

Frequently asked questions – BIO-X Accelerate

Our company has operations in several places, both within Östra Mellansverige, and outside. Can we apply?

Company corporate seat need to be within Östra Mellansverige.

Do you need to deduct income generated by the project?

No, SMEs do not need to account for revenues that arise as a result of this funding.

Regarding the co-funding – what needs to be secured when submitting the application?

When submitting the application, you need to be sure that the stated co-funding will be available to the project. We will perform a formalia check during the selection period, where you will be prompted to show e.g. a letter of intent from an investor, or similar documentation stating that resources will be made available during project execution.

Can a subsidiary receive support under GBER Articles 22 and 25?

As for Article 25, there are no restrictions. Regarding Article 22 (Newly formed companies), only genuinely young companies / start-ups are intended as recipients of the funding. Please contact us if you need to discuss your company in detail regarding this.

What is the maximum funding possible for companies that falls under the category “newly formed companies”?

The maximum level of funding is ~4MSEK - if the company also categorizes as “Innovative”, it will be ~7MSEK. Please contact us to discuss your project in more detail.

Can listed companies apply?

Generally yes - however, the state aid paragraph for “Newly formed companies” (article 22) cannot be used. Please contact us to discuss your project in more detail.



Is it possible to adjust the project plan (including budget) between submitting the proposal, and project start?

Only minor changes can be made, in dialogue with a BIO-X coach. Some projects might be prompted by Advisory Board to do adjustments in project plan.

Can costs associated with business development and market analyses be included in the budget?

This depends on the scope of activities and costs – sales and marketing activities are not included. Costs for acquiring knowledge is accepted. Please contact us to discuss your project and needs in more detail.

Can costs associated with patents be included in the budget?

Yes, as long as it is relevant costs directly connected to the project.

I don't speak Swedish and I am having trouble understanding the budget template (mandatory Appendix).

If you need help with translation and interpretation, please contact us and we'll help out.

There is a demand for private (i.e. not public) co-financing. What is the definition of public financing?

Public financing often comes from governmental, regional and municipal authorities and derive from the public budget, for instance from Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket), Vinnova, Swedish Energy Agency (Energimyndigheten), Region Uppsala among others. When public funding is used the rules for state aid applies.

- ▶ Read more on The National Agency for Public Procurements website:
<https://www.upphandlingsmyndigheten.se/statsstod/vad-ar-statsstod/kriteriet-offentliga-medel/>
- ▶ European Commission regulations (applicable state aid in this project is Article 22 and Article 25 b-c):
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SV/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0651&from=EN>

I am having trouble compiling the budget template (mandatory Appendix).

Start by reading the guide from Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth (Tillväxtverket);
<https://tillvaxtverket.se/vara-tjanster/guider-och-vagledningar/handbok-for-eu-projekt/ansoka/sa-fyller-ni-i-ansokan-om-stod.html#svid9Budget>

If you need help, please contact us.



Which levels on the Technical readiness scale may be funded?

In general, only activities between TRL 3-7 may be funded. TRL 8 and 9 may apply if the company is perceived as a "start-up" (meaning non-public ventures with less than 5 years since registration, that has not yet handed out profits and was not created through concentration).

We are utilizing the following state aid paragraphs:

Aid for research and development projects, Industrial research, (GBER Article 25 b)
Aid for research and development projects, Experimental development (GBER Article 25 c)
Aid for start-ups (GBER Article 22)

- ▶ Read more about European Commission regulations:
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SV/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0651&from=EN>
- ▶ Read more on Technical Readiness levels via Swelife and MedTech4Health's guide:
<https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/utlysningar/2018-03850/omgangar/dc5b17f2-a99d-4cdf-a787-9825d5cb3e6c.pdf968067.pdf>

For more information on the technical readiness levels of your company and activities that fits this form of funding, do not hesitate to get in contact with us!

What is the distribution of responsibilities between the funded companies, STUNS/Uppsala BIO and Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth?

The call and selection process is handled by STUNS/Uppsala BIO and one for the purpose selected Advisory Board. Final decisions are made by Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth.

After selection, chosen companies and Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth will sign a contract in which the general terms and conditions from the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth do apply.

STUNS/Uppsala BIO together with the Advisory Board will monitor and are empowered to stop funds even during the project phase.

The companies are responsible to execute the project according to the plan. Deviations may be presented at the quarterly reviews with the advisory board.

The companies are responsible to provide documentations such as the costs, time reports, invoices including procurement documents at the quarterly review.

Will the companies retain all ownership?

Yes. STUNS/Uppsala BIO or Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth do not take equity in the companies

Which are the major differences between funding from the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth in comparison to other public funding authorities like VINNOVA?



