ÖSTERSJÖSTIFTELSEN

THE FOUNDATION FOR BALTIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

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The Foundation for Baltic and East European Studies

Information meeting before thematic call for proposals "The war in Ukraine and its consequences"

Welcome to the information meeting!
The meeting will start at 1:00 pm

Please mute your microphone.

After the presentation there will be time for questions. (Use the "raise hand"–function).

We will **not** answer the questions directly in the chat.

The meeting is **not** recorded.

The presentation will be available at www.ostersjostiftelsen.se after the meeting.

Programme

- About the Foundation
- Information about the thematic call and grant types
- Assessment criteria
- Tips along the way
- Information from Södertörn University by Gabriela Voglio
- Questions

Who are we?

- Founded in 1994 by the Swedish Government

- Supports research related to the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe at Södertörn University

- Each year we have several open calls for applications

  - two and three-year projects
  - postdoctoral projects
  - grand projects (biennial)
  - research networks
  - conference grants
  - publication grants

  - 2025: special thematic call "The war in Ukraine and its consequences"

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Thematic call: the war in Ukraine and its consequences

Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine has had radical consequences for Ukraina and the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe: Including but not limited to geopolitical, humanitarian, legal and economical consequences. Regardless of the outcome of the war it will continue to affect the region for a foreseeable future. This call is aimed at researchers who wishes to understand these consequences.

- all disciplines
- international research collaborations
- a clear plan for collaboration with relevant actors within and outside academia and outreach activities

Apply for:

- Grand projects
- Three-year projects
- Research networks

Grand projects

- A challenging, joint and coherent research task

- Excellence in the various parts of the application, and as a whole

- well thought-out research task, from the overarching problem to practical execution

- A strong international element in the research group

- Collaborations across subject, institutional boundaries and national borders

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Grand projects

- **Applicants**: A group of at least four researchers

- All participating researchers must have obtained a PhD by the date of application

- Funding may be applied for PhD students and postdocs (to be recruited after project start)

- **Period:** 4–5 years

- **Grant amount:** A maximum of SEK 5 million a year on average, totalling a maximum of SEK 25 million

- **Grant administrator:** Södertörn University

Three year projects

- Support for a well-defined research project within a limited period, applicants themselves formulate the research problem and decide on the method and implementation

- **Applicants**: Individual researcher or a smaller group of researchers

- All participating researchers must have obtained a PhD by the date of application

- **Period:** 3 years

- **Grant amount**: A maximum of SEK 2 million a year on average, totalling a maximum of SEK 6 million.

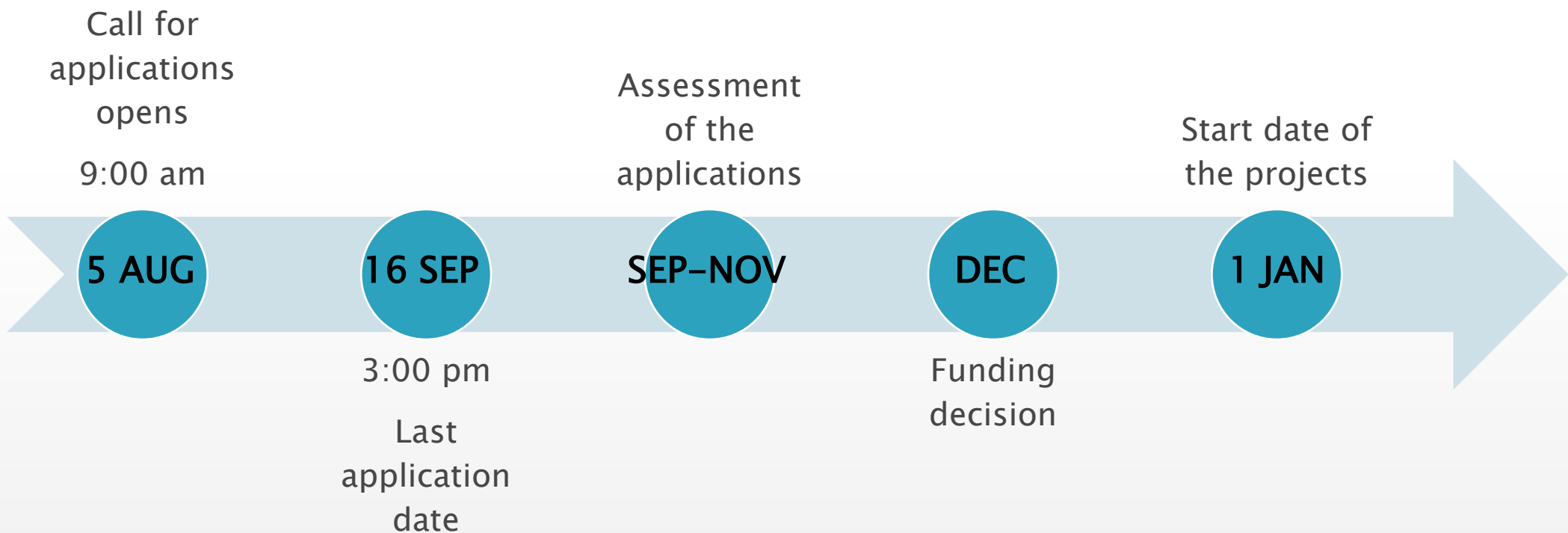- **Grant administrator:** Södertörn University

