

Needs inventory – inventory of needs for research infrastructure

The Swedish Research Council carries out a prioritisation of infrastructure in a recurrent cyclical process over two years. The first stage of the process consists of a needs inventory, aimed at highlighting areas where the needs for new research infrastructure are clear. The outcome of the needs inventory is then used as the basis for the Swedish Research Council's targeted call for applications for infrastructure funding. Please note that the Swedish Research Council does not publish an open call for infrastructure grants.

Summary

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| Focus | Needs inventory |
| Area | Research infrastructure funding |
| Applicant | HEI managements, public authorities with research responsibilities, research funding bodies or researcher groups. |
| Participating researchers | Other researchers who are backing proposals may be invited to join the application. |
| Call deadline | 12 October 2017 (14.00/2 p.m.) |
| Publication of grant award decisions | No later than May 2018 |

General information on the needs inventory

The purpose of the inventory is to capture new infrastructure needs of national interest. The proposals submitted to the Swedish Research Council shall either cover needs for entirely new infrastructure, or needs for bringing together and significantly developing existing resources into infrastructure of national interest.

Proposals relating to major upgrading of existing infrastructure shall also be submitted to the needs inventory. "Major upgrading" means upgrading of existing infrastructure that is operational. The aim shall be to create a comprehensive change to the scientific production, or a significant change to the technical approach. Routine maintenance or gradual improvements may not be included, however.

Needs for new international infrastructure shall also be submitted to the needs inventory. This relates to both Swedish participation in the construction of new international infrastructure and Swedish participation in existing organisations.

Please note that the Swedish Research Council does not publish an open call for infrastructure grants. In order to submit an application within the Swedish Research Council's targeted call for research infrastructure grants in 2019, the need must first have been identified and prioritised in the needs inventory.

Infrastructure with ongoing grants from the Swedish Research Council, for which the grant period ends no earlier than 31 December 2019 are not covered by the needs inventory. These will have the opportunity to apply for continued grants in the targeted call. However, if the application for a continued grant involved major upgrading as described above, the application shall be first be included in the needs inventory.

[Here you can find more information about how infrastructure is managed at the Swedish Research Council.](#) 

Here you can find more information about the needs inventory. 

Result of the 2015 needs inventory. 

Please read the review criteria used by the reviewers to assess proposals received. There is a link to them under "Evaluation."

Conditions for submitting proposals

Who can submit a proposal?

The needs inventory is open to all universities and HEIs, public authorities with research responsibilities, research funding bodies and researcher groups. Proposals submitted shall relate to research infrastructure according to the Swedish Research Council's definition and criteria (see below), and shall cover one of the above-mentioned needs listed under "General information on the needs inventory" (i.e. consist of national infrastructure, international infrastructure or major upgrading of existing infrastructure).

The proposal shall include the participating proposers, i.e. the researchers backing the proposal. The proposers shall provide the necessary information themselves in Prisma, and upload these to the proposal. Any further participating partners and their roles shall be described in the description of infrastructure needs (please see instructions under "Description of infrastructure needs" below).

Costs and grant amounts

As the inventory does not include any grant, these fields shall be ignored.

Definition and criteria for research infrastructure

The Swedish Research Council uses the following definition of research infrastructure:

- Research infrastructure consists of necessary tools to enable research of the highest quality to be carried out.
- Research infrastructure includes plant, instruments, knowledge corpora and services, aimed at being used by researchers or groups of researchers within basic research or applied research within all areas of research.
- Research infrastructure may be centralised, distributed or virtual, and the infrastructure shall be made available on the basis of scientific evaluation criteria.

Research infrastructure varies from area to area. It may, for example, consist of large research plant for studies within materials science or physics, or distributed databases for research within humanities, social sciences or medicine. The main rule for all infrastructure receiving grants from the Swedish Research Council is that it shall be openly accessible to Swedish researchers, and that access is regulated on the basis of scientific excellence. It may be national or international, but since 2008 they must of national interest, and wholly or partly fulfil the following general criteria. It shall

- provide the prerequisites for world-leading research
- be of broad national interest
- be used by a number of research groups and users involved in very advanced research projects
- be sufficiently comprehensive that individual groups cannot operate it by themselves
- have long-term planning in place for scientific goals, financing and use
- be openly and easily accessible to researchers, industry and other actors
- have a plan for accessibility (relates to use of the infrastructure, access to collected data and presentation of results)
- in relevant cases, introduce new leading-edge technology.

How shall proposals be submitted?

Proposals for infrastructure needs shall be submitted electronically via [Prisma](#), which is the Swedish Research Council's system for applications and inventories. You create the proposal in Prisma by filling in the text fields, uploading information from the proposers' accounts, and attaching the appendices requested.

