

SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme

Instructions for the application call 2026

Final date of applications 2 March 2026

Programme website: <https://si.se/siucp>

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1. Purpose of the instructions

These instructions are intended for those applying for project funding from the Swedish Institute (SI) within the SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme and the application call with **deadline 2 March 2026**. The instructions give detailed information about the requirements for submitting your grant application. The application should be prepared jointly by the main applicant and its project partners in Ukraine. To strengthen transparency, commitment and equal participation within the project, the application must be written in English.

These instructions and the application enclosures are designed to help applicants to prepare a well-formulated application. We therefore recommend that you read through these instructions before you start writing your application.

2. About this application call

The SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme is a funding programme at the Swedish Institute that is implemented within the framework of Sweden's development and reform cooperation with Ukraine 2023-2027.

The call provides an opportunity for Swedish actors to seek financial support for project cooperation together with their Ukrainian partners, with the aim of contributing to Ukraine's reconstruction and reform efforts for EU integration in areas such as inclusive economic development, entrepreneurship and trade, as well as human rights, democracy, principles of the rule of law and gender equality.

Each application should propose a project idea that addresses a concrete challenge or opportunity in Ukraine, relevant for one of three overarching focus areas of this call (see below) but also linked to the country's long-term ambition for EU integration. The projects therefore should be in line with Ukraine's reform agenda and clearly show relevance for democratic governance, rule of law and inclusive development of the society.

Specifically, the projects should contribute to strengthened capacity in organisations, as well as increased competence, incl. widened contact networks and new knowledge for individuals.

For this funding call, the following three overarching focus areas are available:

- Innovation ecosystems
- Transparency, accountability and anti-corruption
- Gender equality

The call does not address the need for humanitarian or military support. SI also does not support reconstruction of physical infrastructure nor equipment purchases.

The development of the application is expected to take place in co-creation between the Swedish main applicant, the Ukrainian partner and any other actor in the formal partnership. The partners from Ukraine are expected to take an active role in formulating the overall challenge or opportunity that the project will work on. An exception is applications within the grant type *project preparation*, in cases where the main Swedish applicant at the time of the application has not yet established partnership with a Ukrainian actor. Such applications are accepted by SI if the proposed project will focus on the establishment of a partnership between Swedish and Ukrainian actors.

2.1 Thematic focus of the call

Each application should be related to one of the following three overarching focus areas of the call. For each of the focus areas, a number of examples have been provided to possible areas of cooperation. These should be considered as inspiration, not as limitations.

2.1.1 Innovation ecosystems

This focus area is meant to assist Ukraine in building a vibrant innovation ecosystem that promotes entrepreneurship, digital transformation, inclusive growth, and sustainable development. Projects within this area are expected to strengthen Ukrainian actors and structures that enable the innovation ecosystem, rather than developing individual products or services. The projects may involve actors from the public and private sectors, academia, and civil society.

Examples of areas for cooperation:

- Policy development to strengthen institutional capacity for innovation
- Digital public innovation, services, and GovTech
- Knowledge and experience exchange in digitalisation, digital innovations, and technologies
- Innovation procurement and financing models
- University incubators, science parks, accelerators, and start-up hubs
- Social innovation and inclusive entrepreneurship
- Public sector innovation in line with OECD OPSI principles (national, regional, local level)
- Increased opportunities for women's participation in innovation and entrepreneurship

2.1.2 Transparency, accountability and anti-corruption

This area focuses on projects that strengthen institutions, processes, and actors that enable increased transparency and accountability in Ukraine. The projects should contribute to combating corruption, promoting open governance, and including citizens in decision-making processes.

Examples of areas for cooperation:

- Anti-corruption initiatives in the private sector
- Civil society efforts for open governance and accountability

- Strengthening investigative journalism
- Improved transparency within the judiciary
- Digital tools for open governance

2.1.3 Gender equality

This area focuses on projects that build inclusive societies where women, men, and marginalized groups have equal opportunities. The projects should strengthen structures and actors' capacity for gender mainstreaming and equal rights, with particular attention to groups at risk of exclusion or discrimination. Examples include increased participation of women and LGBTQ+ individuals in decision-making, combating gender-based violence, promoting gender equality across all sectors of society, and enhancing women's economic empowerment and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Examples of areas for cooperation:

- Leadership networks and capacity building
- Policy development for gender mainstreaming
- Initiatives to combat gender-based violence
- Access to sexual and reproductive health and other rights
- Inclusion of women and LGBTQ+ individuals in decision-making

2.2 Thematic orientation

Every application should, in addition to relating to one of the three overarching focus areas, also be linked to one of the ten thematic areas of the programme. These have been developed based on the mission of the SI within Sweden's strategy for reconstruction and reform cooperation with Ukraine 2023–2027.

Applicants must select one of these thematic options as the main focus for each application, but they may also (for cooperation projects) indicate an additional 1–2 areas that will be addressed within the project.

Thematic options related to inclusive economic development, entrepreneurship and trade promotion:

- Employment and job-creation
- Private sector development
- Strengthened conditions for trade
- Transparency and anti-corruption in the private sector

Thematic areas related to human rights, democracy, the principles of the rule of law and equality:

- Civil society development

- Free and independent media
- Gender equality
- Human rights
- Strengthened cultural institutions and cultural heritage
- Strengthened democratic institutions and public administration

For inspiration and examples of what could be included within each thematic option, [read more on this page at si.se](#).

2.3 Support for Ukraine's EU integration

Projects granted in this call are expected to contribute to Ukraine's EU integration process and each application should therefore be thematically linked to a negotiation chapter in the ongoing EU accession process. These chapters are, in turn, connected to the EU's body of law, the so-called *acquis communautaire*, which constitutes the entirety of the EU legislation.

SI therefore recommends applicants to analyse the [EU Commission Ukraine Report 2024](#) for a better understanding of Ukraine's progress so far, but also of identified continued challenges per negotiation chapter.

For background on the *acquis communautaire* that the negotiation chapters are connected to, SI also recommends [this overview at the EU Commission's website](#).

EU Integration Support Areas

SI projects may contribute to Ukraine's EU integration in various ways. While some focus more on promoting democracy and other EU values, other projects may contribute directly to the ongoing accession negotiation process. To better categorise and understand how different projects align with Ukraine's EU integration efforts, SI has identified a set of six distinct *EU integration support areas* for the applicant to choose from. It is up to the applicant to assess and choose what support area that best reflects the project idea.