There are some differences, described below:

Funds are paid in retrospect. Reporting is performed quarterly and after approval from the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth the funds are handed out. In the case with VINNOVA, funds are handed at the start of a project.

The Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth calculates the salary on the basis of the basic salary plus 45,24 percent for payroll costs and 15 percent indirect costs (30 percent overhead for universities and colleges). VINNOVA on the other hand uses actual salary costs.

In addition to the printout from the accounting system (huvudboksutdrag), the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth needs documentation for all costs, like time reports, invoices including procurement documents at the quarterly review.

What does it mean that the companies should follow “procurement principles” for their purchases during the project?

Companies are not covered by the procurement law, but still have to follow the special procurement procedure based on the principles of the LOU (Principle of non-discrimination, Principle of equal treatment, Principle of transparency, Principle of mutual recognition). Documentation from the companies purchases should be reported to the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth in the quarterly report. Compliance with this is the company's own responsibility.

Below is a brief description of the principles of procurement law.

- ▶ More information about the procurement laws and principles can be found on the Procurement Authority's website
<https://www.upphandlingsmyndigheten.se/upphandla/om-upphandlingsreglerna/om-lagstiftningen/Principerna/>
- ▶ and via the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth:
<https://tillvaxtverket.se/vara-tjanster/guider-och-vagledning/handbok-for-eu-projekt/genomfora-och-rapportera/krav-att-folja-nar-projektet-beviljats-eu-stod/folj-reglerna-for-offentlig-upphandling-och-andra-kop.html>

The procurement procedure regulates purchases below and above the amount for direct procurement. A purchase may not be divided into several smaller purchases in order to circumvent the rules. As of January 2018, the amount for direct procurement is SEK 586,907 for LOU.

For purchases below the amount for direct procurement:

No competition is required for purchases below the amount for the direct procurement limit.

However, for purchases exceeding SEK 100,000, you must document in writing what the parties have agreed. The documentation, which can be in the form of e-mails, must contain the parties' names, prices, description of the goods / service and time of delivery. If there is no documentation, there may be grounds for rejecting the cost.

For purchases above the amount for direct procurement:

Purchases above the amount for direct procurement shall be subject to competition.

You must submit a written request to at least two potential suppliers and the same documentation must be sent to all suppliers. Requests and answers from potential suppliers must be in writing. You must document in writing what the parties have agreed. The documentation, which can be in the form of e-mails, must contain the parties' names, prices, description of the goods / service and time of delivery. If there is no documentation on this, there is reason to reject the cost in the quarterly review.

What types of costs are possible to include in the project?

- ▶ Personnel costs: researchers, technicians and other support staff to the extent that they work on the project.
- ▶ Costs for instruments and equipment to the extent and during the time they are used for the project. If the instruments and equipment are not used during the entire life cycle of the project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life cycle of the research project, calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles, are considered eligible.
- ▶ Cost of buildings and land to the extent and during the time they are used for the project. In the case of buildings, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life cycle of the research project, calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles, are considered eligible. For land, costs for transfer on commercial terms or actual capital costs are eligible.
- ▶ Costs of contract research, knowledge and patents purchased or leased from external sources on market terms, as well as costs for consulting services and similar services used exclusively for the research activities.
- ▶ Other general costs and other operating costs, including costs of materials, supplies and similar products, which arose directly from a project.

What types of support can you get during project implementation?

Projects accepted to the program receive funding, continued support and project status review, and access to expertise within the BIO-X network. You will be assigned a BIO-X coach, which will do quarterly follow-up of project proceeds. Once per year you will be reviewed by Advisory Board, an independent panel of senior industry and clinical expertise.

Which elements are mandatory during project implementation?

Projects accepted to the program need to attend to the Advisory Board reviews and participate in the quarterly follow-up of project status. There will also be a couple of mandatory workshops, for example on Sustainable growth.

Which types of E-health solutions are included in this call?

Included in this call:

- ▶ Solutions bringing direct benefit to the individual receiving treatment or care, such as higher cure rates, longer survival times, reduced risk of side-effects, or minimized discomfort.
- ▶ Solutions that can empower individuals to participate in management of their own health e.g. through self-generated data and/or support healthcare professionals or carers in making the correct decisions for treatment, care, and/or medication tailored to the individual's characteristics, needs and preferences.



Not included in this call:

- ▶ Wellness-related solutions not intended for healthcare use neither focusing on a specific patientgroup.
- ▶ Proposals aimed solely at improving general healthcare management/infrastructure such as new solutions for Electronic Medical Record (EMR) systems or other IT infrastructure (however, modules giving direct benefit to an individual and complementary to existing EMR systems could be part of the proposal).