



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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# Call for Proposals

  

# Cooperation for Eco- innovations with Actors in Brazil, 2014

**A call for proposals within the Global Collaboration  
Programme**

## 1 Summary

VINNOVA is Sweden's innovation agency. We strengthen Sweden's innovativeness, promoting sustainable growth and benefiting society.<sup>1</sup>

VINNOVA hereby opens a call for proposals concerning the conducting of collaboration projects with actors in Brazil.

The aim of the call for proposals is to support Swedish actors to conduct collaborative research and innovation projects in partnership with actors in Brazil. These projects are to be based on active collaboration between businesses and research organisations in Sweden and Brazil. Public organisations may also participate.

The projects are to be based on business and industry actors' research and innovation needs and to focus on environmental technology, sustainable urban development and resource efficiency. The projects results are expected to lead to innovations and increased competitiveness for the participating parties as well as reduced environmental impact.

The call for proposals is intended for established consortia that have developed their networks of relevant Brazilian actors for carrying out the projects. In such cases, VINNOVA will provide grants to the Swedish partners. Brazilian participants must secure their own resources for their participation or, alternatively, they can receive funding from public sources in Brazil.

International reviewers may assess submitted applications. For this reason, VINNOVA recommends that project descriptions be written in English.

The latest information about the call for proposals, the invitation to participate and a link to the application can be found on the **call for proposal's webpage** at [www.vinnova.se](http://www.vinnova.se) under "For applicants", "Calls for proposals".

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<sup>1</sup> VINNOVA's vision is for Sweden to be a world leader in research and innovation and an attractive place to invest and do business in. We promote collaboration among businesses, universities, research institutes and the public sector. We do this by encouraging the increased utilisation of research results, by making long-term investments in strong research and innovation environments and by developing meeting places that promote interaction and spark creativity.

## 2 Who may apply

**The call for proposals is intended for established consortia** that have developed their networks of relevant Brazilian actors for carrying out the projects. The Swedish part of the consortium must consist of at least one company, together with at least one research organisation such as a university or research institute. **Projects should be based on the research and innovation needs of businesses.**

By the start of the project, the international consortium **must have identified distinct needs and problems and have drawn up proposals for solutions (e.g., a product, service or process)**. Alternatively, it may have identified a way to integrate existing solutions into a new concept. The success of the project is dependent upon collaboration with its Brazilian partners.

Ultimately, the projects are expected to help generate significant impact for the participating parties in the form of innovations and improved competitiveness. Further, the results are expected to include a strategy for applying what is developed.

VINNOVA strives to achieve an even gender-distribution and ethnic and cultural diversity when assembling project groups.

## 3 Description of the Call for Proposals

### 3.1 Background and Goals

Since 2009, VINNOVA has cultivated partnerships for research and innovation collaborations under the umbrella of the innovation cooperation agreement signed by Sweden and Brazil.

During 2010-2011 three *Innovation Learning Labs* with approximately 300 participants from both countries were organised in cooperation with the *Brazilian Industrial Development Agency (ABDI)*. The participants comprised researchers from universities, representatives for industry, research institutes, businesses and public sector representatives. Since that time, the Swedish Embassy in Brazil has organised two innovation weeks together with VINNOVA as its co-organiser, which had approximately 400 participants from both countries.

In June 2012 VINNOVA issued a call for proposals for cooperation between actors in Sweden and actors in China or Brazil. Within the framework for cooperation with Brazil, VINNOVA approved 18 grants for project creation and preliminary studies with the aim of creating bilateral partnership projects within

the environmental field. The call for proposals was issued as part of the implementation of the Swedish government's environmental technology strategy.

During the 2013 Swedish-Brazilian Innovation Week held in Brazil, a cooperation agreement was signed between the Brazilian Innovation Agency (FINEP) and VINNOVA aimed at promoting and supporting bilateral Swedish-Brazilian innovation cooperation projects. This call for proposals has been issued as part of the implementation of this cooperation agreement.

**In 2014, VINNOVA launched the Global Cooperation programme. The programme aims to strengthen Swedish actors' international research and development collaborations for innovation. It focuses on stimulating collaboration between universities, research institutes and businesses in Sweden and in countries outside of the EU. The programme supports Swedish research and innovation actors in their international collaborations with relevant partners globally. The increased global research and innovation presence of the actors is expected to lead to improved competitiveness and growth.**

The programme goal is to ensure that VINNOVA's efforts will generate results that, in the long run, will help to create new goods, services and processes with major potential on the global market.

Within the framework of this goal, the programme will support three types of initiatives:

- partnership building
- project creation and feasibility studies
- international partnership projects.

This call for proposals concerns **international partnership projects**.