- EU Acquis / Chapter Negotiations
- EU Integration Capacity and Competence Development
- EU Standardization
- EU Policy, Reform, and Alignment
- EU Internationalization and Funding
- EU Principles and Values

For a description of what each support area may include, [read more on this website at si.se](#).

These areas are not ranked by importance or relevance (all are considered relevant by SI) but serve as a way to classify the project's contribution and proximity to the ongoing EU integration process. Applicants are therefore expected to assess and select the support area that best reflects their project idea.

2.4 Grant types

Within the call, applicants can choose between two different grant types: project preparation, and cooperation projects. Note that the application documents may differ depending on the grant type. See section 8.1 for overview.

For the grant type cooperation project, it is required that the project builds on previous/existing cooperation between the main applicant and at least one Ukrainian partner. The collaboration may have taken place in the current or another constellation but needs to be described in the application. If there is no previous cooperation to refer to, SI recommends to first apply for a project preparation grant in order to establish a partnership and lay the foundation for cooperation.

Project preparation

Project preparation is a smaller grant aimed at laying the foundation for cooperation. Such a preparatory project could involve contact making and partner search, meetings and workshops to discuss or carry out needs analyses, simpler feasibility studies etc. Project preparation could also involve developing parts of a larger application for cooperation between Sweden and Ukraine.

For applications concerning project preparation, SI does not require that the Swedish main applicant already has a ready-made partnership in place with actors in Ukraine, although this would of course be preferable. Identification of suitable cooperation partners and the establishment of a partnership must then form an integral part of the project and a list of already identified possible cooperation partners in Ukraine should be included in the application.

Amount: 100 000 – 200 000 SEK

Project duration: 6 – 12 months

Cooperation project

Cooperation projects should aim to develop capacity and opportunities for the partners (or other actors and institutions) in Ukraine to drive change processes and contribute to the country's reconstruction and reforms for EU integration within the thematic orientation that is the focus of the project.

Cooperation projects may consist of a number of different activities and could include, for example, exchange of experience, development and implementation of methods and working methods, production of studies and reports, establishment of actor networks and collaboration platforms, as well as policy influence.

Within a cooperation project, also various training components may be included for groups of Ukrainian key persons, as well as long-term mobility for study and research visits.

The Ukrainian partner has an important role in the initial needs analysis, but also in the further implementation, management and further development of the project and management of its results, both during and after the project.

Amount: 1 000 000 – 2 000 000 SEK

Project duration: 12 – 24 months

3. Time plan

- The call opens **5 December 2025**
- Application deadline is **2 March 2026** (23:59 CET)
- Review period of applications spans between **March – June 2026**
- Decision of the applications are expected by **June 2026**
- Granted projects formally start on **1 September 2026**

4. Programme countries

All applications must include Ukraine in one way or another. For the grant types of cooperation project and training programme, the basic requirement is therefore that at least one actor from Ukraine is part of the formal partnership. For the grant type project preparation, in the same way, at least one Ukrainian partner should be part of the formal partnership, but SI also accepts applications for project preparation where, at the time of application, the Swedish main applicant has not yet formalized cooperation with an actor from Ukraine. In such cases, the project should focus on establishing a partnership and preparing for continued cooperation. One or more previously identified possible cooperation partners in Ukraine must then also be stated in the application, to be approached during the project.

The following countries are included in the call:

- **Main applicant country:** Sweden
- **Country of priority:** Ukraine
- **Additional countries, EU countries with experience from transition:** Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland

An application can also include several partners from both Sweden and Ukraine.

When the basic requirement for programme countries is met, partners from additional countries (max. 2 actors per application) can also be included in the partnership if it clearly contributes to the project's feasibility and benefit for the target groups in Ukraine.

The purpose of the possibility of including additional countries to the formal partnership is primarily to benefit from their experiences and lessons learned regarding e.g. reform, transition and EU integration processes. It may however also be other benefits, e.g. favourable geographical location of the countries, to facilitate the arrangement of activities in support of target groups in Ukraine, but in another location.

Remember that the main applicant organisation must be based in Sweden.

5. Relevance, partnership and target groups

The overall aim of the project should be relevant to the identified challenges and/or opportunities in Ukraine, linked to the thematic option that is chosen for the application. The project idea should also contribute to Ukraine's long-term ambition of EU-membership within that thematic option.

The formal partnership behind the application needs to have sufficient competence to work on the issues, target groups and stakeholders that relate to the project. All actors in the partnership are expected to contribute to the work in the project and create the conditions for development in Ukraine but should also themselves see added value from being part of the project and the partnership.

5.1 Partnership composition

The formal partnership consists of the Swedish main applicant and one or more project partners. At least one of the project partners should be based in Ukraine. An exception is the grant type project preparation, where the main applicant does not need to have a formalized partnership in place with a Ukrainian actor at the time of application. In such cases, however, it must be stated in the application which actors in Ukraine will be approached to probe a partnership.

All actors included in the formal partnership need to be legal entities. In total, a maximum of six actors (incl. Swedish main applicant) can be part of the partnership per application. Main applicants and project partners can be, for example:

- Non-governmental organisations, foundations
- Municipalities
- Regions
- Government agencies
- County administrative boards
- Higher education institutions and research institutes
- Intergovernmental organisations
- Business companies
- Business and trade organisations

The role associated partner does not exist in this programme. Only the roles main applicant and project partners are valid in the formal partnership. However, both other additional actors and individuals may participate in the project's various activities (and thus also affect the project budget). They are assumed to represent the project's target group and/or constitute stakeholders or external expertise.

The present situation in Ukraine places special demands on the partnership's competence and relevant experience both within the project's focus and international collaborations. Prior to the design of the partnership, things such as the competence, capacity and previous experience of the intended actors should therefore be carefully considered so that the project's distribution of roles and competences actually corresponds to the challenge that the project intends to address.

Private companies

SI welcomes private sector participation in projects supporting Ukraine and sees several opportunities for companies to get involved—for example, as providers of services (external expertise), as stakeholders, or as partners (or main applicants) within implementation partnerships.

However, when private companies participate as formal partners (either as main applicants or partners), their involvement must be on a non-profit basis, as the financial grant from SI may only be used to cover actual costs. Furthermore, the project must serve a public benefit and may not solely advance the commercial interests of the company itself.