You can only reach the inventory via [the following link](#).

To enable you to apply, the main proposer organisation must have an account in Prisma, which is [approved by the Swedish Research Council](#) and have created an organisation account in Prisma.

For most items in Prisma, there is a [user manual](#) describing how to use Prisma.

Creating a personal account in Prisma

All proposers must have a personal account in [Prisma](#). The information only needs to be entered once, and can thereafter be supplemented or changed as required. Please note that no personal information except your current employment are requested for the inventory.

All potential other persons participating in the proposal must also create a personal account in Prisma and confirm their participation. Thereafter they can add their data to the application via their personal accounts (current employment is the only obligatory information).

Text

Some text fields can be formatted, which means that you can change the font and size, and also include some tables, formulae and symbols. Images cannot be included in the text fields, however. We recommend that you use the fonts Arial, Calibri or Verdana.

All text fields have a limit on the number of characters, and this is illustrated by a character counter. If you use too many characters, the application cannot be registered.

Attached documents and appendices

You will need to attach an appendix to some fields as instructed. The appendix must consist of one file only, and you can only attach documents in PDF format. All appendices are limited as to file size and number of pages. You will not be able to attach an appendix that exceeds the stated maximum size.

Signining

Only you as a main proposer should sign the proposal electronically in Prisma. See more information under "Register proposal" below.

What should the proposal include?

Please refer to the proposal form in Prisma in parallel with reading the instructions below.

Language

Since English-speaking experts may be employed in the review, the Swedish Research Council recommends that the proposals are written in English. This ensures that the evaluation is carried out in an equitable, fair and effective manner.

The sections of the proposal form

The form includes the following tabs:

- Proposal information
- Description of infrastructure need
- Administrating organisation

- Participants
- CV

Descriptions of the information requested under each tab follow below. Mandatory information is marked with an asterisk (*) in Prisma.

Proposal information

Under this tab, please fill in the Swedish and English proposal title, which in this case should be the name of the infrastructure, if it already exists, or otherwise a working name that briefly describes the need for infrastructure. Here you should also select SCB codes and key words (at least one SCB code; state the most relevant code first and at least three key words that describe the need/infrastructure). Please see instructions below for the Abstract.

You should also select the category of infrastructure to which the proposal relates, whether it is new infrastructure (not currently funded by the Swedish Research Council), or whether it relates to upgrading/development of existing infrastructure. These options are selected from a drop-down menu in the form.

Abstract

The abstract of the infrastructure need in the proposal shall include a brief description of:

- the name of the need for infrastructure (the name of the infrastructure if existing, or the working name if it is new)
- the need and type of infrastructure/upgrading/development proposed
- what this need for infrastructure/upgrading/development consists of
- the main research areas for the expected users of the infrastructure
- conditions for accessibility (if relevant)
- for international infrastructures, a list of participating countries shall also be included

The abstract shall provide a summary guide to the infrastructure need. Please use wording to ensure persons with another subject specialisation can understand the information.

The description may cover a maximum of 2 000 characters including blank spaces (approximately half an A4 page in Arial, font size 11, single line spacing).

Ethical considerations

Describe in brief the ethical issues raised by the research. Ethical considerations for handling personal data are mandatory and shall be included in this inventory. If no ethical considerations are raised, this should be mentioned.

Description of infrastructure need

A description of the infrastructure need shall be attached here in PDF format. Please note that the attachment may consist of one file only, with a maximum size of 10 MB. The document shall cover a maximum of six A4 pages in Arial, font size 11, single line spacing, including any images. **You will not be able to attach an appendix that exceeds the stated maximum number of pages.**

The following information should be included in the description under separate headings, listed in the following order:

- **Science case (approximately 1 A4 page):**
What specific scientific questions could the infrastructure increase knowledge on? How will the infrastructure/upgrading/development contribute to answering these questions? Provide a summary

of how the proposed infrastructure/upgrading/development could promote research of the highest scientific quality and provide opportunities for new scientific discoveries.

- **Survey of the field (approximately half an A4 page):**

State briefly whether there are any existing infrastructures within the research area. If so, what are these, and where are they located? What is the relationship between the proposed infrastructure/upgrading/development and other infrastructures within the area? Why is the infrastructure need as described in this proposal not fulfilled by existing infrastructures?

- **Implementation (approximately half an A4 page):**

What is the current state of the proposed infrastructure/upgrading/development? If is not already existing, at what stage of planning/implementation is it now? What central steps are required to achieve finished implementation of infrastructure in operation/upgrading/development? What existing resources can be made available for the implementation of the infrastructure/upgrading/development? Is there any collaboration with other infrastructure organisations?

