time to make a proposal. You can start filling in information, save and continue at a later time. When the proposal is ready, mark it as ready. You can at proposal and make changes, right up to the last application day.

Prepare the proposal in good time before the call closes.

When the call is closed and the proposal registered with Vinnova, a confirmation will be sent by e-mail to the person in charge of the user account, the project manager and the signatory / head of department for the coordinating project party. It may take a few hours before the confirmation arrives.

When the application period has expired, completion of the proposal can only take place at the request of us.

10 Who can read the application?

Proposal can be read by Vinnova's staff and by an external evaluator specially appointed under secrecy.

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

¹⁸ Templates for the attachments can be found on our website [Promote Swedish participation in Horisont Europa: planning projects in Sustainable industry 2021 | Vinnova](#)