



RS 2020-0501

## **SU-Region Stockholm 2021**

Call for proposals for research funding

A collaboration between  
Stockholm University and Region Stockholm

Application instructions

## **1. Call for proposals for research funding SU-Region Stockholm 2021**

Within the framework of the strategic partnership and collaboration between Region Stockholm (formerly Stockholm County Council) and Stockholm University, a call is open for project funding proposals with a duration of 1, 2 and 3 years. The purpose is to expand cooperation on issues of common interest and to support initiatives for joint research applications to other funders.

In June 2018, the Riksdag (the Swedish Parliament) decided that the responsibility for regional development would be transferred from the County Administrative Boards to the regions. When Region Stockholm was implemented on 1 January 2019, the organisation was granted overall responsibility for, and a coordinating and supportive role in, the development of the entire county. Region Stockholm was given increased responsibilities for growth, infrastructure, environment and sustainable development. This extended assignment means that Region Stockholm assumes greater responsibility for the development of the Stockholm region as a whole.

Region Stockholm has identified five areas with a particularly high need for research from Stockholm University. They are described in more detail below:

### **1. Stockholm Center for Health Data**

Stockholm Center for Health Data is a new unit within Region Stockholm dedicated to providing a hub for researchers who need to apply for access to large numbers of health data. It shall contribute to improved health care and also facilitate the work of researchers who will not have to turn to various different care providers. The Center will act in a service capacity for those who are entitled to gain access to health data for research and development purposes, and also for the health care providers who own such data. Researchers who have ethical approval and a research plan, being thus entitled to access health data from multiple healthcare providers, are now to be offered comprehensive data provided by the Center. As a rule, when health data are to be used for research and to develop health care, all data which enable the identification of individual patients are removed. By using large quantities of anonymized health data, research and health care can establish correlations between large numbers of patients with similar background conditions.

There are a number of unmet needs among people with widespread chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes and depression. The call wants to promote research and development of new knowledge to solve needs among people suffering from these diseases; research that can lead to improved diagnostics, care and treatment; follow-up of care and treatment, as well as follow-up and development of quality and patient safety in health care through the use of health data.

### **2. Mental health issues**

Mental health issues constitute the biggest public health challenge in terms of burden of disease, financial cost to society and impact on quality of life. The costs of mental illness in 2030 are estimated to equal the cost of all healthcare in 2009 and will therefore have a

major impact on the region's growth and development. We encourage proposals that can contribute to collaboration regarding these issues to understand how mental health, now and in the future, affects longevity, frequency of gainful employment, educational success, employment in general, trust and entrepreneurship.

### **3. Digitalization**

Thanks to the technological development we can now analyse and manage more data than previous generations could ever dream of. The combining of large amounts of data which can be shared across the Internet creates conditions for common development of knowledge which were previously unknown. By using artificial intelligence, it is now possible to analyse data extensively and in depth. Digitalization performed in Region Stockholm should support one of the following perspectives:

- New services to facilitate daily life
- Improved quality in public service
- Increased efficiency in the production of services
- Increased capacity for insights, analysis and knowledge development

Research projects from Stockholm University can also deal with ethical and legal issues of digitalization. Furthermore, they can study new patterns of behaviour, issues of competence or other issues which have emerged as a consequence of increased digitalization within Region Stockholm as a workplace and among citizens or society at large.

### **4. Urban sustainable development**

Ecological, economic and socially sustainable urban development and the efforts to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are central issues for Region Stockholm and Stockholm University. It is up to each actor to decide how the goals are to be reached. However, since the goals are to be considered as indivisible, in order to achieve success, there is a need for targeted contributions and specific knowledge as well as a holistic view and collaboration between different disciplines and actors.

The call aims to support collaboration for a sustainable development linked to the areas of activity of the region, in particular the Region Stockholm core areas of health care, public transport, culture and regional development. One prioritized area is mobility which includes public transport, transport of people and goods, bike and walking traffic as well as the need for new solutions to handle these kinds of transports.

