



SWEDISH FOUNDATION *for*  
STRATEGIC RESEARCH

## SSF

### EU Horizon Europe Research Application Support: Leverage of Swedish Research

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) announces SEK 10 million in a directed Call to support preparation of research applications targeting the European Union's (EU) Horizon Europe (HEU) framework program for research and innovation.

The Call aims to further internationalize Swedish research by stimulating increased Swedish research presence in HEU Pillar 1 Excellent Science and Pillar 2 Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness. The HEU-projects shall clearly benefit Sweden's competitiveness.

This Call is directed exclusively towards all Principal Investigators (PI's), i.e. approved main or co-applicants, in SSF's Framework Programs (*rambidrag*), Centres (*Strategiska centra*, such as IRC, ARC) or Individual programs Ingvar Carlsson Award (ICA), Future Research Leaders (FFL), and Research Infrastructure Fellows (RIF), independently of field of research. The SSF-projects must be either ongoing or having ended after January 1, 2018. The call is hereby directed towards some 700 selected researchers to which SSF has granted a project portfolio worth approx. SEK 5 billion.

Selected projects will receive SSF-grants maximized to SEK 300 000 or SEK 500 000 (incl. overheads) depending on the applicant's role in the proposed future HEU-project. The grants can be used for salaries, travel, and consultants.

#### Background

The Foundation shall according to its statutes promote the development of strong research environments of the highest international standard and of significance for the development of Sweden's long-term competitiveness. Furthermore, the Foundation's activities shall be distinguished by the establishment of international cooperation networks and the promotion of international mobility.

SSF's goal with this call is to internationalise Swedish research for leverage in general and to increase Sweden's benefit of EU's research program Horizon Europe in particular.

This is a pilot call exclusively for SSF grantees 2018 and later. Depending on the outcome, SSF might offer a more open national EU-application support in the coming years.

## **Scope**

SSF's position is that the PI's of our major projects are highly qualified and thus competitive also for EU-funding. The SSF projects have been selected in strong competition using the main evaluation criteria research excellence, leadership, and strategic relevance. They have been evaluated by both national committees and international peer review. These SSF projects cover a wide field of research of strategic relevance to Sweden all of which are covered in this Call.

SSF PI's are offered to apply for funding for engaging in prominent roles in projects in EU HEU Pillar 1 (Excellent Science) or Pillar 2 (Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness). SSF aims to grant equal amounts within Pillar 1 and 2, respectively.

SSF will release funding upon notification by the applicant that the HEU application has been registered and the relevant costs have been reported to SSF.

## **Strategic relevance**

Although the selection process behind the SSF projects and the value of Swedish research internationalization in themselves are strategic factors, the applicants need to demonstrate an added strategic value of the proposed future HEU-research project: How it enables future applications, products and services, or solutions to important application problems. Successful proposals are based on research visions for future impact.

The criterion of strategic relevance means that the proposed future HEU-research shall demonstrate a clear vision of utilization/exploitation of the research results of benefit to Sweden in approximately 10-15 years' time.

## **Eligibility**

- The applicant is a former or current Principal Investigator (i.e. approved main or co-applicant) in one of SSF's Framework Programs, Centres, ICA, FFL or RIF, whose SSF project had/has an end date later than January 1, 2018. A list of applicable SSF programs is included in this document.
- The applicant is currently employed to at least 50% by a Swedish university, University college or Research institute which has the capacity to assume coordination responsibility for the project during the grant period as well as during the period of the proposed HEU-project.
- The applicant must be involved in the HEU-application carrying a prominent role corresponding to Principal Investigator in a Pillar 1 project or either Coordinator or Work Package-leader in a Pillar 2 partnership project.
- The application concerns covering costs for working with an application towards EU HEU Pillar 1 Excellent Science or Pillar 2 Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness.
- The HEU-application is of strategic relevance to Sweden as outlined above, and this is clearly described and possible to evaluate.

## Evaluation

Applications will be assessed by an evaluation committee consisting of generalists and specialists from industry and society. This committee will submit recommendations on which the CEO of SSF will base funding decisions.

The applications will be evaluated using the criteria Strategic relevance and Eligibility as outlined above. SSF aims to grant equal amounts within Pillar 1 and 2, respectively.

## Instructions

Applications must contain the following information:

- SSF application number (*diarienummer*) and title of the present or previous SSF-project
- EU HEU call ID-number and title being targeted for the proposed future HEU-application including planned/committed partnerships.
- Applicant's leading role in the proposed future HEU-project, see Eligibility
- Strategic relevance to Sweden as outlined above

Please note that SSF is subject to the Principle of Public Access to Official Records (*Offentlighetsprincipen*). Thus, applicants should avoid submitting material that they do not wish to be made public, e.g., information that could prevent patenting.

Applications must be submitted to the SSF online portal at: <http://apply.strategiska.se> before the deadline: Monday **17 May 2021 by 14:00 hours** (2:00 pm CET)

No additional material can be added to a submitted application unless specifically asked for by the SSF.

### **Evaluation results are expected within 1 month of deadline.**

Successful applications will receive SSF-funding at one of two levels depending on the applicant's role in the proposed HEU-project:

- Maximum SEK 300 000 for applicants targeting a role as a Principal Investigator in an HEU Pillar 1 project or Work Package-leader in an HEU Pillar 2 partnership project
- Maximum SEK 500 000 for applicants targeting a role as Coordinator of an HEU Pillar 2 partnership project

SSF will release funding after receiving a report through the SSF-portal annual report form including:

- Report of relevant costs
- Application ID number of the submitted EU HEU project application

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### **List of previous and current SSF programs of relevance to the present call**

The applicant must be or have been involved in a project belonging to one of these SSF programs in the role of Principal Investigator (PI), i.e. approved main or co-applicant. The applicant's SSF project must be ongoing or having finished after January 1, 2018.

- Agenda 2030 Research Centers (ARC) 2019
- Applied Mathematics 2013
- Big data och Beräkningsvetenskap 2015
- Biological Production Systems 2014
- Biomarkers 2013
- Computing and Hardware Infrastructure 2019
- Cyber Security 2017
- Electronics 2013
- Framtidens Forskningsledare 5 2012
- Framtidens Forskningsledare 6 2015
- Framtidens Forskningsledare 7 2018
- Generic Methods and Tools for Production 2014
- Industrial Research Centres 2015
- Infection biology 2012
- Ingvar Carlsson Award 5 2012
- Ingvar Carlsson Award 6 2014
- Ingvar Carlsson Award 7 2016
- Innovativ råvaruteknik 2011
- Materials for energy applications 2016
- Materials Science 2015
- Medical Bioengineering 2013
- MED-X 2018
- Research Infrastructure Fellows 2014
- Smart Systems 2015
- Systems Biology 2016