
SI Public Sector Innovation Programme

Does your higher education institution want to help to promote innovation 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.

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 these is innovation in the public sector for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The target group is civil servants and elected representatives in the public sector in low and middle income countries, as defined by the OECD-DAC.

What is the 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 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 key factor in being able to solve 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.

Theme and focus

The applicant shall formulate a focus for the proposed programme on the basis of the thematic areas listed below:

Innovation leadership: programmes that help to develop leadership and the organisational prerequisites for innovation within an organisation.

Smarter welfare services: programmes that focus on how digitalisation and welfare technology can contribute to positive societal development.

Inclusive service design: programmes that focus on how involving citizens can help to bring about more relevant public services and the establishment of new welfare services.

The Swedish Institute encourages all applicants to ensure that their programme is permeated by cooperation between the public sector and, for example, the business sector, academia and civil society, either in the implementation 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 who have a clear mandate to make decisions and conduct advocacy work within their organisations. 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.

The target group should be decision-makers or experts who work on a daily basis with the issues dealt with by the proposed programme.

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.

Representatives of civil society organisations as well as people with leading positions in the private sector can be included as participants if the programme's objectives benefit from this.

Gender parity shall be sought among the programme participants.

Details

This call is for funding for 1-year training programmes. These should begin in 2021, no later than 15 September. 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 can also be implemented online completely.

Programmes shall have at least 15 participants. The higher education institution is responsible for the recruitment of participants. The programme shall be designed so that participants can continue to work in their respective organisations during the training programme.

Besides the actual training programme, the higher education institution can also apply for funding for preparatory and follow-up activities:

Preparatory activities: Shall aim to prepare participants for the coming module. This could take the form of webinars or preparatory seminars/workshops where participants meet.

Follow-up: Activities, project support funding and coaching that aim to continue the work with participants and their organisations after the training programme has been implemented.

Timeframe:

- December 15 - February 15: The call is open
- February 15 - April 1: Assessment of applications
- April 5: Decisions are announced to higher education institutions
- April - August: Preparation and recruitment period for funding recipients
- September 2021: Start of the programme
- September 2022: Final report

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

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

If the applicant has received support for the same programme from other donors, this must be reported in the application.

From 2020, ongoing programmes may be extended by one year.

Amount

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

Info:

The responsibility of the university or college

- Planning the training programme
- Practical arrangements
- Recruiting participants
- Participants' travel arrangements
- Implementing the programme in Sweden, in the partner country or in both
- Evaluating the completed programme and final reporting to SI
- Evaluating programme design and implementation

Application period and process

1. Write the application

A complete application consists of the following appendices:

Annex I: Grant application

Appendix II: Programme structure

Annex III: Risk analysis

Appendix IV: Short CV. CV (max. One A4 per CV) with relevant information about the intended project manager / key staff, as well as lecturers for the programme. This also includes lecturers at partner organisations.

Appendix V: Previous experience. The programme organiser's and possibly co-organisers' previous experience of arranging commissioned training courses, leadership programmes or courses, maximum two A4 pages.

Annex VI: Budget. Detailed, with the same headings as Section F of Annex I.

Applications may be submitted in Swedish or English.

Application forms and instructions are available here:

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

2. Submit the application

The signed application, including appendices, must be sent by e-mail to si@si.se. The subject field of the email must include the reference number **09367/2020**.

Deadline for submitting applications to the Swedish Institute is **15 February 2021**. The application must be complete in order to qualify for assessment.

SI cannot accept late applications as the assessment process begins immediately after the deadline. Decisions are expected to be announced no later than 5 April 2021.

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)
 - Description of the thematic focus and how the programme relates to the chosen goal or sub-goal within Agenda 2030.
 - Level of innovation (Are 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.
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The applications will be evaluated by a working group of programme managers at SI.

The preliminary decision date is 5 April 2021.

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