

SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme

Please note that this presentation is designed to inform about the ongoing application call within the programme. The presentation does not replace the detailed instructions document that may be downloaded at the programme website at si.se both in Swedish and English

The SI team working with the programme

The Project funding unit

SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme

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Presentation overview

- About the Swedish Institute
- About the SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme
- Overview of the grant types offered in the call
- More about designing the application (budget, sustainability, common questions for SI)
- How to send the completed application to SI
- Granted projects
- Questions



MISSION

To strengthen the interest and confidence in Sweden abroad

The Swedish Institute is a public agency that builds interest and trust in Sweden around the world.

- Public agency under the ministry of foreign affairs
- Some 130 employees in Stockholm, Paris
- Budget ~SEK 500 million (~ €50 million)
- Collaborates with Swedish embassies and consulates all over the world

Photo: Janus Langhorn/imagebank.sweden.se

Our work involves:



Promoting Sweden
Building interest and trust in Sweden internationally.



Support for Ukraine
Contributing to Ukraine's development and reforms for EU-integration



Cooperation in the Baltic Sea region
Developing partnerships and strengthening Sweden's relations in its neighbourhood.



Global development
Strengthening talent, change- and decision-makers in other countries.

We enable exchanges and promote partnerships



Project support to face common challenges and for cooperation between organisations



Leadership programmes for strengthened individual competence and capacity



Scholarships for master's level studies in Sweden



Communication and events for networking, new contacts and outreach

Sweden's reconstruction and reform cooperation with Ukraine 2023–2027

The Swedish government's plan for reconstruction and reform cooperation with Ukraine totals SEK 6 billion (~ €520M) between 2023-2027 and is shared between the Swedish Institute, Sida and the Folke Bernadotte Academy

- A **bilateral strategy** to support Ukraine
- Budget of some **SEK 60-80 million** for SI per year (~ €6M)
- **Thematic orientation:** Inclusive economic development, entrepreneurship and trade, human rights, democracy, rule of law, and gender equality
- SI focuses on capacity development

SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme

Overview

SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme

About the programme

- A funding programme that facilitates project cooperation between actors in Sweden and Ukraine, with the purpose to contribute **to Ukraine's reconstruction and reform process for EU integration**
- The programme operates within **two overarching orientations**:
(1) inclusive economic development, entrepreneurship and trade, and
(2) human rights, democracy, rule of law, and gender equality
- Each project should focus on a **specific challenge or opportunity in Ukraine**, within one of the thematic options of the call. The project should also be motivated for its **relevance to Ukraine's EU integration efforts**
- The projects should contribute to **strengthened capacity at organisations/ institutions** in Ukraine, and/or increased **competence for individuals**

SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme

Call for project funding 2026; Three focus areas
(civilian purpose only)

Innovation Ecosystems*

Help Ukraine build a thriving innovation ecosystem – support entrepreneurship, digital transformation, inclusive economic growth, democratic institutions and sustainable progress.

Transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption

Promote open governance, anti-corruption initiatives, independent media and citizen participation for a fair and transparent society.

Gender equality

Build inclusive societies where women, men, and marginalized groups have equal opportunities.

* Linked to the new “Innovation Bridge” collaboration between Sweden and Ukraine, incl. policy development, digitalisation, digital innovation, public innovation and GovTech, social innovation, procurement, financing models, inclusive entrepreneurship.

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Thematic options

- Private sector development
- Employment and job-creation
- Strengthened conditions for trade
- Transparency and anti-corruption in the private sector
- Civil society development
- Free and independent media
- Gender equality
- Human rights
- Strengthened cultural institutions and cultural heritage
- Strengthened democratic institutions and public administration

[Read more about the thematic options of the call at si.se](#)

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Support for Ukraine's EU integration in line with selected thematic areas

EU Chapter Negotiations

Functioning of democratic institutions

Public administration reform

Economic criteria

Chapter 1: Free movement of goods

Chapter 2: Freedom of movement for workers

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Chapter 34: Institutions

Chapter 35: Other issues

Support Areas for EU Integration

EU Chapter Negotiations

EU Integration Capacity and Competence Development

EU Standardization

EU Policy, Reform, and Alignment

EU Internationalization and Funding

EU Principles and Values



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Grant types

Cooperation project

- Amount: SEK 1 000 000 – 2 000 000 (~ €100K – 200K)
- Project period: 12-24 months

Project preparation

- Amount: SEK 100 000 – 200 000 (~ €10K – 20K)
- Project period: 6-12 months

Eligibility for a cooperation project requires that the partnership has a history of prior collaboration.

