

International collaboration for innovations with actors in Brazil, in collaboration with EMBRAPAII

Grants for joint research and innovation projects

In collaboration with "Sweden Brazil Innovation Initiative"



Content

1	The call – brief overview	3
2	What do we want to achieve with the funding?.....	4
3	Who is the call for?.....	6
4	What do we finance?	6
4.1	Activities for which funding can be applied for	6
4.2	Eligible costs.....	6
5	How much contribution do we give?.....	7
6	Prerequisites for us to assess an application.....	7
7	Assessment of applications received	8
7.1	What do we assess?	8
7.2	How do we assess?	9
8	Decisions and conditions	9
8.1	About our decisions	9
8.2	Conditions for grants	9
9	How to apply	10
10	Who can read the application?.....	11

Revisions

Date	Change

1 The call – brief overview

Sweden and Brazil have signed a strategic partnership agreement with the aim of increasing innovation collaborations between industry and research organizations in the two countries. In October 2019, Vinnova and EMBRAPII signed an MoU to further strengthen the collaboration.

The call is aimed at Swedish companies or research institutions in collaboration with one or more companies, research organizations such as universities or research institutes in Sweden. Municipalities or regions can also participate. There must be at least two Swedish actors, and at least one must come from industry and one from academia or research institutes. Similarly, two Brazilian actors must be included in the cooperation, where one party must be an EMBRAPII institute (unit).

In this call, support is given to joint research and innovation projects with Brazilian actors in the areas of **health, mining, bio-economy, and sustainable cities**. Priority areas in these four thematic areas are set out in Chapter 2.

With this support, Vinnova wants to give Swedish actors the opportunity to carry out joint research and innovation projects together with Brazilian actors starting in the second quarter of 2024. The monetary support from Vinnova applies exclusively to the compensation for the Swedish actors. The Brazilian actors shall cooperate with the EMBRAPII Institute (<https://embrapii.org.br/en/>) as instructed below.

Information about EMBRAPII:

Brazilian Agency for Industrial Research and Innovation (EMBRAPII), Brazil EMBRAPII is the Brazilian Agency for Industrial Research and Innovation, a Social Organization connected to the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communication (MCTIC) and to the Ministry of Education (MEC), and the Health Ministry. EMBRAPII's operating model enables quickness, flexibility, and reduced risk in supporting companies' RD&I projects. The non-refundable grants offered by EMBRAPII are invested in projects carried out by companies and research institutions, acknowledged for their excellence, technological focus, and the ability to meet companies' RD&I demands, called EMBRAPII Units and/or Poles. The resources of the Agency cover up to 1/3 of the value of collaborative projects between companies and EMBRAPII Units and/or Poles.

The EMBRAPII resources work in a continuous flow so companies can, at any time, go directly to the EMBRAPII Units and Poles, negotiate, and contract their projects in a simple and non-bureaucratic way.

The Swedish applicants should aim to carry out research and innovation projects with Brazilian actors through international collaboration that will generate sustainable solutions to both market and society, with the potential of addressing societal challenges. Through cooperation, participating companies will be given the opportunity to strengthen their development, competitiveness, and internationalization.

Vinnova wants to work towards equal gender social development by offering/fostering key position to both men and women, increasing opportunities for a balanced development.

Vinnova can grant up to SEK 3 million per project, which can prospectively last two to three years. The total budget in this call is SEK 24 million. As such, we intend to finance about eight to ten projects.

The following dates apply to the call:

Please note that the dates are preliminary. For up-to-date information, see www.vinnova.se.

Opening date:	September 18, 2023
Application deadline:	February 8, at 14:00
Latest decision date:	March 14, 2024
Project start no earlier than:	April 1, 2024
Project start no later than:	June 1, 2024

Contact person for the call:

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Vinnova's IT support:

Technical questions about Vinnova's e-services
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helpdesk@vinnova.se

Current information about the call and a link to Vinnova's e-service for applications can be found on www.vinnova.se.

2 What do we want to achieve with the funding?

The call is directed towards increasing research and innovation collaboration with Brazilian actors aimed at generating sustainable solutions to both market and society with the potential of addressing societal challenges. Through cooperation, participating organizations can be given the opportunity to strengthen their development, competitiveness, and internationalization.

