

## CALL FOR FUNDING APPLICATIONS

In 2017, Intsam was established as a coordinating group for Swedish governmental research funding bodies<sup>1</sup>. This group was created to strengthen and coordinate research and innovation funding efforts, specifically focusing on countries outside of Europe. Intsam now provides an opportunity to apply for funding. The funding is aimed at developing collaboration projects between Sweden and Japan. The collaborative projects involve academic and external actors, such as businesses or public sector organisations. According to a Vinnova definition, a collaboration project is an interactive process generating mutual benefit for universities and their partners<sup>2</sup>. The aim of funding such projects is that ideas initiated by participants may reach a larger audience and create value for society.

This call is open for collaboration projects between Japan and Sweden that contribute towards achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>3</sup>.

Thematic focus areas are:

- Ageing
- Sustainability
- Materials Science
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The following activities may be funded:

- research and development activities, including salary contributions<sup>4</sup>, collaborative activities, meetings, workshops etc.;
- communication efforts;
- conferences;
- travel and seminars (within Sweden).

Eligibility requirements: The call is open for employees at Swedish universities, businesses, or public sector organisations who would like to collaborate with partners in Japan. A requirement to apply for funding is that at least one member of the project team participated actively in the academia/industry matchmaking event on 10 June, 2021 or other relevant activity during the MIRAI2.0 Research and Innovation Week that took place on 7–11 June, 2021.

Applicants may apply for funding for initiating a new collaboration project involving at least one Swedish and one Japanese partner. Each Swedish constellation must include at least one academic partner. Intsam gives priority to collaboration between different types of stakeholders, such as: businesses, academics, and public sectors. Small and medium sized enterprises are especially encouraged to apply. Only the Swedish project partners may receive funding.

Funding: the maximum grant awarded by Intsam is **90 000 SEK per application**.

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<sup>1</sup> Vinnova, Forte, Formas, the Swedish Research Council and the Swedish Energy Agency, and the Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education (STINT) as observateur.

<sup>2</sup> VA 2015:02, Samverkansuppgiften i ett historiskt och institutionellt perspektiv.

[https://www.vinnova.se/contentassets/1640d68c75a24ce0930810655a2501b9/va\\_15\\_02t.pdf](https://www.vinnova.se/contentassets/1640d68c75a24ce0930810655a2501b9/va_15_02t.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.regeringen.se/regeringens-politik/globala-malen-och-agenda-2030/17-globala-mal-for-hallbar-utveckling/>

<sup>4</sup> Salary costs (real costs) may be covered up to a maximum amount of 800 SEK per hour. If salary costs are lower than 800 SEK per hour, only the real costs may be covered.

Academic organisations and other non-profit organisations, as well as public sector organisations and other non-commercial organisations may receive funding to cover 100 % of their costs. Small and medium sized enterprises may receive funding to cover 80 % of their costs.

Funding may cover personnel costs including overhead costs for university partners. Applicants need to provide a letter of approval from their head of department, manager, or similar, to ensure the support from their organisation.

For other matters, Vinnova's general rules for funding apply: <https://www.vinnova.se/en/apply-for-funding/rules-for-our-funding/>

#### Project period and expected outcome

- The project may start as soon as the decision has been communicated (date of decision is 29 October 2021)
- All activities shall be completed by 1 June, 2022
- Project results shall be presented in connection with the Research and Innovation Week in Japan in June 2022

Ideally, the funded projects should aim to deepen contacts with Japanese partners and develop innovative project plans with the potential to successfully apply for other funding and attract investment.

#### Review criteria

Applications will be reviewed based on the following six criteria:

1. Relevance of the formulated problem, objective and expected outcome;
2. Feasibility (*how realistic and credible the project plan is, both for implementing the project and for achieving expected results*);
3. Potential and benefit for all project participants and the wider community (*what effects and value can the project be expected to generate, and how will society benefit from the project achieving its objectives*);
4. Potential for continued collaboration after the end of the project period;
5. How expected results may hypothetically be further implemented;
6. The suitability of the project partners to implement the project.

It is not possible to appeal against the decision of funding.

#### Important dates:

MIRAI 2.0 Research and Innovation Week	7-11 June
Academia/Industry matchmaking event (MIRAI-Vinnova)	10 June
Application opens	7 June
Last day of application	17 September
Date of decision	29 October

#### Who reads your application?

Applications will be assessed by a review group, with representatives from: Swedish Research Council, Vinnova, MIRAI 2.0, Stockholm Trio (Stockholm University, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, and Karolinska Institute), Association of Swedish Engineering Industries and Embassy of Japan in Sweden.