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General requirements

- Always a **Swedish main applicant** towards SI
- Only actors (**legal entities**) can be part of the formal partnership
- The application must be submitted via the SI application portal, by **2 March 2026**, at the latest, complete with all necessary enclosures according to the call instructions.
No additional/other documents should be submitted except for those asked for by SI.
- SI expects that the application is **designed in co-creation between the Swedish main applicant and its partners**. The application should be completed in English.

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Countries

- *Base requirement:*
 - The **main applicant** should be based in Sweden.
 - At least **one partner from Ukraine** should be part of the implementing formal partnership*
- Actors from **additional countries** (max. 2 per project):
 - May be included in the partnership if it clearly contributes to the project feasibility and benefits the target groups from Ukraine
 - Valid additional countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland
- In addition to formal partners non-partners may be involved as **external expertise / stakeholders** linked to specific activities in the project.

*The grant type project preparation is an example, more about that later

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Partnership

- Every project needs a **competent partnership**, with strong representation from Ukraine to contribute to the country's development
- The partnership should be relevant based on the **project's focus** and the **identified needs in Ukraine** that the project is set to address.
- The partnership is also expected to relate to and (if possible) take advantage of other actors and interests, so-called **stakeholders**.
- Regarding the grant type **project preparation**, the establishment of a partnership can constitute the project idea itself and in such case it is not required to have a formal partnership in place when the application is submitted to SI
- **Max 6 actors** in the formal partnership per application (incl. Swedish main applicant)

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Partnership actors

The call does not set any requirements in advance on *how* the formal partnership should be structured, if it consists of actors (legal entities) and not individuals. This applies to both the main applicant and its partners. Examples of types of actors that may be part of the partnership:

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

Have in mind that the partnership structure should be based on the project idea and the identified challenge or opportunity that the project is set to address!

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Contextual factors regarding the current situation in Ukraine

- Possibility to allocate project funds for **security-related costs** in a dedicated budget line (e.g. training, advisory services, other support)
- **Risk analysis** with an accompanying action plan including anti-corruption including identification of **relevant factors for implementing projects in and with Ukraine** under current circumstances
- The scope and cost of **interpretation services** are often higher than expected

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Project logic – the red thread

1. The applicant describes **a challenge or opportunity for Ukraine**. This is summarized in an overarching **project aim**. (see the *Project relevance* tab in the application portal).
2. The overarching project aim is broken down into several **short-term objectives**. (including **target groups, indicators, and expected outputs and outcomes**). What should be achieved/changed by the end of the project period given the resources allocated (personnel, time, and budget). (*Enclosure 1. Short term objectives*).
3. To achieve the short-term objectives, **concrete activities are needed in the project**. These are compiled in a **work plan** including indicative timetable (*Enclosure 2. Project implementation*).

- Project preparation (application portal and *Enclosure 0 is used*)

Project aim



Short-term objectives table



Work plan

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Target groups

Central to the project are the project's target groups - whose need for change, development, and support will influence the chosen challenge or opportunity.

We are particularly interested in how the **capacity-building or increased knowledge/competences among individuals and organizations or within the partnership** creates results towards the project aim – as a result the project's activities.

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Terminology in the project logic

- ***Short-term objectives*** – What should be achieved/changed by the end of the project period given the resources allocated (personnel, time, and budget).
- ***Target types*** – set the scope for what a short-term objective should relate to and emphasize. A target type serves as a bridge between short-term objectives and the activities as outlined in the work plan
- ***Activity*** – should be listed and explained in the work plan. Activities are the project's method to achieve the short-term goals, *e.g. conducting a training*.
- ***Output*** - What you produce or deliver because of the activity. *e.g., 25 people participated in a training.*
- ***Outcomes*** - The changes that occur as a direct result of an activity. The results should show what has happened among participants or organizations because of the activities, *e.g. acquired new knowledge, competence, relations.*
- ***Expected change*** - What the target group *do or practice differently in the longer perspective* thanks to their new acquired knowledge, skills, relations, networks.