The project should address one of the following priority areas:

Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open to all health-related areas, including digital solutions & AI
Mining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eco-efficient comminution - More efficient material handling processes/methods - Recycling - More efficient water management - Digitalization, automation, and machine learning for more efficient processes
Bioeconomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable forest management - Bio-based materials – including related processes, new technologies, business models and policy issues
Sustainable cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smart and fossil free transportation systems - Efficient water management - Flood management - Digital solutions & AI, including data sharing, supporting solutions and development in the areas above

Vinnova's mission is to promote sustainable growth and social development. Through Agenda 2030, the countries of the world have agreed on a global agreement and understanding of what characterizes sustainable development. Through our efforts, we contribute to the global commitment to achieve the goals.¹

Within Agenda 2030, Vinnova has specifically pointed out *climate* and *gender equality* as two central sustainability perspectives to which our funded initiatives should contribute positively. Projects funded by Vinnova are thus expected to pay special attention to the climate and gender equality aspects.

One aspect that Vinnova follows up and assesses is whether both women and men equally take part in the grant, that is, in terms of participation and exerting influence over the project (see page 8 under the actor criterion).

Another important aspect is whether there are sex and/or gender aspects that are relevant and linked to the project's problem area, solutions, and utilization.²

¹ Read more about Our work to contribute to the goals of Agenda 2030:
<https://www.vinnova.se/m/agenda-2030/>

² Read more about what our work for gender equality innovation means for you who apply for grants from us: <https://www.vinnova.se/m/jamstallld-innovation/>

Results from research and innovation that are made freely available provide increased opportunities for more people to contribute to solutions to societal challenges. The call will contribute to more results being made freely available to everyone and scientific publication will take place with open access.

3 Who is the call for?

The call is aimed at Swedish companies or research institutions in collaboration with one or more companies, research organizations such as universities, or research institutes. Municipalities or regions may also participate. The Swedish consortium must cooperate with at least two Brazilian actors.

Grants are only awarded to Swedish organizations. *Swedish organizations* also refer to foreign organizations that have a branch or place of business in Sweden. In addition, the costs of the project must be attributable to the activities of the branch or establishment.

All participating companies must prove their capacity to implement the project and be able to finance their share of the project cost. Companies must be able to clearly describe the concrete added value of their participation in the project, their position in the value chain within the project and the future market potential of the project result. The project should also be able to demonstrate an obvious added value of the international cooperation between the selected partners from the two countries and present proposals for future projects. We want to see an even balance of commitment between the parties, both in terms of funding and resources. This is something that will also be assessed in the context of international cooperation.

4 What do we finance?

4.1 Activities for which funding can be applied for

The activities for which you are applying for funding must be research and development activities that mainly fall under the definitions of "industrial research" and/or "experimental development" as defined in Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 and described on Vinnova's website.

4.2 Eligible costs

Our funding is provided through grants. Grants to organizations carrying out economic activities are subject to State aid rules. The rules govern, among other

things, the types of costs and the ³proportion of them that may be covered by grants. More information regarding support levels can be found on Vinnova's website: [table-stodnivaer_ny-version_2206.pdf \(vinnova.se\)](https://www.vinnova.se/nyheter/2023/09/08/table-stodnivaer_ny-version_2206.pdf)

Vinnova does not finance routine or recurring changes to existing goods, manufacturing methods, manufacturing processes, services, or other ongoing operations. This is true even if the changes may mean improvements.

Furthermore, marketing and sales, ordinary business development (e.g. the launch of an existing offering on a new market), ongoing operation, investments in equipment/tools, quality assurance, certification, or equivalent (e.g. CE marking) as well as training initiatives and courses are not financed.

5 How much contribution do we give?

Vinnova can grant up to SEK 3 million per project and the total budget in this call is SEK 24 million. With this, we intend to finance about eight to ten projects.

6 Prerequisites for us to assess an application

We will only assess applications that meet the following formal requirements:

- Applications must be submitted electronically via Vinnova's application portal no later than February 8, 2024, at 1400 am.
- The project falls within one of the priority areas listed in Chapter 2.
- Project description (in Swedish or English) is made according to template.
- CV attachments are attached.
- The project is carried out in collaboration between at least two Swedish parties (companies, and research organizations such as universities, colleges or / and research institutes.) and with at least two Brazilian operators, one of which must be a company registered in Brazil and an EMBRAPII institute.
- A written confirmation of participation from the Brazilian EMBRAPII Institute shall be attached. This is added under "other attachments" in Vinnova's application portal.
- The project manager responsible for reporting to Vinnova is employed by the applicant organization.
- The project partners must be able to clearly demonstrate that there is a good balance between the efforts of the project partners and equivalent

³ Read more about state aid on our website: <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/statligt-stod/>. There you will also find our general terms and conditions for grants and Instructions to Eligible costs: <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/allmanna-villkor/>

priorities. In a project with two Swedish project partners, one party may not have more than 70 percent of the project's budget. In projects with more than two partners, no party may have more than 50% of the project's budget. If one or more research organizations are involved in the consortium, they may account for more than 50% of the project budget.