- **User base (approximately half an A4 page):**

Describe the potential users, both national and, if relevant, international, and also the geographic distribution of the Swedish users.

- **Added value (approximately half an A4 page):**

If relevant, describe the added value of the proposed infrastructure/upgrading/development for society, industry and innovation, external activities or other aspects.

- **Financial aspects (approximately one quarter of an A4 page):**

Provide a brief summary of the estimated costs of constructing the infrastructure/upgrading/development, and an estimate of the annual operating cost (or the increase in the annual operating cost due to the upgrading/development). For international infrastructure: comment on the Swedish contribution and the Swedish grant proportion of the overall grant to the infrastructure.

- **Other comments:**

Administrating organisation

Under this tab, please state the administrating organisation. Usually the administrating organisation is the organisation, institution or respective organisational unit at which the proposer responsible is employed.

To allow you to link the proposal to an administrating organisation, the organisation must have an approved organisation account in Prisma. Please contact your administrating organisation and ask it to [apply for an organisation account](#) with the Swedish Research Council if it does not already have one. You will not be able to finalise the registration of the proposal if the administrating organisation is missing.

Participants

Under this tab, you as applicant may invite other participating researchers/proposers to the proposal. Participating researchers/proposers refers to other researchers or representatives of HEIs that back the proposal, and who may be invited to participate in formulating the proposal. A participating administrator is a person who is not involved in the project, but who can help you to input and edit information in the proposal.

When you invite participants, you should use the email address which is linked to the person's Prisma account. You can even invite participants who do not have a Prisma account yet. However, in order for them to be able to participate in your proposal, they must then register their own personal accounts in Prisma. All participants must accept the invitation to the proposal, and participating researchers/proposers must fill in their CV information before the registration of the proposal can be finalised.

Once a participating researcher has accepted your invitation, you can allocate authority to him/her to edit the proposal.

CV

Under this tab you retrieve your current employment from your personal account in Prisma. Other potential researchers/proposers retrieve their own CV information regarding current employment. No other CV information is required.

Registering the proposal

The tab “Register” shows a summary of the fields in your proposal that may require action in order to register it (such as mandatory fields not filled in or text fields with too many characters). The registration and signing of your proposal is not finalised until you click on the “Register” button.

Please make sure you use the preview function before registering your proposal.

Note: Everybody you have invited to participate in your proposal must accept the invitation before you can register the proposal. If an invitation is not accepted, it must be deleted. Before registering the proposal, all participating researchers/proposers must add information about their current employment from their respective personal Prisma account.

The registered proposal can thereafter be found in your personal Prisma account in the tab “Applications and grants”, under the menu choice “Applications”. Until the deadline for the call, a registered proposal may be de-registered, amended and re-registered again as necessary.

It is your responsibility to ensure the proposal is complete, that is to say the form is correctly filled in, the correct appendices are attached and the information requested has been provided according to the instructions.

What happens next?

When you have registered your proposal and the call closes (at 14.00/2 p.m. on the deadline date of the call), the registration of your proposal is automatically finalised and you are given a registration number.

Thereafter you will find information about the status of the application and registration number in your account in Prisma, under the tab “Applications and grants”.

Evaluation

The scientific and strategic evaluation of your proposal is carried out by active researchers. These peer reviewers evaluate the proposal in competition with the other proposals on the basis of the evaluation criteria set by the Swedish Research Council. A final evaluation decision is made by the Council for Research Infrastructures.

If the proposal is not completed according to the instructions, this will be weighed into the evaluation.

[Review panels](#) 

[How your application is evaluated](#) 

[The Swedish Research Council's conflict of interest policy](#) 

[The Swedish Research Council's gender equality strategy](#) 

Decision

Shortly after the evaluation decision on the needs inventory has been made, a notice will be published on the Swedish Research Council's website. You will thereafter find a notice of the decision and a final statement on your proposal in your personal account in Prisma, under the tab “Applications and grants”. The statement consists of a grading and, in some cases, written comments.

Contact

Questions about the needs inventory

If you have any questions about the needs inventory, please contact one of the following persons by telephone or email:

Svetoslava Baumann, email: Svetoslava.Baumann@vr.se, telephone: 08-546 44 078

Mårten Jansson, email: mårten.jansson@vr.se, telephone: 08-546 44 020.

Technical questions

In the first instance, please consult the help menu in Prisma for instructions or [FAQ](#), including a detailed [User Guide](#) that describes most items in Prisma.

If you cannot find the answer to your technical question, you may contact our [Technical Support](#). Please note that it may take 1 to 2 working days to get an answer, depending on the work load.