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Examples of *expected change*

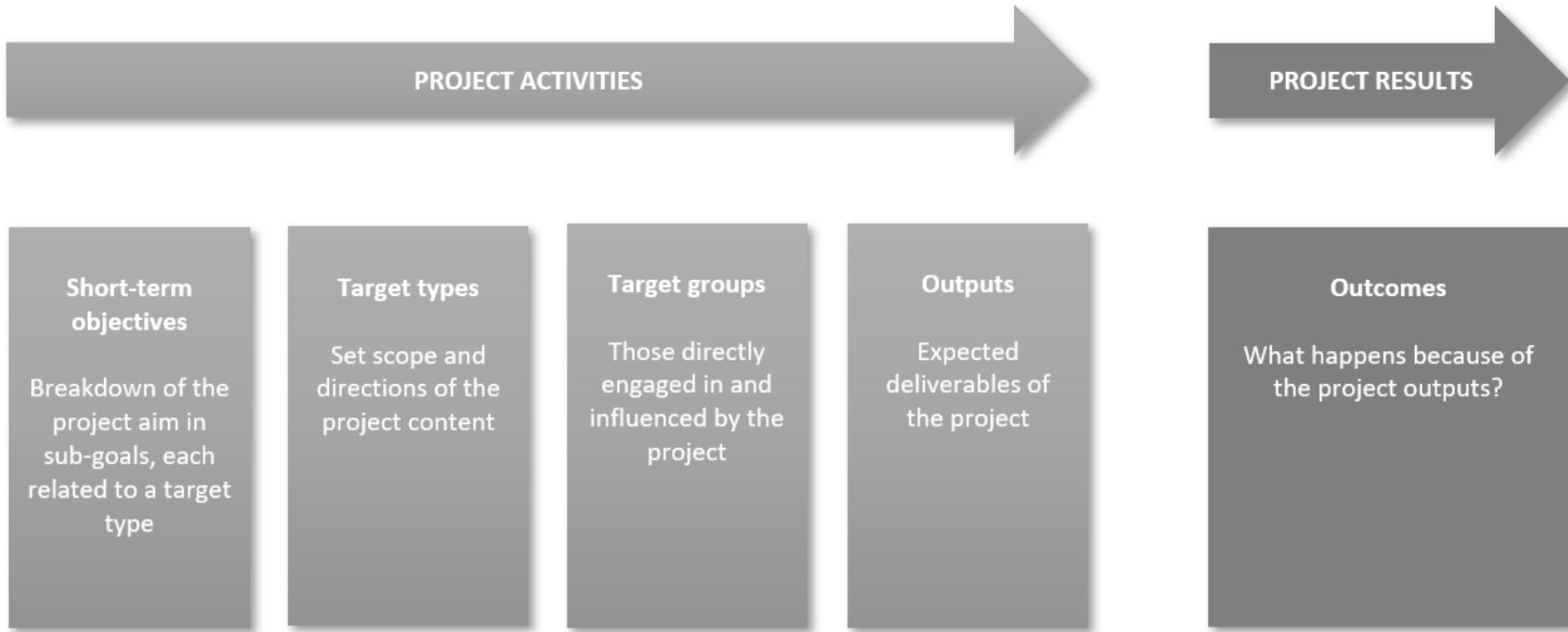
Inclusive economic development, entrepreneurship, and trade:

- Innovation hubs and incubators are coordinating more effectively with public and private actors to provide digitally enabled business development services.
- Women- and youth-led startups are participating more actively in innovation ecosystems through increased use of digital finance and remote mentorship.
- Private sector actors have adopted digital compliance and transparency tools to reduce corruption risks in procurement, supply chains and financial transactions.

Human rights, democracy, rule of law, gender equality:

- Civil society organisations are applying digital tools and open data to monitor public services and engage citizens more effectively.
- Public institutions are adopting digital innovation solutions to improve transparency, citizen feedback and accountability mechanisms.
- Journalists and civil society actors have increased their ability to scrutinize public procurement and report on irregularities.