7 Assessment of applications received

7.1 What do we assess?

The applications are assessed by Vinnova. De projects meeting the formal requirements (Chapter 6) to be evaluated on three criteria: Potential, Actors, and Implementation.

Potential

- The competitiveness of the project, i.e. the way in which the project results will affect the participants' knowledge, networks and/or business conditions, for example in the form of increased market shares, new skills or new long-term collaborations.
- The consortium's plan for continued funding after the project period, a credible commercialization process and expected market potential for the solution that the consortium plans to develop. The intended product, service or process has the potential to contribute to environmentally and/or socially sustainable growth.
- How well the project addresses any of the listed areas within the priority areas of health, mining, sustainable cities, and bioeconomy.
- The potential of the project to increase research and innovation competence in Sweden.
- The novelty and level of innovation of the proposed solution.
- The project's potential to contribute to increased gender equality. (Note that assessment should be made based on the applicant's answer to the mandatory question under "Project data")
- The project's potential to contribute positively to the global goals in Agenda 2030 and minimize the negative effects.

Actors

- The project consortium has access to the skills and experience needed to carry out the project.
- the cooperation potential of the international consortium to provide clear added value during and after the project (*in comparison with a national project*).
- The company(s) have the potential to reach the role and position in the industry/value chain required to take advantage of the project results.

- The project constellation's access to relevant sustainability expertise.
- How well the project team is composed in terms of gender balance, including the distribution of power and influence between women and men.

Feasibility/implementation

- The budget, approach, and project plan for the implementation of the project are credible and relevant.
- Collaboration between the parties in the two countries is necessary/important for the implementation of the project and that the parties have clear benefits from the cooperation.
- The project's strategy for managing intangible assets is credible.
- Is the participation of Swedish and Brazilian actors and the implementation of planned activities distributed between the actors in a way that is relevant and balanced?
- How well relevant sustainability perspectives have been integrated into the project plan.⁴

7.2 How do we assess?

The assessment is carried out by specially appointed assessors. They assist Vinnova regarding the quality of the applications and offer recommendations on which projects should be granted.

8 Decisions and conditions

8.1 About our decisions

How much each partner in the project is awarded in grants is stated in the decision. Grants will be awarded based on the support grounds "industrial research" and/or "experimental development". The basis for support is stated in the decision and determines which costs are eligible.

Our decision to grant or reject an application cannot be appealed.

8.2 Conditions for grants

⁵For awarded grants, our general terms and conditions for grants apply. The terms and conditions contain, among other things, rules on project agreements, conditions for disbursement, follow-up, reporting and utilization of results.

⁴ Relevant sustainability perspectives refer to Agenda 2030 with a special focus on climate and gender equality.

⁵ Current terms and conditions can be found on our website, along with help to understand and comply with the terms: <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/allmanna-villkor/>

Scientific publication must take place with open access in accordance with Vinnova's instructions.

Additional specific conditions may be included for individual projects.

If you do not follow our terms and conditions, you may be liable to repay. This also applies if you have been awarded a grant incorrectly or with too high an amount.

9 How to apply

To apply for grants, fill in a web-based form in Vinnova's e-service for applications, which can be accessed via www.vinnova.se. There you also upload the following attachments⁶:

- Project description (in Swedish or English)
- CV attachments
- Documents certifying the participation of EMBRAPII institutes.

All templates for project descriptions and CV attachments can be found on the call's website.

Keep in mind that it takes time to make an application. You can start filling in information, save and continue later. When the application is ready, mark it as ready. You can unlock the application and make changes at any time, right up to the application deadline.

Mark the application well in advance before the call closes.

When the call has closed and the application has been registered with Vinnova, a confirmation will be sent out by email to those responsible for the user account, to the project manager and to the signatory/head of department. It may take a few hours for you to receive the email.

If you have not received a confirmation email within 24 hours of the call closing, please contact us.

Once the application period has expired, completion of the application can only be done at our request.

⁶ Templates for the attachments can be found on our website: [Internationell samverkan för innovationer med aktörer i Brasilien, i samverkan med EMBRAPII | Vinnova](#)

10 Who can read the application?

Applications submitted become public documents, yet we do not disclose information about an individual's business or operating conditions, inventions, and research results if it can be assumed such information can be individually harmful in any way.