A private company participating as a partner in an implementation partnership is not to be considered a "supplier" or service provider in a commercial sense, as the grant from SI is not a payment for services procured by the partnership. The SI grant is therefore non-commercial and intended to support development cooperation efforts in Ukraine. Regardless of whether the project owner is a private company or belongs to another sector, they are responsible for ensuring that the

granted funds are used in line with the project's objectives and in support of actors and target groups in Ukraine.

Politically affiliated organisations

Political parties and their youth affiliates cannot be main applicants but may participate as project partners when relevant to democratic development. Politically affiliated development cooperation organisations however may act both as the Swedish main applicant and as partners in applications to this call.

5.1.1 External expertise

In addition to actors who are part of the formal partnership, external expertise (which does not represent a formal partner) from all programme countries (as well as other countries within the EU) can also be included in the implementation, for example to lead and/or contribute with expertise during activities in the project.

Unlike main applicants and partners, external expertise is considered a service purchased from an external supplier to the project. Costs for procuring external expertise should be entered in a separate section of the budget template under budget item 2.5.

The same actor cannot participate both as a partner and an external expert within the project. This also applies if other/additional departments/units etc within an organisation that is already part of the formal partnership are involved. Their costs should not be considered external expertise and should rather be counted as costs related to the partner in question.

5.2 The main applicant

The main applicant must have the capacity to lead the project, as well as being responsible for producing the final report to SI (although with the assistance of partners). But the entire partnership should be actively involved in all phases and parts of the project.

One and the same main applicant cannot submit several simultaneous applications within the call with the same person listed as project manager/contact person.

Once the project is granted, the main applicant becomes the project owner. A project owner has the overall responsibility for the project both towards the partnership and SI. It is therefore important that the main applicant ensures in advance that the project is anchored within their own organisation but also at each partner.

Main applicant letter

The main applicant must submit a completed and signed *Main Applicant Letter* (Enclosure 4) with the application, regardless of the grant type. In this letter, the main applicant explains their

prerequisites for and participation in the project. This includes, among other things, an organisational assessment where the main applicant answers a number of questions which, taken together, relate to their capacity to lead the proposed project.

The enclosure also covers whether the main applicant has had other or previous SI-funded projects and what lessons or project results they may bring from those experiences.

Finally, the enclosure includes a self-assessment of whether funds will be forwarded to partners within the project. Read more in section 10.2 "Forwarding".

When a private company acts as the main applicant, *Enclosure 4b – the Private Company Enclosure* – must also be submitted along with the application. See more information in chapter 8.1 of this instruction document.

Other ongoing SI projects at the main applicant

If the application is based on another ongoing SI-funded project within either the SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme, the SI Baltic Sea Neighbourhood Programme, or the SI Creative Partnerships Programme – of the grant types *seed funding* or *project preparation* – the final report for the previous project must be submitted to SI no later than 30 January 2026.

For other (previous or ongoing) SI-funded projects or training programmes, applicants are encouraged to refer to these in the new application, particularly in terms of lessons learned and experiences, as well as concrete project results.

Responsible internationalisation

If the Swedish main applicant is a higher education institution, a question in enclosure 4 Main applicant letter should be answered on whether the project aligns with the organisation's principles and action plan for responsible internationalisation.

For more information about Sweden's national work related to promotion of responsible internationalisation, see the website of [Sweden's Council for Higher Education](#).

5.3 Project partners and target groups

The actors included in the formal partnership must be legal entities.

Project partners have an active role in the implementation of the project and, in addition to active participation, can also be delegated main responsibility for individual project activities. Project partners should also be able to take part in the project's budget, for example for working hours/salary.

Each partner must submit a completed and signed partner letter (enclosure 5, *Partner letter*) with the application. The partner letter should give an account of their participation in the project. The partner letter thus becomes an assurance that each partner has secured necessary mandate and capacity, including staff and other resources, to participate in implementing the project.

For applications within the grant type project preparation, a formal partnership is not a requirement at the time of application. However, such applications shall include an indicative list of actors in Ukraine as possible prospective partners.

Regardless of grant type, it is also possible to include more project partners to a granted project once it has started. However, this must be preceded by information to and approval by SI.

5.3.1 Target groups

The project's target groups are the individuals or actors/entities who have been identified as essential to be directly involved, in order to strengthen their capacity and ability through the project's activities. The target groups do not necessarily have to be the same actors as those participating in the implementing partnership. The target groups should be relevant in relation to the challenge or opportunity that the project intends to address. They should be defined based on aspects like roles, functions, positions, competencies and/or interests.

The reasoning regarding target groups may also include possible final target groups, intended to be reached indirectly through, for example activities arranged within a cooperation project.

Example/target group: business promoters within the public administration in Ukraine

Example/end target group: Start-ups/entrepreneurs in Ukraine

The project's target groups can either be found within the partnership, or with other actors primarily in Ukraine. If the project also includes target groups outside Ukraine, it must be justified in the application how these are instrumental in contributing to Ukraine's development. Target groups outside Ukraine refer mainly to the Ukrainian diaspora, and/or Ukrainian refugees abroad.

The target groups should be described both in the online application form and in Enclosure 1.b *Short-term objectives table* (for cooperation projects) as part of the project's logic.

5.3.2 Stakeholders

Stakeholders are defined as actors who are not part of the formal partnership but are somehow relevant to (or may have an interest in) the implementation and results of the project. Stakeholders could, for example, be actors who are affected by the challenge or opportunity that the project aims to address. Stakeholders may also possess resources that could contribute to the feasibility of the project, such as specific skills, tools, interests, or influence. By identifying stakeholders and analysing their relationship to the identified challenge/opportunity in Ukraine, one can also develop

a strategy for which of these stakeholders should be involved in the project and how this should be done.

A discussion on stakeholders should therefore be presented in applications concerning cooperation projects and training programmes (Enclosure 1, *Project implementation*).

In a stakeholder analysis, one can, for example, use a number of questions such as:

- Who is interested in the project?
- Who will be affected by the project?
- Who can influence the development of the project?
- Who can approve/reject the project?

6. Project logic and sustainability

The project should be based on a specific challenge and/or opportunity that Ukraine faces. The needs in Ukraine should be related to a thematic option covered by the call and which, in turn, relates to the strategy for Sweden's development and reform cooperation with Ukraine 2023-2027.