Project logic overview



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Grant type:
Project preparation

Project preparation

About this grant type

- Project preparation is a grant to lay the foundation for cooperation
- Examples of activities: Contact-making meetings and trips, workshops, needs analyses, feasibility studies, preparation of documents for future applications
- Project preparation can be used to target upcoming SI calls but also other national/international financiers or completely different cooperation formats

Photo: Cecilia Larsson Lantz



Project preparation

Target types

- Funding overview
- Needs analysis
- Partner search
- Partnership enlargement
- Preparing application
- Stakeholder engagement

At least 1 and max. 5 short-term objectives should be formulated per application for project preparation

Project preparation

Application enclosures

Online application form
"Dreamapply"

Project relevance:

- Aim
- Thematic focus
- EU-integration
- Needs assessment
- Target groups

0. Project preparation description

2b. Risk analysis

3. Project budget

4. Main applicant letter

5. Partner letters**

4. b) Private company enclosure*

*The enclosure is mandatory if the Swedish main applicant is a private company

**Not mandatory to include if the preparation project aims at establishing a partnership with actors in Ukraine

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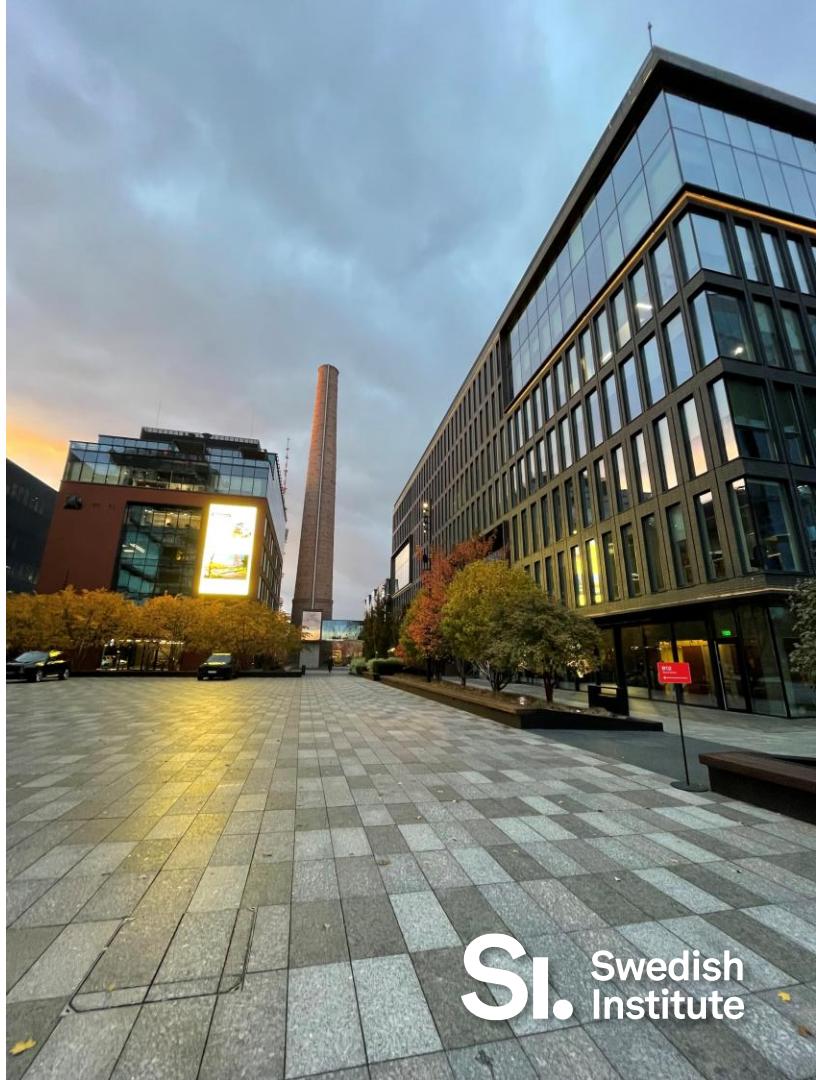
Grant type:
Cooperation project

Cooperation project

About this grant type

- Cooperation projects should facilitate capacity-building for organisations and institutions in Ukraine, and could also be used to strengthen competence of change-makers and key personnel
- **Examples of activities:** exchange of experiences, development and implementation of new models and methodology, arranging training modules, production of studies and reports, establishment of various platforms, and pursue policy influence

Photo: Markus Boman 2025, UNIT.city Innovation park, Kyiv



Cooperation project

Target types

- 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

At least 2 and max. 10 short-term objectives should be formulated per application for cooperation projects

