

## SI Public Sector Innovation Programme

**Does your higher education institution want to help to promote innovation and renewal within the public sector in low- and middle-income countries in order to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals? If so, you can apply for support through the SI Public Sector Innovation Programme.**

### Overview

The call for applications within the SI Public Sector Innovation Programme makes it possible for Swedish higher education institutions to apply for funding to carry out training programmes which aim to strengthen the capacity of the public sector in the partnering countries with the implementation of Agenda 2030.

**New guidelines for 2023** - Applications with collaborations within the following countries will be prioritised: *Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Moldova, Morocco, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Vietnam, Zambia and Zimbabwe.*

### What is SI Public Sector Innovation Programme?

Through the SI Public Sector Innovation Programme, the Swedish Institute wants to promote innovation in the public sector in order to strengthen the ability of the participating countries to implement Agenda 2030. Innovation refers to new or better ways of creating value for society, businesses, and citizens. This can involve new products or technical solutions, but it can also be new ways of planning and developing cities, rural areas, and residential environments.

A public sector with a well-developed innovation capacity, based on values such as democracy, sustainability, and equality, is a central factor in the possibility of solving numerous societal challenges. Some examples of such challenges can be how to preserve welfare in society despite increased costs, limited funds, and lack of expertise. It can also be problems relating to the adaptation to climate change and the transformation of the energy and transportation systems.

Innovation refers to new or better ways of creating value for society, companies, and citizens. It can relate to the creation of new products or technical solutions, but it can also be new ways of planning and developing cities, rural areas and living environments.

The training programme must clearly be linked to one or several Sustainable Development Goals and with a clear focus on one or more of the following areas:

- **Innovation management;** Programs that contribute to developing leadership and the organisational conditions for innovation in the organization.
- **Smarter welfare services;** Programs that focus on how digitalisation and welfare technology can contribute to a favourable social development.
- **Inclusive service and service design;** Programs that focus on how the involvement of citizens can contribute to better adapted community services and the development of new welfare services.

SI encourages applicants to ensure that the training programmes are permeated by collaboration between the public sector and e.g. business, academia and civil society, either in the implementation itself or as a perspective in the training programme.

### **Target group**

The target group for the training programmes is civil servants and elected officials in the public sector, with a clear mandate to make decisions and conduct advocacy work within their organisations. They should be regarded as decision-makers or specialist who, on a daily basis, are involved in questions related to the subject of the training programme.

Representatives of civil society organisations and people with leading positions in business can be included as participants if this clearly benefits/contributes to the training programme's goals.

The programmes are expected to lead to actual change and the results should not remain at an academic level. Academics should therefore *not* be considered the main target group for the training programmes implemented within the SI Public Sector Innovation Programme.

### **Who can apply**

This call is aimed at Swedish universities and colleges who wish to organise training programmes that strengthens the capacity of the participants to work with the implementation of Agenda 2030.

The application can be made individually or in collaboration with other stakeholders in Sweden and/or in other countries. A Swedish higher education institution may be the main applicant in more than one application, provided that different working groups, units, and/or departments within the organisation are responsible for the practical implementation of the proposed training programmes.

The applicant is responsible for:

- Planning the training programme
- Practical arrangements
- Recruitment of participants
- Travel of participants
- Promotion of the training programme (on websites and through social media)
- Implementing the training programme (physically, digitally or as hybrid)

- Evaluation of the project, and final reporting to SI
- Evaluation of the training programme

### Specifications of the training programmes

**Duration and start:** The training programmes can last up to one year. The training programmes must be started by September 15th at the latest.

**Recruitment:** The Swedish higher education institution is responsible for the recruitment of participants to their training programme. Recruitment can begin as soon as a decision is announced, but must be completed by May 31, 2023 at the latest.

**Participants:** At least 15 participants must be recruited per training programme.

**Format/layout:** The training programme must be designed so that participants can continue to be active in their respective work, in parallel with the training. The training programme can be implemented in Sweden and/or in the partner country/countries. It can also be implemented completely online.

**Budget:** Maximum financial support is SEK 2 million per approved application.

### Time plan

<b>Application period</b>	<b>October 5 - November 30, 2022</b>
<b>Application deadline:</b>	<b>November 30, 2022</b>
<b>Evaluation and decision:</b>	<b>November 30, 2022 - January 31, 2023</b>
<b>Preparation- and recruitment period:</b>	<b>January 31 - May 15, 2023</b>
<b>Start of training programme (deadline):</b>	<b>September 15, 2023</b>
<b>Final report (deadline):</b>	<b>August 31, 2024</b>

### Application process

#### 1. Write your application

When the call opens, you will find a [link to our application portal here](#). You need to register an account to access the application form. You will be able to save the application and come back to it as many times as you need before submitting it.

- A budget must be attached to the application. [You can find the template for the budget here](#).
- The application must be submitted in English.
- The application deadline is November 30, 2023, when the application must have been received by SI at the latest. The application must then be complete in order to be considered.

[If you want to look at the application form, you can view a sample version here.](#)

## **2. Submit your application**

Once you have written your application it is time to submit it. You will do so in the application portal. Keep in mind that the portal closes at 23:59 p.m. CEST on November 30, 2023. The portal stops accepting applications past this deadline and SI does not accept applications that are sent via email.

If something is filled in incorrectly or if you have missed something, the portal will alert you when you click on the 'save'-button or when you try to submit your application.

Once the application has been submitted, you will receive an email to the email address you have entered in the portal. This is the address we use to communicate with you. If you do not receive this confirmation within ten minutes, please check your spam folder and make sure you can receive emails from us.

We may need to contact you with questions about your application during the selection process. Failure to respond may result in your application being disqualified. We encourage you to add SI to your contacts to avoid mail possibly ending up in spam.

If problems arise, please contact [adiam.tedros@si.se](mailto:adiam.tedros@si.se).

## **3. Assessment and decisions**

An overall assessment of valid applications is made in which the following aspects are taken into special consideration:

- The concept as a whole (structure, content and implementation)
- How the programme relates to the chosen goal or sub-goal within Agenda 2030.
- Level of innovation (is the programme and the proposed activities innovative and do they contribute to new or better ways of creating value for society, companies and citizens?)
- The relevance of the programme for development processes in public administration in low and middle-income countries.
- The cost-effectiveness of the programme in relation to number of participants and content.
- The applications will be evaluated by a working group of programme managers at SI.
- The preliminary decision date is 31 January 2023.