It is important that the project's aim, objectives, structure, and various activities are logically connected and that this is evident in the application. SI assesses whether the application demonstrates a clear connection between the identified needs in Ukraine, the project's overall aim, short-term objectives, target groups, indicators, as well as activities and expected results.

The project's structure should be feasible and designed considering the current situation.

6.1 Project logic

The project's overall aim is the same as its purpose. It should be concise and describe the desired situation after the project's conclusion, assuming the expected results are achieved.

Applicants should also formulate several short-term objectives. The short-term objectives are a breakdown of the overall project aim and describe what should be achieved by the end of the project period, given the resources allocated (personnel, time, and budget). This means that the project's overall aim is achieved by reaching the respective short-term objectives.

The short-term objectives are closely related to the identified target groups, whose needs of support to change and development are expected to be in the centre of the project.

The call provides a number of predefined target types to choose from, and it is within these that applicants should formulate the project's short-term objectives. For the grant cooperation project, applicants should provide a minimum of two (2) and a maximum of ten (10) short-term objectives per application. For project preparation grants, a minimum of one (1) and a maximum of five (5) short-term objectives should be included per application.

For cooperation projects, it is mandatory to formulate at least one short-term objective using the target type *Building capacity at organisations*.

It is the project's structure and activities that form the basis for achieving the short-term objectives. Therefore, it is important that relevant activities are linked to each objective. It may require a variety of activities to achieve one specific short-term objective. Furthermore, applicants should specify one or more indicators for each short-term objective.

6.2 Illustration of project logic

English	Swedish	Description
Challenge/ opportunity	Utmaning/ möjlighet	The application should be focused on a specific challenge or opportunity that is relevant for Ukraine, identified by the partnership and intended to be addressed within the proposed project.
Aim	Projektmål	<p>A project should have only one overarching aim (project goal), which should describe how the situation should be after the project's completion provided that the project delivers the expected results. The aim of the project should be indicated at the <i>Project relevance</i> tab in the online application form (max. 200 characters including spaces).</p> <p><i>Project goals are sometimes referred to as the project's purpose.</i></p>
Short-term objectives	Kortsiktiga mål	<p>The project's short-term objectives are a breakdown of the aim and specify what the partnership aims to have achieved (changed) by the time the project concludes.</p> <p>Consideration: It's easy to confuse activities with short-term objectives, but it's important to keep them separate. For example, organising a seminar is not an objective but an activity. However, the short-term objective could be to increase the knowledge of those participating in the seminar.</p> <p>Example: A number of key individuals have gained increased knowledge in a specific subject.</p>
Target types	Måltyp	<p>The call provides several predefined target types to choose from. Short-term objectives should be formulated within the framework of the selected target types (one or more short-term objectives per selected target type).</p> <p>Target types, selectable for the grant type project preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding overview • Needs analysis • Partner search • Partnership enlargement • Preparing application • Stakeholder engagement <p>Target types, selectable for the grant type cooperation project:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benchmarking and peer learning • Building capacity at organisations* • Building capacity in individuals • Development of models and methodology • Funding overview • Network and platform building • Partnership enlargement • Pilot implementation • Preparing application • Stakeholder engagement • Strategy and policy development <p>*Mandatory to include for the selected grant type.</p>
Target group	Målgrupp	For each short-term objective a target group should be specified, whose capacity is expected to be strengthened as result of the project. This target group should also be included in the overall description of target groups for the project at large, in accordance with the questions asked at the <i>Target groups</i> tab in the online application form.
Expected immediate deliverables (outputs)	Förväntade omedelbara leveranser	<p>The expected immediate deliverables/outputs of the project should be specified in the short-term objectives table for cooperation projects. Such immediate outputs indicate what will be delivered for each short-term objective when the project is completed. The immediate outputs should contribute to the development for the target group, as well as for achieving the short-term objectives.</p> <p><i>Example, expected immediate outputs:</i></p> <p><i>30 EU coordinators at Ukrainian municipalities have been trained.</i></p>
Expected immediate outcomes	Förväntade omedelbara resultat	<p>Expected immediate outcomes are results from the activities within the project, and because of the deliverables/outputs. These immediate results should contribute to capacity development of the target group within a short-term objective, for example as new knowledge, competence, tools or increased motivation and change in behaviour.</p> <p><i>Example, expected immediate outcomes:</i></p> <p><i>Capacity building at the individual level: Trained EU coordinators in Ukrainian municipalities have, through the training, strengthened their ability to apply for EU funding.</i></p> <p><i>Behavioural change at the organisational level: By the end of the project, the partner organisation has implemented internal procedures to support EU funding applications, including establishing a dedicated team and clear workflows, thereby improving the organisation's capacity to secure external resources.</i></p>
Indicators	Indikatorer	For each short-term objective, one or more indicators need to be formulated for both the expected immediate outputs and the expected immediate results (for the cooperation project grant type, a specific template is used – enclosure 1: Short-term Objectives Table – with two separate columns for indicators).

		<p>Indicators are used to assess progress toward achieving each short-term objective. An indicator is a measure of what is to be tracked but should always be expressed neutrally, meaning it should state “number of experts who...” rather than “one hundred experts who...”.</p> <p>Note: There are two types of indicators: quantitative and qualitative. Both quantitative and qualitative indicators may be needed to capture different aspects of goal achievement. To demonstrate how the project meets its short-term objectives, the application may include both quantitative and qualitative indicators.</p> <p>A quantitative indicator is, for example, a number (count, average, or median) or a percentage.</p> <p><i>Example, quantitative indicator: number of experts who have participated in the project's activities (expected deliverable/output)</i></p> <p>Qualitative indicators can also be expressed in quantitative terms, but they are what can be called "soft" data—such as values, attitudes, and behaviours of the target audience. Qualitative indicators can be measured and quantified through methods such as surveys indicating the proportion of respondents with a certain behaviour or attitude.</p> <p>It is important to determine in advance how the indicators will be measured, i.e., the measurement method, so that it is possible to substantiate the expected results.</p> <p><i>Example, qualitative indicators:</i></p> <p><i>Number of participants who have gained increased knowledge in a specific subject or theme (expected outcomes/results, strengthened capacity).</i></p> <p><i>Number of participants who report that they have applied their new knowledge and skills to influence practices in their organisations (expected outcomes/results, strengthened behavioural change).</i></p>
Expected change	Förväntad förändring	<p>In the short-term objectives table for cooperation projects, the applicant should describe what the project is expected to lead to (anticipated change among the target groups) in a longer-term perspective, e.g. knowledge, behaviours, relations, practices etc. Expected change could, for example, be that individuals who participated in a training now apply new methods in their daily work.</p> <p><i>Example, expected change:</i></p> <p><i>After 2–3 years, local civil society organisations will actively monitor municipal budgets and procurement processes, leading to increased public transparency and a measurable reduction in reported cases of mismanagement or corruption in the affected communities.</i></p>
Activities	Aktiviteter	<p>Activities are the project's means of achieving the short-term objectives. Therefore, for example, it cannot be a short-term objective to organise a seminar; instead, the seminar is an <i>activity</i> (see above about short-term objectives).</p>