**The target type is mandatory for cooperation projects, meaning: at least one short-term objective must be formulated within this target type*

Cooperation project

Application enclosures

Online application form
"Dreamapply"

Project relevance:

- Aim
- Thematic focus
- EU-integration
- Needs assessment
- Target groups

1. Short-term objectives table

2. Project implementation

3. Project budget

4. Main applicant letter

5. Partner letters

2b. Risk analysis

4. b) Private company enclosure*

**The enclosure is mandatory if the Swedish main applicant is a private company*

More about designing the application

Budget

To have in mind

- Project grants from SI exceeding SEK 200 000 (~ €20K) must undergo external audit review. Consider to include costs for this in advance in the project budget (budget item 1.4)
- Salary costs must be indicated as actual salary for intended staff in their respective organisations in their home country. The salary should then be calculated against estimated number of working hours in the project. **Please note that salary costs should be indicated in specific areas in the budget template**
- Project partners from additional countries may use max. 10% of the project grant from SI
- Scholarships for long-term mobility for individuals may be part of the budget (max. SEK 25 000,~ €2500) per person and month) but in total not exceeding 30% of the entire project grant from SI
- Max. 20% (or 35% - if Swedish main applicant is a higher education institution) of the project grant from SI may be used for indirect costs (overhead)
- SI does not finance purchasing of equipment

Remember that the budget template has a separate instructions tab with additional examples of what the budget items may contain

Sustainability

Each project is meant to facilitate support for Ukraine both in the short and the somewhat longer perspective. At the same time, the different grant types because of their design provide different conditions for project sustainability and continuity. This is also reflected in the application documents:

- **All grant types** – discussion about the usefulness of project results
- **Project preparation** – focus on the next step for the partnership
- **Cooperation projects** – plans for future cooperation, after the intended project has ended, and discussion about internal learning within the partnership during the project, to ensure the transfer of capabilities, knowledge and experiences to the Ukrainian partners

Risk analysis

The risk analysis (enclosure 2b) is an important part of the application

A specific SI template required to complete. It includes both open questions and a risk table for other identified risks. All parts are mandatory.

- Open questions
 - Discussion on the most vulnerable parts of the project setup
 - Reasoning about key conditions for the project's success
 - Awareness of the situation for women, men, girls, and boys in Ukraine
 - Corruption risks and a plan for preventive measures and management within the partnership
- Table for other risks

Frequently asked questions

Frequently asked questions

- **Could the same Swedish main applicant send in more than one application to this call?**

Yes, as long as different project managers are appointed for the respective applications. It is important to think ahead and plan for the allocation of resources to manage both projects.

- **Is it possible to include so called associated partners in the project, who participate without taking any costs from the project budget?**

Yes, but we do not use the term associated partners, but rather stakeholders.

- **Does SI have any requirements on how previous cooperation have been formalized, if one for example should apply to arrange a training programme or implement a cooperation project?**

There are no formal requirements on how previous collaborations should have been formalized. It will be a matter of assessment. The applicant describes previous collaborations in, for example, enclosure 2 Project Implementation.

Frequently asked questions

- **How many applications does SI intend to award in this call?**

It largely depends on how many strong applications are approved for each grant type, but SI expects to approve around 45 applications during this year's call.

- **What if we have a project idea that does not fit into the thematic orientation of the call?**

There is always a risk when the project idea and theme are further away from the themes formally covered by the call, but it is then up to the applicant to justify how the project idea is still relevant based on the established themes and/or grant types. So it becomes a matter of balance for the applicant – spend time justifying in the application, or turn to other financiers/calls?

- **When will the granted projects begin?**

According to the agreement between SI and the project owner, but 1st of September 2026 is a good guideline.

Frequently asked questions

- **We already have an ongoing SI-financed cooperation project, could we apply again in the current call?**

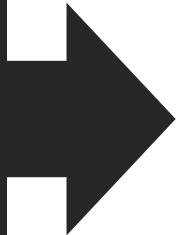
In theory you could, however if the new proposal overlaps with the existing project in terms of implementing partnership, project idea, target groups etc., then SI would prefer if you waited until the existing project is finished before applying for a new project

- **Do you have any recommendations on where to find relevant information related to the call for application?**

On the final slide of this presentation, you will find links to pages containing relevant information for this call.