Land use is another area where the increased need for housing touches all three dimensions of the SDG 2030 Agenda, since the development must be carried out in line with other needs for a sustainable urban and rural development. Priority is also given to research issues related to the region's needs regarding governance and management promoting sustainable development, for example with the aim to reduce the climate impact and to reduce health inequalities.

### **5. Medical radiation physics**

Radiation science is an interdisciplinary research area, gathering competences within biology, medicine, physics and chemistry. The areas of interest of the Region include

radiation therapy and diagnostics, as well as the production of radiopharmaceuticals. These are all areas where medical physicists play an important role. The research area also includes the effects of ionising radiation on a molecular level for the analysis of DNA damage.

### **Requirements**

All projects must address challenges with relevance for the region, if possible they should be innovative and preferably concern areas where there is a lack of knowledge. The call requires collaboration between Region Stockholm and Stockholm University, and the basis for the applications must be the needs and challenges of Region Stockholm.

The projects must involve researchers at Stockholm University and employees funded by Region Stockholm. Applications can be submitted for 1 - 3 years, with project funding of SEK 500,000 up to 1,000,000 per year for a maximum of three years. The total amount for this call is ca SEK 10 million distributed over three years, mostly as 1-year grants, somewhat fewer 2-year grants and only a very few three-year grants.

The call opens on 24 August 2020, and it closes on 2 October 2020 at 4 p.m. Decisions on allocation of funds will be made in November/December 2020 by Stockholm Region on recommendation of the Management Group for the collaboration between Stockholm University and Region Stockholm. Funds granted will be available from the beginning of 2021. The payment period for grants is the calendar year for each year that funds have been granted. Funds cannot be carried over to the next calendar year. Co-financing by Stockholm University is not required.

### **Background**

Stockholm University and Region Stockholm collaborate on questions of education, research and innovation within Region Stockholm's core areas, namely healthcare, traffic planning, culture and growth and regional planning. Region Stockholm wishes to support research related to its operations being conducted at Stockholm University. The intention is that all research should be of high quality.

### **Purpose of the call**

The purpose of the call is to provide opportunities for new research areas and collaborations. The projects should be capable of generating new knowledge, for example through the possibility of using data, developing processes, evaluating or developing work methods. They should further propose different approaches to known circumstances, create understanding and introduce appropriate terminology or disseminate existing research at Stockholm University to Region Stockholm for further cooperation.

Region Stockholm's development areas are presented in the programmes, strategies and web sites listed below.

- Stockholm Center for Health Data <https://www.sll.se/om-regionstockholm/Information-in-English1/Research/the-centre-for-health-data/>
- Planning the future of healthcare [www.sll.se/verksamhet/halsa-och-varld/framtidsplanen/](http://www.sll.se/verksamhet/halsa-och-varld/framtidsplanen/) [in Swedish]

- Culture in development  
[www.sll.se/verksamhet/Kultur/kultur-i-utveckling/](http://www.sll.se/verksamhet/Kultur/kultur-i-utveckling/) [in Swedish]
- Climate roadmap  
[www.sll.se/verksamhet/Regional-utveckling/klimat-och-energi/](http://www.sll.se/verksamhet/Regional-utveckling/klimat-och-energi/) [in Swedish]
- Regional traffic supply programme for Stockholm County  
[www.sll.se/verksamhet/kollektivtrafik/Forskning-och-innovation/](http://www.sll.se/verksamhet/kollektivtrafik/Forskning-och-innovation/) [in Swedish]

### **Who can apply for and receive research funding?**

Researchers at Stockholm University can apply for project funding as project managers. A project manager must have a PhD and be employed at Stockholm University. A project manager must spend at least 10 percent of his/her working hours on the project, which can be covered by the funds received.

Other co-applicants who, together with the project manager, are responsible for conducting the study can receive part of the funding. They must be employed by Stockholm University or by operations funded by Region Stockholm. Project applications should preferably include co-applicants employed by Region Stockholm or operations funded by Region Stockholm.

Each project must have a dedicated contact person at Region Stockholm or operations funded by Region Stockholm (the contact person can be a funded co-applicant). The contact person should act as a link and provide contacts and practical guidance to the relevant operations within Region Stockholm and express views on the study's structure and line of research and also provide follow-up on the study and its results. If the project does not entail direct collaboration, the project manager should have regular progress meetings with the contact person.