		<p>The main activities of the project should be outlined in the application's work plan (for cooperation projects, see enclosure 2 - <i>Project implementation</i>, and for project preparation see enclosure 0 – <i>Project preparation description</i>).</p> <p>Activities are therefore <u>not</u> specified in the short-term objectives table. See chapter 6.3.</p>
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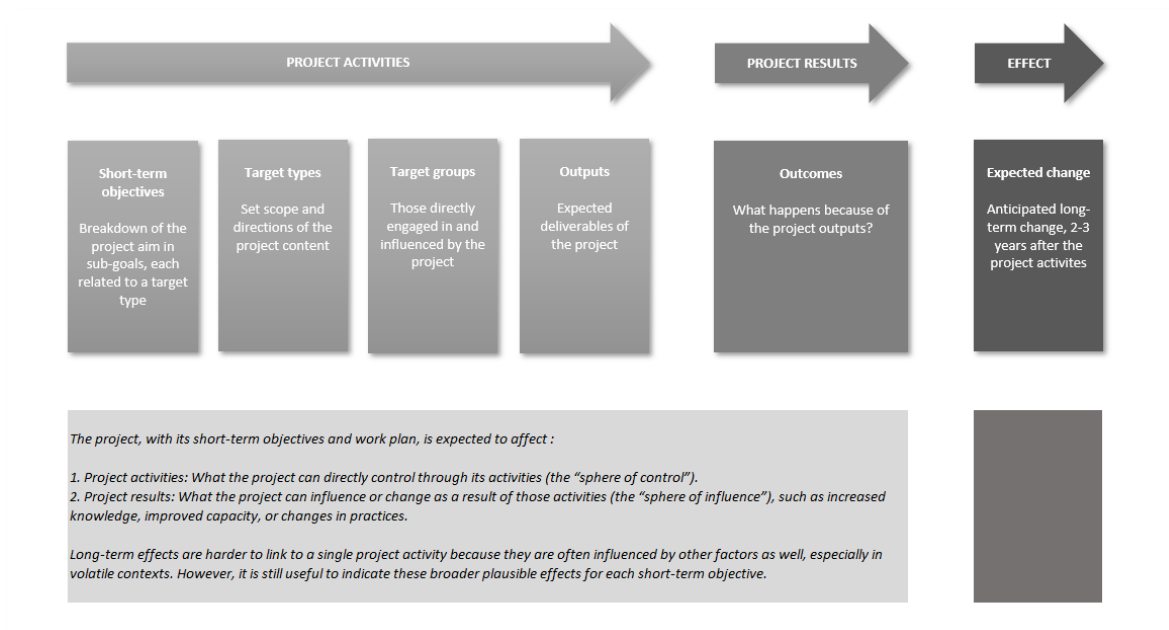


Illustration from enclosure 1 - Short-term objectives table (for cooperation projects)

6.3 Project structure

An important part of the application is to describe the structure and activities of the project. The main activities should be described in the work plan with a preliminary timeframe and an indication of which partner is intended to be responsible for planning and implementing each activity. It should also be indicated whether the activities will be conducted physically (and if so, in which country) or digitally.

The work plan should also address activities related to the project's external communication. For cooperation projects this should be consistent with the discussion on the project's communication efforts and supported by the budget (budget item 2.4).

6.3.1 Onsite vs online

SI anticipates that most projects will consist of a mixture of activities and meeting formats (physical, digital, and hybrid) but encourages arrangements that also facilitate travel and physical meetings.

Digital activities are expected to play a complementary role in ensuring the feasibility of the project and enabling the inclusion of target groups who, under current circumstances, cannot travel or meet physically. Digital formats should also be used to streamline ongoing contacts, check-ins, and communication within the project, for example, by conducting project check-ins digitally.

6.4 Sustainability

Granted projects are expected to provide support to Ukraine both in the short and long term. Each application should include discussions on the usability of expected project results, as well as prospects for continued collaboration. Regarding the grant type project preparation, these issues are of particular importance since the purpose of the grant is to lay the groundwork for cooperation.

For applications regarding cooperation projects, applicants should also elaborate on how internal learning is facilitated within the partnership during the project's duration, aiming to ensure the transfer of knowledge, methods, and experiences to the Ukrainian partners. These partners are expected to eventually integrate the results of the completed project into their respective organisations to support their development and capacity for continued collaboration within Ukraine and internationally.

7. Budget

The application should include a budget (Enclosure 3, *Project budget*) that provides a detailed, albeit indicative plan for how the requested grant from SI will be spent within the project. SI considers the entire project's financing when assessing the application. The intended SI template must be used for the budget enclosure.

The budget should support actors and target groups in Ukraine, but all project partners can access the budget to cover costs and participate in project implementation. Therefore, both in the work plan and budget, it should be clearly stated which partners are involved in each activity. Even actors outside the formal partnership and individuals may be eligible to have costs covered from the project's budget through their participation in project activities, such as meetings, seminars, etc.