### **3.2 Content and Implementation**

VINNOVA hereby issues a call for proposals for research and innovation collaborations with Brazilian actors. The call focuses on environmental technology, sustainable urban development and resource efficiency.

In this instance, VINNOVA will issue a grant to the Swedish party within an international partnership project. The Brazilian participants must secure their own funding for participation or, alternatively, they can receive funding from public sources in Brazil.

**The project is expected to lead to innovations and increased competitiveness for the participating parties as well as reduced environmental impact.**

The call for proposals is limited to:

- environmental technology
- sustainable urban development
- resource efficiency.

The joint project plan should provide an overview of the international consortium, including work packages, milestones, projected results and budget.

Grant recipients are expected to participate in supporting activities organised by VINNOVA.

### **3.3 Expected Results and Impact Goals**

Expected results and impact goals are based on the expected benefits the projects should generate within eco-innovation.

The projects expected output are:

- effects in the form of results that lead to innovations, improved competitiveness for participating parties and reduced environmental impact
- an increase in Swedish actors' knowledge of Brazilian needs and stronger ties with foreign research milieus, prospective customers and markets.

In the long-term, the results should contribute to:

- reducing environmental impact and sustainable development at the national and international levels
- creating added value and synergies with national programmes in the field
- creating long-term, lasting ties between Swedish and Brazilian actors by supporting the development and strengthening of both new and established networks
- increasing knowledge and insight concerning cooperation models for innovation collaborations in growth markets.

## **4 The Call for Proposal's Budget**

The call for proposal's budget is SEK 25 million for the period 2014-2017.

The maximum allowable grant per project is SEK 5 million. **Only Swedish members of the consortium are eligible to receive grants from VINNOVA.**

Grants issued to businesses and other organisations that conduct commercial activities are provided in accordance with the Regulation on State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (SFS 2008:762).

VINNOVA only provides grants covering a certain percentage of recipients' eligible costs:

VINNOVA will provide a maximum of 50 per cent of the Swedish consortium's total project costs.

VINNOVA's maximum grant for eligible costs paid to different types of actors:

- up to 50 per cent for small and medium-sized enterprises
- up to 100 per cent for universities and research institutes
- up to 30 per cent for other organisations.

Decisions made by VINNOVA to dismiss or reject applications are final. No correspondence will be entered into.

For more information, see also Rules for State Support on the call for proposal's website under "Terms and conditions".

VINNOVA's support concerns participation in the project to be conducted in accordance with the project plan and financing plan that served as the basis for VINNOVA's decision concerning this grant. Changes to either of these plans may lead VINNOVA to reconsider its support for the project. VINNOVA must be notified of such changes immediately.

## **5 Timetable**

The projects must begin no later than October 2014 and run for no more than three years.

The following dates apply for this call for proposals: Please note that these are tentative. For the latest information, please visit the call for proposal's website.

Opening date: **2 April 2014**

Application deadline: **2 PM on 28 May 2014**

Tentative final date for decisions: **30 September 2014**

Deadline for project commencement: **31 October 2014**

## 6 Formal Requirements

Eligibility for assessment by VINNOVA in accordance with the criteria stipulated in 7.2 depends on applications meeting the following requirements:

- The Swedish part of the consortium must consist of **at least one company**, together with **at least one research organisation** such as a university or research institute.
- The international consortium must include **at least one party from Brazil**.
- The project is to be conducted over a period of **2-3 years**.
- Each bilateral project must present **a joint project plan** for the entire international consortium.
- All Swedish parties must be legal entities.
- If the coordinator is a company, it must be a limited liability company (Swedish designation “AB”) registered in Sweden.
- A consortium may only submit one application. Individual parties may be included in more than one application.
- Companies that apply must conduct research or development activities and have business operations in Sweden.
- The consortium's members must be able to demonstrate prior experience of innovation work within the field specified by the call for proposals.

## 7 Assessment

### 7.1 Assessment Process

Applications are assessed according to the assessment criteria below and in competition with other submitted applications. Brazilian experts will also review applications.

VINNOVA will then make a decision about financing and will notify all applicants of its decision.

For information about assessment criteria, see Assessment Criteria below.

## 7.2 Assessment Criteria

The following criteria will be applied by VINNOVA when assessing applications:

### 1. Potential

- a. The proposed solution's innovative and news value.
- b. The proposed solution's potential to combine economic growth with reduced environmental impact.
- c. The proposed solution's potential to reach the market.

### 2. Feasibility

- a. The project plan's realism in relation to aims, budget, timetable and so on.
- b. The model for management and joint activities for achieving an effective international consortium.
- c. The projects' budgets should be used primarily for conducting research and development activities.