The purpose of the call is to establish close links and lay the foundations for long-term collaboration of mutual benefit. Many researchers have competence and knowledge of importance to the sustainability efforts of the region, though they lack established contacts with people or units in Region Stockholm. If a project manager from Stockholm University needs assistance to find a contact person / co-applicant at Region Stockholm, please contact one of the co-ordinators (Monica Åberg Yngwe, Stockholm University, and Elisabet Rendahl, Region Stockholm) in good time, at least three weeks before the deadline for applications.

### **What can the project funding be used for?**

The grant from Region Stockholm can cover all direct costs, including salaries corresponding to the degree of activity in the project for employees at Stockholm University or operations funded by Region Stockholm.

The budget should account for the costs of the Region and the University separately. A maximum supplement for overhead costs of 35 % can be obtained and added to the amount paid to Stockholm University. Funds cannot be used to cover depreciation costs.

## **Evaluation and funding decisions**

A review panel will be appointed by the Management Group for the collaboration between Region Stockholm and Stockholm University. The applications will be evaluated and prioritised based on a scientific assessment and after obtaining an assessment of their relevance for Region Stockholm. A recommended priority order of the applications will be made by the Management Group for the collaboration. The Regional Director of Research will decide on the disbursement of funding from Region Stockholm to proposed applications.

Gender equality is an important aspect of Region Stockholm's research and development work. The review panel will consider the outcome of their assessments with regard to the proportion of men and women among the applicants. Environmental and sustainability perspectives should permeate all of Region Stockholm's operations. The review panel will consider the outcome of their assessments with regard to environment and sustainability.

## **2. SU- Region Stockholm 2021 – project applications**

Register your application in Region Stockholm's application system:

<https://www.researchweb.org/is/stockholm>

Instructions are only available in Swedish (see the application instructions: *SU – Region Stockholm 2021, Utlysning av forskningsmedel*)

<https://www.su.se/medarbetare/r%C3%A5d-st%C3%B6d/forskning/finansiering/nu-finns-forskningsmedel-att-s%C3%B6ka-1.503972>)

If you have any questions, please contact us using the details below.

## **3 General Rules**

If your application is incomplete, it will not be processed. No additions will be accepted after the end of the application period. Therefore, please check that all the requested information has been provided.

You can write your application in Swedish or in English. However, the brief popular science summary in the registration form must be written in Swedish.

Please do not exceed the maximum number of pages stated in the application form. Reference to websites will not be considered.

## **Secrecy and conflict of interest rules**

The application is a public document. It is accessible to the general public unless it is covered by confidentiality in accordance with the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009: 400). If applicants think that confidentiality applies, a notification must be sent by e-mail to Region Stockholm Research and Innovation which ensures that a confidentiality assessment is carried out when a request to access the documents is made. Please see the contact details below.

In accordance with the Local Government Act (1991: 900), conflict of interest rules apply to the evaluation and prioritisation of applications in order to ensure impartial treatment.

The project manager is responsible for planning and implementing the project in accordance with good research practice and applicable legislation.

Agreements will be drawn up and concluded after the award decision.

*We look forward to receiving your application!*

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## **Contact persons for the SU/Region Stockholm collaboration**

### **For information and questions about the call.**

If you need assistance to find contact persons / researchers, please contact one of the coordinators in good time, at least three weeks before the deadline for applications.

- *Coordinator at Stockholm University,*  
Monica Åberg Yngwe, 0766-95 98 24, [monica.aberg-yngwe@su.se](mailto:monica.aberg-yngwe@su.se)
- *Coordinator at Region Stockholm*  
Elisabet Rendahl, 070-737 35 49, [elisabet.rendahl@sll.se](mailto:elisabet.rendahl@sll.se)

### **For questions regarding web applications**

*Administrators at Region Stockholm Research and Innovation.*

- Anna Roloff, [anna.roloff@sll.se](mailto:anna.roloff@sll.se)
- Sofia Baez-Catalan, [sofia.p.baez-catalan@sll.se](mailto:sofia.p.baez-catalan@sll.se)