The grant should be used for planning, implementing, and monitoring the project. It can involve various types of costs but should be categorized under the following budget groups and budget items:

A. Project management

- 1.1 Project management/administration (only costs at the Swedish main applicant)
- 1.2 Project co-management/administration (only costs at other Swedish partners, excl. main applicant)
- 1.3 Project co-management/administration (only costs at Ukrainian partners)
- 1.4 External audit (projects with a grant exceeding 200 000 SEK require external audit)
- 1.5 Security measures/training (measures to prevent, manage security risks in the project)

B. Implementation

- 2.1 Costs related to main applicant (only costs at the Swedish main applicant)
- 2.2 Costs related to other Swedish partners (excl. main applicant)
- 2.3 Costs related to Ukrainian partners (only costs at project partners in Ukraine)
- 2.4 Project communication (costs for purchases, related to project communication)
- 2.5 External expertise (costs for purchasing expertise from actors not included as project partners)

C. Meetings

- 3.1 Costs for physical meetings (meeting expenses, e.g., venues, food, refreshments, technical support)
- 3.2 Costs for digital meetings (costs for arranging/conducting digital meetings, e.g., software)
- 3.3 Costs for interpretation and translation (costs for translation, interpretation during meetings)

D. Mobility

- 4.1 International travel (costs for international travel, e.g., train, airfare, insurance, etc.)
- 4.2 Domestic travel (costs for travel within own country, e.g., Ukrainian partner traveling within Ukraine)
- 4.3 Lodging/accommodation (costs for accommodation/hotels during short-term mobility)
- 4.4 Scholarships/funding for living costs (scholarship for living expenses during long-term mobility)

E. Costs related to additional countries

- 5.1 Costs related to partners in additional countries (costs at project partners from additional countries)

F. Indirect costs

- 6.1 Indirect costs (indirect costs, also known as overhead - OH)

Salary costs

The budget may include salary costs for employees both at the main applicant and other project partners. Salary must then be specified as actual cost (based on current salary for intended personnel within respective organisation and in their own country) including social security contributions (e.g. LKP, Swedish terminology) or equivalent in partner countries.

Since the main applicant and its partners are not involved in the project as suppliers, additional fees such as consultancy charges or similar cannot be included in what is specified as salary.

Salary costs within the project may only be listed in the budget template under budget groups A – project management, and B – Implementation, at designated areas marked “salary”.

Even salary costs related to the main applicant’s or partners’ work on certain activities that may be linked to other budget items, such as communication or mobility/travel arrangements, must be included under either budget group A or B.

Salaries cannot be presented as a lump sum; they must be specified as estimated time (number of hours) × actual cost. It must also be clear in each budget entry which organisation within the partnership the salary cost refers to, as well as the person/function and the tasks involved.

Please note that salary costs may only be specified as an estimate in such cases where the intended person not yet has been employed.

External expertise

Competence not available within the partnership that needs to be procured for the project should be listed under budget item 2.5 – External expertise. This may include subject-matter experts, guest lecturers, workshop facilitators, or services for producing specific reports, studies, or similar deliverables.

Each budget line for external expertise must include a description, the quantity, and the cost. It should also be clear what “quantity” refers to, for example, the number of experts for a panel or an hourly rate.

An organisation that is part of the partnership cannot simultaneously be contracted for external expertise, even if the competence comes from another unit, department, or equivalent.

SI encourages cautiousness in spending regarding costs for external expertise.

Mobility

Short-term mobility constitutes the main form of travel within the project (individually or in groups) and can be used for meetings, participation in conferences, workshops, study visits, but also longer stays within training sessions, other educational activities or various forms of exchanges. Short-term mobility can be supported for stays of a maximum of one month in a row per person but is expected to be shorter in most cases.

Long-term mobility for individual persons can be supported with travel grants for stays of 1-6 months in a row per person. Long-term mobility can, for example, involve education, internships, shadowing, or other types of longer stays at a receiving institution. If the application includes long-term mobility, the number of months per person and information on grants or monthly allowances should be specified in the project budget. Maximum 30 percent of the project's total budget can be used for long-term mobility.

Please note that travel grants for long-term mobility cannot exceed 25,000 SEK per month per person.

Indirect costs (OH)

If the Swedish main applicant organisation is a higher education institution, up to max. 35% of the grant may be used for indirect costs (overhead). If the main applicant is another type of legal entity only up to max. 20% of the grant from SI may be used for indirect costs (overhead).

The budget item for indirect costs may be used both by the Swedish main applicant as well as by other project partners.

A description of the calculation for indirect costs should be provided in the budget appendix.

Co-financing

SI does not require co-financing to be included or specified for the project but provides space for information on possible co-financing in the budget template (if the applicant wants to show that co-financing is included in the project).

Miscellaneous, budget

Costs related to partners from additional countries (budget item 5.1) cannot exceed 10% of the grant from SI.

Costs related to overall project management and administration (budget group A) cannot exceed 25% of the grant from SI.

VAT costs (*moms*, sw. term.) may only be included in the financial reporting of the SI grant if these constitute a final cost for you as grant recipient, for example if VAT is included in the purchase of goods or services such as tickets. However, VAT may not be included in the budget if you are entitled to deduct input VAT for your operations. If you are unsure, please contact the Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket) to determine which VAT rules apply to your specific operations. Please note that the VAT rules applicable to your regular operations may not necessarily apply to activities funded by the SI grant.

SI does not reimburse the purchase of equipment. If office equipment is needed within the project (e.g., computer, phone, projector), such equipment can instead be rented during the project period.

SI reserves the right to adjust the project budget for an application before a decision is made.

Please note that if the grant from SI exceeds 200,000 SEK, the financial reporting and documentation must undergo an audit conducted by an authorized/approved external auditor. For more information, refer to Chapter 10.

8. Completing the application

The application must be submitted via SI's application portal no later than the application deadline, 2 March 2026, and must be fully completed with all enclosures (according to the intended SI-templates) included. Note that the enclosure templates are locked and must not be opened. For more information, refer to section 8.1 Application enclosures.

In the application portal, applicants create an account to access the application form. The account creation will also generate an ID number (applicant ID). A started application can be saved to be completed later.

In the application form in the application portal, applicants need to provide the following information:

- Details of the Swedish main applicant organisation (legal entity, based in Sweden)
- Project leader/contact person for SI at the Swedish main applicant
- Responsible/decision-maker/authorized signatory at the Swedish main applicant
- Information about and contact details for each project partner
- Choice of overarching focus of the application (according to the call)
- Project summary
- Thematic options as focus for the project (choice and motivation)
- Questions related to the project's relevance for Ukraine's EU integration process
- Questions related to the UN Agenda 2030 goals (subgoals relevant to the project)
- Selection of target types
- Enclosures

The application should be developed in close collaboration between the different parties involved and should be written in English.

Once the application has been submitted, the applicant will receive a confirmation via email. Please ensure that it does not end up in the spam folder.

Remember to check that the application once submitted via the application portal has been given that status "submitted".

