

SI Public Sector Innovation Programme

Does your higher education institution want to make a contribution to promoting innovation and renewal within the public sector in low and middle income countries for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals? Apply for support through the SI Public Sector Innovation Programme.

The Swedish Institute (SI) is advertising the opportunity for Swedish higher education institutions to apply for financial support to implement capacity-building training programmes. The focus of the training programmes is innovation and renewal within the public sector for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and [the Sustainable Development Goals](#). The target group for these programmes is civil servants and elected representatives in the public sector in low and middle income countries, as defined by the [OECD-DAC](#) (including the Western Balkans).

The programme has been developed from the pilot programme “Support for capacity-building for the 2030 Agenda” (*Stöd för kapacitetsutveckling för Agenda 2030*) which was advertised in 2018.

What is the SI Public Sector Innovation Programme?

The Public Sector Innovation Programme is the Swedish Institute’s programme for promoting innovation within the public sector in low and middle income countries for the purpose of improving conditions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Innovation refers to new or better ways of creating value for society, businesses and citizens.¹ This can involve new products or technical solutions, but can also be new ways of planning and developing cities, rural areas and residential environments.

A public sector with a well-developed innovative capacity is a factor that is key to the possibility of solving many societal challenges. The Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda put these challenges into words. In the public sector this can involve issues such as how to preserve welfare in spite of increased costs, limited funds and lack of expertise, or problems relating to adaptation to climate change and the transformation of energy and transportation systems.

¹ The national innovation strategy

The public sector can be said to have various roles when it comes to innovation: firstly, those that focus on innovation within its own activities; secondly, utilising demand as a driving force for innovation; and thirdly, as a co-creator of systemic solutions. These three roles interact.²

Theme and focus

The overarching theme of the SI Public Sector Innovation Programme is innovation and renewal within the public sector for the purpose of strengthening the public sector in the participating countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The applicant shall formulate a focus for the proposed programme on the basis of the thematic areas listed below:

- **Innovation leadership;** programmes that contribute to developing leadership and the organisational prerequisites for innovation within the organisation.
- **Smarter welfare services;** programmes that focus on how digitalisation and welfare technology can contribute to favourable societal development.
- **Inclusive service design;** Programmes that focus on how involving citizens can contribute to better adapted public services and the establishment of new welfare services.

Regardless of focus, the programme should be permeated by cooperation between the public sector and, for example, the enterprise sector, academia and civil society either in the implementation of the programme or as one of the perspectives that are highlighted in the programme.

Target group

The target group for the training programmes is civil servants and elected representatives in the public sector. Representatives of civil society organisations and people with leading positions in the enterprise sector may be included as participants if this is beneficial to the programme's objectives.

Gender parity shall be sought among the participants in the programmes.

Specifications for training programme

The call for proposals pertains to funding for one year training programmes. The programme can be implemented in Sweden, in the partner country or in both. The proposal shall contain elements of online learning/teaching using digital teaching platforms. The programme shall be designed such that participants can remain active in their respective organisations in parallel with the training programme. The capacity-building training programme shall begin in 2020. At least 15 participants shall be recruited to each programme. The higher education institution is responsible for the recruitment of participants in the programme.

² Public Sector Innovation, Vinnova Report VR 2019:14

The higher education institution can apply for funding to carry out the following:

- Preparatory activities: Shall aim to prepare participants ahead of the module. May consist of, for example, webinars, preparatory seminars/workshops where participants meet.
- Training programme: Implemented in Sweden/abroad.
- Follow-up: Activities, project support funding and coaching that aims to continue the work with participants and their organisations after the training programme has been implemented.

Who can apply for support to organise a Public Sector Innovation Programme?

Swedish universities and university colleges can apply for financial support from SI to organise a training programme. The application shall be made individually or in collaboration with other stakeholders in Sweden and/or another country. A higher education institution is permitted to be the main applicant in more than one application, provided that different working groups, units and departments are responsible for the practical implementation of the respective proposed training programmes.

Participants in the training programmes are also offered membership of the Swedish Institute's global alumni network, which, among other things, gives them the opportunity to apply for funding in order to implement their own activities (seminars, workshops, study visits, lectures by experts etc.) in their respective home countries.

Amount

The maximum financial support is SEK 2 million per approved application.

Application period and process

Application forms and instructions are available here:

<https://si.se/utlysningar/bidrag-finansiering/si-public-sector-innovation-programme/>

Applications may be submitted in Swedish or English. The deadline for submitting your application is 4 May, 2020. The application will not be assessed if not complete.

The Swedish Institute cannot accept late applications since the evaluation process starts immediately after the deadline is passed. The preliminary decision date is 1 June, 2020.

Contact

Mikael Salomonsson

mikael.salomonsson@si.se

Tel. +46 732318511