### 3. Actors

- a. The international consortium's composition (Swedish and Brazilian) in relation to the solution that the consortium proposes.
- b. The involved parties' experience of research and innovation work in an international context.
- c. The consortium's members must be able to demonstrate prior experience of innovation work within the field specified by the call for proposals.
- d. The assessment will also consider the gender distribution and ethnic and cultural diversity of project groups.

All three criteria are equally weighted and are used to conduct an overall assessment of the projects.

The criteria will also be applied during follow-ups, evaluations and impact analyses.

## 8 Applications

### 8.1 How to Apply

Applications are to be submitted electronically via the application service contained within VINNOVA's eServices Portal. You can access the portal via [www.vinnova.se](http://www.vinnova.se).

To be able to submit an application, you must create a VINNOVA user account. Existing VINNOVA accounts may be used. Those who submit applications must be authorised to do so on behalf of the applying organisation.



**Note that applications must be submitted no later than 2 PM on the last day of the application period. After this time, the system closes the application submission process and it is no longer possible to submit applications to VINNOVA.** No supplements to the application may then be submitted unless VINNOVA requests such.

Remember that it can take time to fill in, upload and submit an application, particularly if many applications are being submitted. **For this reason, make sure to begin filling in your application well ahead of the deadline.** Note that it is possible to save changes and additions up until the time the application is sent.

## 8.2 Application Details

The application consists of a number of electronic forms to be filled in by the applicant.

The following material should be attached to applications:

- a **project description**
- a **CV annex**
- a **joint project plan** for the entire international consortium
- an **annex** that confirms that **the Swedish company included in the application conducts research and development activities and business activities in Sweden** and that the consortium's Swedish members can demonstrate prior experience of innovation work within the field relevant to the call for proposals, e.g. participation in national or international calls for proposals, FP7, EUREKA, Eurostars and so on.
- a **declaration of intent** from all parties involved in the international project that they will have signed a consortium agreement or project agreement no later than six months after the project's commencement, in accordance with Section 1.4 of VINNOVA's General Terms and Conditions.

The submission of all of the above annexes is mandatory. Only requested pages and annexes will be assessed.

Annexes should be submitted as PDF files.

**The project description** should be no more than 33,000 characters in length (equivalent to 10 A4 pages, 12-point font). It should include:

- **the project's title**
- **a summary**
- the project's **purpose** as relates to the call for proposal's purpose

- the project's **goals** as relate to the call for proposal's goals
- the project's **potential and benefit**, i.e. the significance of the results and impact if the project is successful
- a description of **the need** the project aims to meet, e.g. what problem the project intends to solve, the degree of urgency and who will benefit from the solution
- **the approach**
- **implementation – project plan**, including timetable and activity plan, resources, budget and so on, **and a plan for utilising the results**
- **constellation of actors** including roles and work method
- **corporate ID numbers and work sites** for the project's parties.

International reviewers may assess the applications submitted. For this reason, VINNOVA recommends that **project descriptions be written in English**.

**The CV annex** should contain current CVs for the project manager and all key members of the project team. Indicate their names, ages, genders, titles or roles and the extent of their participation in the project. Each CV should be no longer than two A4 pages, written in 12-point font.

The **joint project plan** should provide an overview of the international consortium, including work packages, milestones, projected results and budget.

## 9 Terms and Conditions

VINNOVA's General Terms and Conditions for Grants, as applicable on the date of decision, apply to this call for proposals. The Terms and Conditions contain rules concerning project agreements, reporting, follow-up, auditing, conditions for payment and more. Applicants will find further information in the following documents:

- VINNOVA's General Terms and Conditions for Grants, 2014
- Guide to VINNOVA conditions of eligible costs (available in Swedish only)
- State aid for research and development and innovation (available in Swedish only)

These can be found under the heading “Terms and Conditions” on the left-hand side of the call for proposal's web page.

No later than six months after a project's official start date, the Swedish coordinator must be able to present a consortium agreement (referred to as a “project agreement” in the General Terms and Conditions) signed by both the Swedish and Brazilian parties.

Additional special terms and conditions may also be imposed. Any such terms and conditions will be specified by VINNOVA in its decision.

## 10 Confidentiality

Applications related to this call for proposals are public documents. As a rule, in accordance with the principle of public access to official records, the public has the right to access these documents. This also applies to applications that are rejected or withdrawn. VINNOVA's decisions and the reasons for its decisions are also public information.

However, VINNOVA is required to keep confidential all information about an individual's business and operating circumstances, inventions and research results if it can be assumed that the individual will suffer financial loss if the information is made public.

More detailed information about what confidentiality rules apply to applications can be found on the "Confidentiality of applications" page in Swedish, which can be accessed from the call for proposal's web page.

For more information, see "Legal Notices "on the English version of [www.vinnova.se](http://www.vinnova.se) under "About VINNOVA" (available in Swedish only).

## 11 Contact

### **The contacts for this call for proposals are:**

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