8.1 Application enclosures

For an application to be considered complete, a number of attachments listed below must be uploaded in the application portal. Only the attachments explicitly requested for the selected grant

type should be included with the application. For most of these attachments, SI provides templates that must be completed and then uploaded to SI's application portal.

If you encounter problems filling in the templates (locked in .docx or .xlsx formats), SI should be contacted promptly and no later than one week before the deadline.

Please note that a template may include restrictions on how much text (number of characters, including spaces) can be filled in as an answer per question. If such restrictions are exceeded (or in other forms of unauthorized manipulation of the templates), the application may be considered invalid and rejected in connection with the formal assessment.

If any enclosure is to be converted into PDF format before being uploaded on the application portal, make sure to check that these documents as converted into PDFs actually are readable and provide the necessary parts of the completed enclosure template (however do not include instructions tabs or similar).

Project preparation

The following enclosures should be submitted along with applications for project preparation. Note the exception for enclosure 5 (*Partner letter*) if there is no formal partner in Ukraine present at the time of application.

Enclosure 0: Project preparation description

Description of the implementing partnership and/or identified potential partners, and an explanation of the project structure and plans for continued cooperation. *Mandatory enclosure. The intended SI template should be used.*

Enclosure 2b: Risk analysis

An overview of the main anticipated risks for the project, along with risk assessment, and a plan for management. *Mandatory enclosure. The intended SI template should be used.*

Enclosure 3: Project budget

A project budget where the applicant specifies the expected costs in the project. *Mandatory enclosure. The intended SI template should be used.*

Enclosure 4: Main applicant letter

A description of the Swedish main applicant organisation. To be filled out by the Swedish main applicant. Must be attached as a scanned PDF with a signature (SI accepts electronic signatures). *Mandatory enclosure. The intended SI template should be used.*

Enclosure 5: Partner letter

A description of each project partner and their participation in the project. To be filled out by each partner. Should be attached as a scanned PDF with a signature. Not required for the grant type project preparation if there is no partner in Ukraine present, but the project must then focus on establishing a partnership. *The intended SI template should be used.*

Cooperation project

The following attachments are mandatory for applications regarding cooperation projects.

Enclosure 1: Short-term objectives table

A table where the applicant specifies short-term objectives for the project, based on a selection of pre-defined target types. Note that selection of eligible target types may differ depending on the selected grant type. *Mandatory enclosure. The intended SI template should be used.*

Enclosure 2: Project implementation

A description of the formal partnership, mapping of stakeholders, description of the project's structure and plan for external communication, and an explanation of the usefulness of expected results and prospects for continued cooperation. *Mandatory enclosure. The intended SI template should be used.*

Enclosure 2b: Risk analysis

An overview of the main anticipated risks for the project, along with risk assessment, and a plan for management. *Mandatory enclosure. The intended SI template should be used.*

Enclosure 3: Project budget

A project budget where the applicant specifies the expected costs in the project. *Mandatory enclosure. The intended SI template should be used.*

Enclosure 4: Main applicant letter

A description of the Swedish main applicant organisation. To be filled out by the Swedish main applicant. Must be attached as a scanned PDF with a signature (SI accepts electronic signatures). *Mandatory enclosure. The intended SI template should be used.*

Enclosure 5: Partner letter

A description of each project partner and their participation in the project. To be filled out by each partner. One partner letter per partner must be attached per application. At least one partner in Ukraine is required for the partnership to be considered valid. Must be attached as a scanned PDF with a signature. *Mandatory enclosure. The intended SI template should be used.*

Private companies as main applicants

When the Swedish main applicant is a private company, a particular enclosure must be completed and submitted along with the application. This requirement applies to all grant types in the call (project preparation, cooperation project, training programme).

Enclosure 4b: Private company enclosure

An enclosure where the Swedish main applicant answers a set of questions related to its participation in the project. *Mandatory enclosure for private companies. The intended SI template should be used.*

8.2 General information

- SI believes that physical meetings are important within projects to build relationships between the project partners and to strengthen the project's feasibility. At the same time, SI believes that projects should take advantage of the opportunities that digital tools provide for meetings and conferences, etc. SI foresees a project design which mixes physical and digital meetings, conferences, etc. in a way that is reasonable for each project.
- Applications aimed solely at obtaining funding for a single conference or meeting without any other planned activities will not be granted under this call.
- Funded projects are expected to contribute to gender-equal societal development. Both women and men should have equal influence over the project and actively participate in its implementation. For applications concerning cooperation projects and training programmes, applicants are required to conduct an analysis of the respective situations of women and girls, as well as men and boys, relevant to the project's challenges, solutions, and utilization. The final report should indicate the number of men/women who participated in the project's activities. If relevant, a similar analysis should be conducted regarding discrimination against other groups in society.
- Note that within the framework of this call, SI does not grant support to pure research projects. However, research activities can be part of projects.
- Note that a formal project partner cannot simultaneously be contracted as an external expert.
- SI applies state aid rules. This means that the main applicant may be contacted by SI during the application process for supplementation with an additional specific enclosure for a certificate of de minimis aid.

9. Processing of the application

9.1 Managing information as a government agency

SI is a Swedish public agency, and applications received are therefore public documents. Once a decision has been reached regarding applications, information and data are used for communicative purposes and analysis/evaluation.

9.2 Processing of your personal data

When an application is submitted, personal data for the entire project partnership is processed. This is a prerequisite in order to process your application. SI is responsible for the processing of personal data, in our capacity as controller.

The following categories of personal data is processed for the entire partnership:

- First and last name
- E-mail address
- Telephone
- Title
- Organisation

The legal basis for the processing of personal data is article 6.1 (e) GDPR, for the exercise of official authority.

SI will retain personal data of the entire project partnership in accordance with the regulations with the GDPR and Swedish National legislation.

Furthermore, SI might share personal data with the following parties:

- Swedish government agencies and ministries
- EU funding programmes
- Key stakeholders related to the implementation of Sweden's strategy for development and reform cooperation with Ukraine 2023-2027

We would also like to inform of the right for persons to request from SI access to, and rectification or erasure of, personal information, or restriction of processing, or to object to processing, as well as the right to data portability.

In case a person deems that SI has infringed on their rights according to the GDPR or processed their personal information in a way that is incorrect or unlawful according to the GDPR, this person has a right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, the Swedish Authority for Privacy Protection (Integritetsskyddsmyndigheten).