How to send the completed application to SI

<https://si.se/siucp>



The call opens

Application instructions and document templates to be found at the call website

Apply via the SI application portal – the link may be found at the call website

The application deadline – **2 March 2026**

Application material

Application material at the call website:

<https://si.se/siucp>

Application instructions

Read this document before starting a new application !!

- Electronic form at the SI application portal
 - Main applicant, partners (applicant partnership)
 - Project summary Project relevance (including questions related to EU – integration)
 - Target groups
 - Sustainable development goals
 - Target types (same should be indicated here and in the goal table)
- Application enclosures (depending on selected grant type)

Deadline for applications

2 March 2026

Granted projects

Granted projects – what you need to know

- If the application has been granted, an **agreement** is signed between SI and the Swedish main applicant (lead partner). The main applicant then becomes the project owner and takes the overall responsibility for the project towards SI
- Once the agreement is signed, a first instalment of the SI **grant will be paid to the project owner, who could then transfer money to partners** (so that the partner themselves would handle a part of the project grant). The programme however does not work with separate so-called partner budgets. More extensive projects (depending on grant size, project duration) may need to submit an interim report
- If the project owner decides to transfer part of the SI grant to its partners in advance (forwarding), it is mandatory to sign an **agreement between the project owner and the partner** (the agreement must include important conditions from the original agreement with SI). SI provides a template for partner agreements. One alternative is that partners instead report their accumulated costs to the project owner, which they thereafter are reimbursed for. Costs must always be in line with regulations from SI.
- There are rules in connection with **project audit**. The project needs to be audited at the project owner, but additional audits might also be needed (when forwarding more than SEK 200 000 (~ €20K) to a partner in advance).

Granted projects – during the project

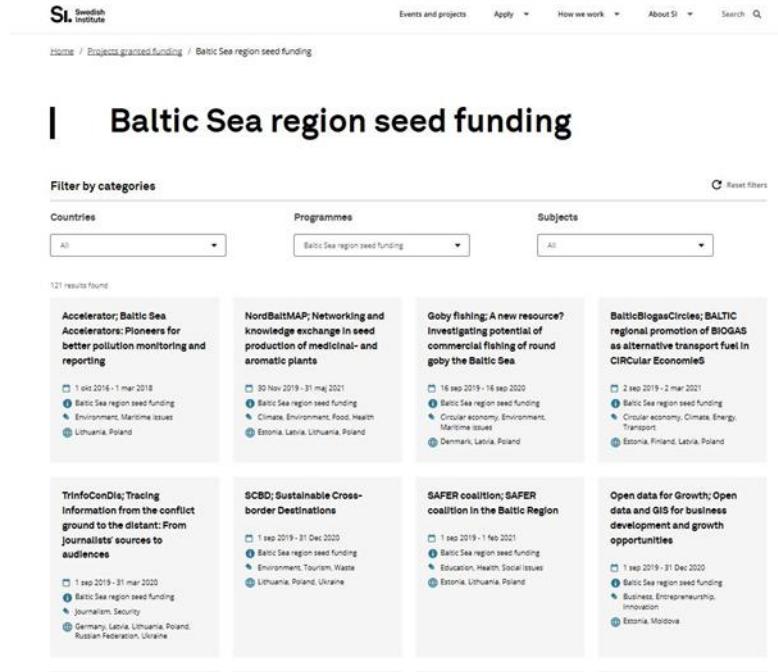
- It is the project owner who has the overall responsibility for the implementation, and that the project follows the agreement with SI
- The project owner acts as the main contact between the project and SI. Also, each project has an appointed contact person at SI that may be approached with inquiries
- SI will arrange a digital meeting for all the new projects (project owners only). During this meeting, information about implementation, rules and communication etc will be presented
- SI also invites the project owners to digital meetings in a workshop format. The workshops focus on different aspects of project cooperation within an international context. These workshops are intended to provide support in different aspects of project cooperation within an international context. They focus on different themes and is a tool to assist in the project implementation
- SI has a formal process for changes in the project implementation. Those changes involve project prolongation, partnership and/or budget changes. SI must be contacted in advance regarding major project changes

