



SWEDISH FOUNDATION *for*
STRATEGIC RESEARCH

SSF 2022 call for 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 2 Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness. The HEU-projects shall clearly benefit Sweden's competitiveness and be of long-term strategic relevance to Sweden.

This Call is directed exclusively towards researchers in natural science, technology or medicine at Swedish universities or research institutes that apply for a HEU Pillar 2 project Coordinator role.

Selected projects will receive SSF-grants maximized to SEK 500 000 (incl. overheads). The grants can be used exclusively for covering costs for salaries, travel, and consultants in direct connection to the HEU application.

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 call is in direct alignment with the Swedish Government's Horizon Europe strategy as stated in "*En nationell strategi för svenskt deltagande i Horisont Europa 2021–2027*", where a strong and increasing Swedish HEU-participation is a key goal (e.g. Chapter 5.3).

This is the second year of this call directed to HEU-application support. SSF plans to open these calls annually during the full HEU-period 2021-2027.

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Scope

SSF can cover direct application costs for researchers employed by Swedish universities and research institutes as they apply for funding for engaging in project Coordinator roles exclusively in projects in EU HEU Pillar 2 (Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness) in the fields of natural science, technology or medicine.

SSF will release funding upon notification by the applicant that the HEU application has been registered as an eligible HEU-application and the relevant costs have been reported to SSF. HEU-applications that are evaluated by EU as non-eligible will not receive any funding by SSF. However, SSF does not require the applications to finally be granted HEU-funding.

Strategic relevance

The applicants need to demonstrate an added strategic value to Sweden 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.

The applicants must therefore shortly describe the strategic relevance and impact of the proposal to Sweden in concrete and evaluable terms, identifying or clarifying the following:

- What industrial/societal need does the project address?
- How will the project improve on current practices?
- Why has this not been done before?
- Expected users of results or methods, e.g., scientific colleagues, academic workers in other fields, industry, clinics or the public sector.
- The attractiveness of PhD:s (for instance, to industry) within the area of research.
- Other potential applications of the planned research.

Eligibility

All the following criteria must be followed for SSF to consider an application as eligible and to receive further evaluation. Non-eligible applications will be rejected directly.

- 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 full period of the proposed HEU-project of which he/she applies to be a Coordinator.
- The applicant must be involved in an HEU-application in the role of project Coordinator in a Pillar 2 partnership project in the fields of natural science, technology or medicine. Only applications towards HEU calls as already published in HEU Work Plans are eligible.
- The application to SSF concerns covering costs for directly working with an EU-eligible application towards EU HEU Pillar 2 Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness in the fields of natural science, technology or medicine.
- Eligible costs are exclusively those arising during 1 January – 31 December 2022 for salaries, travel and consultants in direct connection to the HEU application. No costs for preparatory data collection, investigations, research etc. is eligible, nor are any costs outside the above date interval accepted.

- The HEU-application is of strategic relevance to Sweden as outlined above, and this is clearly described and possible to evaluate. Applications with vague or sweeping arguments on strategic relevance to Sweden will not be granted.

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.

Instructions

Applications must contain the following information:

- EU HEU Pillar 2 call ID-number and call title being targeted for the proposed future HEU-application including planned/committed partnerships.
- Description of applicant's Coordinator role in the proposed future HEU-project, see Eligibility
- Strategic relevance for Sweden clearly described 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: **March 1, 2022 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 of maximum SEK 500 000. SSF will release the 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
- Proof that the HEU-application is considered as eligible by EU

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