



# Swedish Mining Innovation – Internationalization grant

## 1 Summary

The Strategic Innovation Program for the mining and metal producing industry, Swedish Mining Innovation (formerly called SIP STRIM) is part of a joint venture in strategic innovation areas by Vinnova, the Swedish Energy Agency and Formas. The aim of the venture in strategic innovation areas is to stimulate international competitiveness and sustainable solutions for global societal challenges.

The Strategic Innovation Program Swedish Mining Innovation and Vinnova invite stakeholders who are developing international contacts in areas of importance for the Swedish mining and metals-producing industry. The purpose of the grant is to enable travel for meetings and site visits, with a goal to develop collaboration, joint projects and facilitate technology transfer. Internationalization projects have the character of a pre-study (genomförbarhetsstudie<sup>1</sup>).

The call is open from 1 December 2021, and proposals will be assessed continuously until 31 May 2022 when the call closes.

The call covers all areas of the Strategic Research and Innovation Roadmap<sup>2</sup>. The maximum funding for the internationalization grant is 300 000 SEK. The maximum level of funding is 75% of eligible costs. Note that funding level to individual for-profit companies is governed by state-aid rules<sup>1</sup>.

More information about Swedish Mining Innovation is found at [www.swedishmininginnovation.se](http://www.swedishmininginnovation.se).

## 2 Who may apply?

The call is addressed to organizations that have an interest in developing new international collaboration that supports the goals of Swedish Mining Innovation particularly where there is an identified gap in Sweden, and have done some prerequisite background work to prepare for meetings with foreign

<sup>1</sup> Link to description [https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/tabell-stodnivaer\\_ny-version\\_210429\\_slutlig.pdf](https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/tabell-stodnivaer_ny-version_210429_slutlig.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.swedishmininginnovation.se/roadmap/>



organizations. SMEs are particularly encouraged to participate.

## 3 Description of the call

### 3.1 Objectives of the call

The objective of the call is to catalyze cooperation with international organizations which will lead to joint projects, technology transfer and also promote Sweden as a leading innovation partner.

### 3.2 Content and implementation

Each Internationalization proposal should identify the need for international cooperation, motivate the relevance of the international organizations and people to be met and demonstrate the value in having a physical meeting. There must be a demonstrated background work with a meeting plan.

### 3.3 Expected results and effects

The internationalization grant will result in continued dialogue, with the goal of initiating cooperation in the form of joint projects or other collaborations. The grant is intended in particular to promote collaboration where there are identified gaps in the Swedish Innovation ecosystem. This leads to an improvement in Sweden's innovation capacity and advances Swedish innovations in an international context.

## 4 What do we fund?

### 4.1 Activities that are funded

The types of project activities that can be funded in this call should be of the nature of pre-studies (Genomförbarhetsstudie<sup>3</sup>). The grant supports the following activities:

- Personnel costs, including direct and indirect costs related to travel and meeting time
- Travel costs

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

- Applications based on ideas that are not consistent with Swedish Mining Innovation's goals and vision
- Commercial activities
- Technical development costs/research activities
- Conference, seminar, course fees or similar

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/tabell-stodnivaer\\_ny-version\\_210429\\_slutlig.pdf](https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/tabell-stodnivaer_ny-version_210429_slutlig.pdf)

## 4.2 Funding and co-financing

Funding for an internationalization grant is based on a maximum funding level (stödnivå) of 75%. The project budget including co-financing is based on a maximum of:

- Personnel costs (direct & indirect) of maximum 40 hours/participant
- Eligible travel costs/participant

The maximum number of funded participants is four. Others may join but their costs will be considered as in-kind contributions.

## 4.3 Eligible costs and state aid rules

In this call, the state aid rules apply to for-profit companies. The funding basis for the internationalization grant is for pre-studies (genomförbarhetsstudie). Information regarding eligible costs<sup>4</sup>, state support to companies<sup>5</sup>, and terms and conditions of funding can be found on Vinnova's website<sup>6</sup>.

## 5 Timetable

The following dates apply for the call.

### Call open 2021 - 2022

Call opens:	1 December 2021
Call closes:	31 May 2022
Date of decision:	Continuous
Earliest date of project start:	Upon acceptance
Last date of project start:	contact SMI program office

## 6 Formal requirements

For a proposal to be eligible for assessment in accordance with the criteria stated in 8, the following requirements must be met:

- Internationalization grant partner(s) receiving funding must be Swedish legal entities.
- The proposal must contain all documents requested in paragraph 8: project description submitted according to the template and CV's of participants.
- Maximum project duration is 4 months.
- Up to four individuals may be funded (if more join, they can contribute their eligible in-kind costs to the project).

