Call for funding of Thematic Collaboration Initiatives 2019-2021

One of the tasks of Lund University is to contribute to the solution of societal challenges. In order to address such problems broad, multi-disciplinary collaboration is needed, within academia, as well as with partner organizations outside the university. This was particularly emphasized in the Swedish research bill from 2016.

Lund University already works in a multi-disciplinary, collaborative way with societal challenges. This is incorporated in the Strategic Plan of the University. To facilitate collaboration within and outside the university, with focus on future societal challenges, new initiatives are needed. To enable this Lund University hereby announce a call for funding of Thematic Collaboration Initiatives, starting March 2019. Each initiative may be funded by 700 000 SEK per year, during 3 years, with the possibility to receive additional funding for 2 more years. Decision on granted initiatives is taken by Lund University Vice Chancellor, based on the recommendation of the Lund University Samverkansråd. This is the third call announcement for Thematic Collaboration Initiatives.

Aim
The aims of Thematic Collaboration Initiatives are:

- To contribute to solutions of societal challenges within areas where Lund University has well established research which may contribute to future breakthroughs
- To create platforms which provide good conditions for collaboration between researchers at Lund University and identified external partners
- To stimulate collaboration across faculty borders and demonstrate good examples of collaboration projects.

The idea is that a Thematic Collaboration Initiative should create a meeting place for knowledge and development within a specified problem area. Acquired grants should be used on activities which support collaboration. The goal is that the work in the initiative should result in new projects and common applications, as well as development in working with external partners. The initiative should function as a place for physical meetings and have a web portal which makes the research and
activities visible to both Lund University and to society. Further, the impact of the work within the initiative should be collected and communicated.

Instructions for the application
A Thematic Collaboration Initiative should be multi-disciplinary and include at least three faculties, as well as at least one external partner. The application may be written in Swedish or in English.

The initiative shall have a coordinator, who is employed by Lund University, and a core group of researchers at Lund University as well as external partners.

The application should include:

- Project description, max 6 pages, including which partners and researchers participate in the initiative, which goals the initiative has, and a description of the planned activities
- Budget for the planned activities, covering both direct and indirect costs
- Attachment of CVs (max 2 pages per person) for the main applicant(s). Main applicant may be more than one person.
- A letter of intent including the contribution of each external partner to the initiative.

The evaluation process of the applications is made in two steps. Step 1 is an evaluation based on the written application. In step 2 those applications with the highest ranking are invited for an interview, which forms the base for the final evaluation. The evaluation is performed by the assigned working group from Samverkansrådet.

The evaluators of the applications, and the interviews, follow these criteria:

- Choice of societal challenge: timeliness and relevance (community benefits), research anchoring, depth and breadth
- Co-workers' competence: choice of composition of the group, coordinator competence and leadership skills, other skills for main applicants /co-applicants and partners
- How the initiative can respond to its goals: choice of activities and planning, expected results and expected effects, implementation of the initiative

Assessment of expected results
When the initiatives are assessed, after 1,5 and after 3 years, questions like the below will be asked:

- Have applications, made within the thematic initiative, resulted in research projects?
- Has the initiative created external visibility, where the theme has been profiled as a strong area for Lund University?
- Can the impact of the initiative's knowledge transfer and communication be demonstrated? For example, through public sector or company impacts, through referral issues, innovations, new businesses, etc.

The application deadline is Thursday 31 of January 2019.
Payments of grants will be made from the spring term of 2019. For questions, contact Carin Nilsson Carin.nilsson@fsi.lu.se. Application documents are sent to samverkan@lu.se