Granted projects – final report to SI

- The final report must reach SI according to the final report deadline as mentioned in the agreement with SI (often 2 months after the project ending date)
- Reporting consists of the following: narrative reporting, financial reporting and audit certificate (ISA 800/805 standard)
- Projects exceeding SEK 200 000 (~ €20K) always need to perform an external audit
- Projects exceeding 18 months in duration may also need to complete an interim report
- For projects exceeding SEK 200 000 - a final payment is paid out to the project owner only after SI approval of the final report (and depending on usage of the amount). Costs for audit may be part of the project budget (budget item 1.4)
- The whole partnership is expected to cooperate and share responsibility on all parts of the project implementation, also in preparing the final report. Formally, however, the project owner is responsible towards SI

Other

Visit the SI project database



The screenshot shows the Swedish Institute's project database interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Events and projects', 'Apply', 'How we work', 'About SI', and 'Search'. Below the navigation bar, the URL <https://si.se/en/projects-granted-funding/> is visible. The main content area has a heading 'Baltic Sea region seed funding'. Below this, there are three filter categories: 'Countries' (set to 'All'), 'Programmes' (set to 'Baltic Sea region seed funding'), and 'Subjects' (set to 'All'). A 'Reset filters' button is located to the right of the filters. The results section shows 121 results found. There are four project cards displayed:

- Accelerator; Baltic Sea Accelerators: Pioneers for better pollution monitoring and reporting**
1 Oct 2016 - 1 Mar 2018
Baltic Sea region seed funding
Environment, Maritime issues
Lithuania, Poland
- NordBaltMAP: Networking and knowledge exchange in seed production of medicinal- and aromatic plants**
30 Nov 2019 - 31 May 2020
Baltic Sea region seed funding
Climate, Environment, Food, Health
Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland
- Goby fishing: A new resource? Investigating potential of commercial fishing of round goby the Baltic Sea**
16 sep 2019 - 16 sep 2020
Baltic Sea region seed funding
Circular economy, Environment, Maritime issues
Denmark, Latvia, Poland
- BalticBiogasCircles; BALTIC regional promotion of BIOGAS as alternative transport fuel in CIRCular Economies**
1 sep 2019 - 2 Mar 2021
Baltic Sea region seed funding
Circular economy, Climate, Energy, Transport
Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Poland

Below these, there are two more project cards:

- TrinfoConDis; Tracing Information from the conflict ground to the distant: From journalists' sources to audiences**
1 sep 2019 - 31 Mar 2020
Baltic Sea region seed funding
Journalism, Security
Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation, Ukraine
- SCBD; Sustainable Cross-border Destinations**
1 sep 2019 - 31 Dec 2020
Baltic Sea region seed funding
Environment, Tourism, Waste
Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine

Each project card includes a small thumbnail image, the project title, the start and end dates, the funding source, and the countries involved.

<https://si.se/en/projects-granted-funding/>

The database may be searched based on country, programme and subject

SI programmes relevant to explore:

- SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme
- SI Baltic Sea Neighbourhood Programme
- Baltic Sea Region seed funding
- Baltic Sea region third country participation
- Creative Partnerships
- Academic collaboration in the Baltic Sea region

Thank you!

Website

<https://si.se/en/apply/funding-grants/si-ukraine-cooperation-programme-2/>

Contact

ukraineoperation@si.se



Newsletter

Subscribe to our newsletter to receive information about ongoing call for applications, offers about seminars and workshops, and read interviews and articles about the Swedish Institute's work in the countries around the Baltic Sea and the countries of the Eastern Partnership

<https://si.se/en/how-we-work/cooperation-in-the-baltic-sea-region/newsletter-about-cooperation-in-the-baltic-sea-region/>

Questions?

Links with direct relevance for this call

- The SI Ukraine Cooperation Programme along with application enclosures and link to the SI application portal
<https://si.se/en/apply/funding-grants/si-ukraine-cooperation-programme-2/>
- 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 [Horizon Europe - Research and innovation - European Commission](https://ec.europa.eu/research/horizon-europe_en)
- Vinnova: The Innovation playbook – overview (innovation in the public sector) <https://www.vinnova.se/en/webtv/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 <https://regeringen.se/regeringens-politik/naringspolitik/statsstod/>
- 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/>
- UN Rapid Needs and Damage Assessment (RDNA4) <https://ukraine.un.org/en/290001-fourth-rapid-damage-and-needs-assessment-rdna4-february-2022-december-2024>