To find out more about how SI process personal data, see our Privacy Policy at SI's data protection policy: <https://si.se/en/sis-data-protection-policy/>

For questions regarding our processing of personal data, please see contact details on the website above.

9.3 Assessment and decision

Received applications are processed after the deadline for submission. SI first checks that applications meet formal requirements. SI verifies that:

- The application has been submitted by an eligible main applicant
- The partnership is complete according to the rules of the call
- The application and mandatory enclosures have been submitted via SI's application portal using the designated SI templates and are fully completed
- The project's budget and duration comply with the rules of the call

Applications that meet the formalities are taken forward for qualitative assessment. Applications that have serious deficiencies in terms of formality will not be taken up for further assessment.

SI makes a qualitative assessment of the application based on three main areas:

- Project relevance
- Composition of the partnership
- Project structure and feasibility

The processing of received applications is expected to be completed during June 2026 when decisions are also expected to be made. SI's decisions cannot be appealed.

10. Approved projects

For projects that are approved, agreements are written between SI and the Swedish main applicant (who then transitions into the role of project owner). The project owner can, in turn, enter into agreements with its partners in the formal partnership. If the project owner intends to forward (i.e., transfer a portion of the approved SI grant to a project partner in advance), such an agreement must be drafted. The agreement must *at least* state the terms and conditions from SI.

The project owner carries the overall formal responsibility for the project towards the partnership and SI. In all matters related to the project, SI communicates with the project owner. Therefore, the project owner serves as the link between the project and SI. The partnership is expected to cooperate and together take responsibility for the project. All partners should contribute to the project's final reporting.

If the grant from SI exceeds 200 000 SEK in total, the project must undergo external auditing by an authorized/approved auditor. The project owner is responsible for ensuring this as part of the work and to finalize the final reporting to SI. Funds for auditing can be included in the project budget (see budget item 1.4).

The project must be reported to SI by the date specified in the agreement, usually no later than two months after the end of the project period.

10.1 Payments

After the agreement between SI and the project owner is signed, a portion of the SI grant is paid to the project owner at the start of the project. SI pays the grant in Swedish kronor. The grant is paid based on the approved total amount and the project duration.

- For projects with an approved total amount of up to 200 000 SEK, 100% is paid out after the agreement is signed
- For projects above 200 000 SEK and lasting up to 18 months, 80% of the amount is paid when the signed agreement is received by SI
- For projects lasting longer than 18 months, 50% of the approved amount is paid out when the signed agreement is received by SI. 30% is paid out when SI approves the interim reporting
- For grants with an approved total amount exceeding 200 000 SEK, SI retains a final settlement of 20% until the project is completed and the final report and financial statements, as well as the audit opinion, have been submitted and approved by SI.

10.2 Forwarding of grants

By forwarding, SI means when the project owner transfers a portion of the approved amount to project partners in advance (before costs have been incurred) to manage within the framework of the partner's accounting.

The alternative to forwarding is for partners to first incur costs. The project owner then reimburses funds to partners after the incurred cost reports have been approved (invoicing). However, SI does not define this process as forwarding.

If the project owner forwards an amount exceeding 200 000 SEK to a project partner, a local external audit must be conducted by an independent external auditor with qualifications equivalent to a Swedish authorized/approved auditor. The audit must be conducted in the country where the partner operates and in accordance with ISA 800/805, or equivalent national standards in countries where ISA is not applied.

If the forwarded amount is 200 000 SEK or less, it is included in the project owner's audit.

10.3 Changes in approved projects

During the project period, the project owner and its partners can carry out minor adjustments and changes on an ongoing basis. For significant changes to the project, however, a so-called change request must be submitted to SI in advance which must be approved by SI in writing. Examples of significant changes are:

- Addition or change of partners
- Extensive budget changes
- Extension of the project
- Changes in content or implementation of activities that may affect the achievement of the project objectives

11. Links

Direct relevance for this call

The SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme <i>along with application enclosures and link to the SI application portal</i>	https://si.se/siucp
Ukraine's innovation strategy "WinWin"	https://winwin.gov.ua/en
Overview of Ukraine's start-up ecosystem	https://ukraine.dealroom.co/intro
OECD OPSI principles	https://oecd-opsi.org/
The EU research programme HORIZON Europe	https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en
Vinnova: The Innovation playbook – overview (innovation in the public sector)	https://www.vinnova.se/en/webbtv/2022/09/innovation-playbook/
Vinnova: The Ecosystem playbook	https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sa-framjar-vi-innovation/systeminnovation-och-metoder/ecosystem-playbook.pdf
The Swedish government's official website on Sweden's reconstruction and reform cooperation with Ukraine 2023-2027	https://www.government.se/international-development-cooperation-strategies/2023/12/strategy-for-swedens-reconstruction-and-reform-cooperation-with-ukraine-20232027/
The Swedish government web site on state aid	http://regeringen.se/regeringens-politik/naringspolitik/statsstod/
EU web site on state aid	http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/overview/index_en.html
The EU Commission Ukraine Report 2024	https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/ukraine-report-2024_en
Overview of the EU law (acquis communautaire)	https://enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/conditions-membership/chapters-acquis_en
The Ukraine Recovery Plan	https://recovery.gov.ua/en
UN Rapid Needs and Damage Assessment (RDNA4)	https://ukraine.un.org/en/290001-fourth-rapid-damage-and-needs-assessment-rdna4-february-2022-december-2024

Other SI programmes of relevance

SI Baltic Sea Neighbourhood Programme	https://si.se/en/bsnp
SI Creative Partnerships Programme	https://si.se/utlysningar/bidrag-finansiering/creative-partnerships/
Impact Pioneers	https://si.se/en/apply/si-leadership-programmes/impact-pioneers/
SI Academy for Young Professionals	https://si.se/utlysningar/bidrag-finansiering/si-sayp-arrangera/
SI Leader Lab	https://si.se/en/apply/si-leadership-programmes/leaderlab/
 The SI project database	 https://si.se/en/projects-granted-funding/

Other websites

Sida's work to support Ukraine	https://www.sida.se/sida-i-varlden/lander-och-regioner/ukraina
Folke Bernadotte academy's work in Ukraine	https://fba.se/sa-arbetar-vi/kriget-i-ukraina/
The Swedish government website about the EU's Eastern Partnership	https://regeringen.se/internationella-organisationer-och-samarbeten/ostliga-partnerskapet