<sup>4</sup> See: [https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/20201201-anvisning-till-villkor\\_om\\_stodberattigande\\_kostnader\\_-\\_guide.docx-.pdf](https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/20201201-anvisning-till-villkor_om_stodberattigande_kostnader_-_guide.docx-.pdf) (also available in English)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/statligt-stod/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.vinnova.se/en/apply-for-funding/rules-for-our-funding/terms-and-conditions-for-our-funding/>

## 7 Submission and Assessment

### 7.1 Application and Assessment process

The assessment process is designed to identify if the internationalization grant is well motivated, includes a relevant composition of participants from Sweden and the international personnel and organizations to be met, and there is considerable added value in having a physical meeting.

The assessment of the proposal is made by representatives from the Swedish Mining Innovation program office, experts from its Executive Committee (appointed case-by-case by the program office), and Vinnova.

The evaluation and decision-making process is as follows:

1. The project description with all required attachments is sent to Lawrence Hooey at the Program Office.  
[Lawrence.hooey@swedishmininginnovation.se](mailto:Lawrence.hooey@swedishmininginnovation.se)
2. Vinnova, Swedish Mining Innovation Program Office and Executive committee experts, decide if the internationalization grant will be approved based on the assessment criteria, and may ask for revisions in the project before acceptance.
3. The applicant is informed of the decision.
4. After approval, the Program office will incorporate a work package into SMI's Vinnova project and amend the budget as needed. The Swedish organizations will be added as partners to the existing project.
5. The applicant is informed by SMI Program Office of the formal approval. The project can start when the amendment has been approved by Vinnova.

### 7.2 Assessment criteria

Internationalization project applications are assessed according to the following criteria:

#### *Potential*

- Contribution to innovation in areas of importance to Swedish Mining Innovation
- Potential to build joint projects & deepen collaboration
- Potential for knowledge transfer

#### *Feasibility*

- Quality of background work
- Value of physical meeting
- Quality of meeting plans / site visits

#### *Stakeholders*

- Competence and relevant experience of the organizations and individual internationalization grant participants, both Swedish and foreign
- Gender balance in delegation

## 8 Project description contents

The project description is the main application form. The contents are described below. It is recommended to contact the program office (Lawrence Hooey) before starting to write the application.

### *Project description:*

- The project description should be a maximum of five A4 pages (font size 12 pt). It may be written in Swedish or English and contain the following headings:
- **Project title** *in Swedish and English*
- **Purpose and goal of the internationalization grant**
  - *Background – how were the visits planned and organizations/individuals (both domestic and foreign) identified? Why? What is the added value of a physical meeting?*
- **Potential**
  - *What are the short/ long term goals for collaboration? What is the expected impact for Sweden? What knowledge gaps are being filled? Relate to the Research and Innovation Roadmap or other analysis of the Swedish innovation system.*
- **Execution of the internationalization grant**
  - *Provide draft itinerary, dates, names, topics, site visits etc. that have been agreed with the foreign counterparts.*
  - REQUIREMENT: *At least 2 foreign organizations are to be met.*
- **Organizations & Personnel**
  - *Description of the organizations and key individuals to be met*
  - *Organization number and address for all partners involved in the internationalization project.*
  - REQUIREMENT: *At least two Swedish organizations, of which one is a non-research actor (industry, NGO, public body) must be represented. At least one of the Swedish participants must be at a senior level, e.g. Research Manager, Professor.*

**CV:** CVs of members of the Swedish Delegation (max 1 pages each). Name, title, one paragraph description of experience of key persons from the foreign organizations to be met. See the template.

## 9 Terms and conditions

For the call, Vinnova's general terms and conditions applicable at the date of decision apply for contributions. The terms contain rules on reporting, project agreements, follow-up, audits and conditions for payment, etc. The terms are found under "Terms and Conditions" on Vinnova's website<sup>7</sup>. Additional special conditions may apply to individual projects.

### Special conditions:

- 1) A senior member of the Swedish Delegation will give a presentation of the activities and outcome to Swedish Mining Innovation Executive Committee (15 minutes presentation + 15 minutes discussion).
- 2) A short report suitable for dissemination via e.g. LinkedIn and the SMI Newsletter, will be prepared for Swedish Mining Innovation.
- 3) A short report to SMI Program office describing outcome and future collaboration plans and potential

## 10 Confidentiality

Applications received by the Swedish Mining Innovation program become public documents. However, commercially sensitive information will not be released. Given the nature of the call, commercially sensitive information should not be included in the application or dissemination material.

## 11 Contact

**Lawrence Hooey**, Technology and Innovation Manager, Swedish Mining Innovation +46 76 129 6602

E-mail: [lawrence.hooey@swedishmininginnovation.se](mailto:lawrence.hooey@swedishmininginnovation.se)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.vinnova.se/en/apply-for-funding/rules-for-our-funding/terms-and-conditions-for-our-funding/>