Research networks

- Creating new networks of researchers or maintaining already established ones, research initiation or contribution to future research through academic meetings and contacts that may eventually culminate in applications for research funding

- **Applicants**: A group of researchers, including at least one member from Södertörn University

- **Period**: 1 year

- **Grant amount:** SEK 200 000

- **Funding for:** costs of meetings and travel

- **Grant administrator:** a Swedish HEI (provided collaboration with researchers at Södertörn University)

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Key dates – application process

Call for applications opens

9:00 am

5 AUG

16 SEP

3:00 pm

Last application date

Assessment of the applications

SEP–NOV

DEC

Funding decision

Start date of the projects

1 JAN

Please note! Only one stage in the application process

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Extended grant availability period within the thematic call

- Project start 1 January 2026
- **Grand projects**: 4–5 years plus 1,5 years of extra grant availability time
- **Three year projects**: 3 years plus 1,5 half years of extra grant availability time
- **Research networks**: 1 year plus 1 year of extra grant availability time

Specific conditions for the call

1. **Ongoing projects**: project managers and participants may apply (not the same project idea)

2. **Applied in regular open calls in 2025**: project managers and participants may apply (no funding in two calls for the same project idea)

3. Total **activity rate cannot exceed 100 per cent** in overlapping projects

4. **The Baltic Sea Programme** (professors and associate senior lecturers) can apply for up to 15% salary funding

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Which grants can I apply for at the same time?

A researcher may be part of **only one application for a research project** (grand project or three year project) and one application for research network within the call (regardless of applying as project manager or participant).

	Can also apply for	Thematic call		
		Grand project	Three-year project	Research network
Applying for/ have applied for				
Thematic call	Grand project	no	no	yes
	Three-year project	no	no	yes
	Research network	yes	yes	no
Regular open call 2025 (projects, postdocs, grand projects, research networks, conference and publication grants)		yes	yes	yes

Can I apply if I have an ongoing project?

yes

Grant administrator and applicants

Södertörn University must be grant administrator for:

- Grand projects
- Three-year projects

HEI in Sweden may be grant administrator for:

- Research networks (network must include a researcher at Södertörn University)

Project manager for research projects must be employed at Södertörn University during the project period. Participating researchers should spend some time at Södertörn University.

Before submitting an application

Contact relevant Head of Department and Head of School at Södertörn University:

– Secure approval for hosting your potential project from Södertörn University

– Discuss employment conditions, including salary levels, and how to engage other project participants

– Discuss budget details

See checklist by Södertörn University.

For research networks any Swedish HEI may be a grant administrator.

Signing the application

- Application must be signed by the project manager and grant administrator's authorised representative (usually the Head of School)

- E-signature with BankID in the application system

- In case of no BankID a signature form is used instead

- Each signatory can choose between the two ways to sign the application

- The signatures are required before sending in the application (16 Sep.)

Budget – research projects

All the costs must be specified and motivated in the budget commentary.

Budget items

- ## Salaries
  - Monthly salary + activity reate in the project (%)
  - Project manager must have a min. 20% activity rate in the project

- ## Social security contributions (*LKP, lönekostnadspålägg)*
  - Payroll overhead, (automatically added for project manager 58%)
  - For project participants must be specified per participant

- ## Overhead costs (indirect costs)
  - Overhead costs concern administrative costs for the grant administrator
  - Specify percentage per participant, (check with Head of School)

- ## Costs of premises
  - Usually costs of the office at Södertörn University or at a participating university etc.

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Budget – research projects

- **Investigation costs**
  - E.g. access to archives, surveys, etc

- **Costs for conferences and travel**
  - Costs related to organizing or participating in conferences, meetings, and workshops

- **Other costs**
  - Non-research staff, ethical review, equipment, etc.

- **Dissemination of project results**
  - Flat-rate automatically added (includes publication, language editing, translation, etc.)

Co-funding with other research funders is not allowed.

Assessment process

- International, interdisciplinary assessment panel (recruitment ongoing)
- Assessment in competition, according to assessment criteria
- The panel prioritises the applications and makes a recommendation to the Board of the Foundation

Assessment criteria – grand projects and projects

- scientific/scholarly quality
- relevance to the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe
- **relevance to society** (including collaboration and outreach)
- innovativeness and originality
- research group's composition and skills
- feasibility (including preparedness for changing conditions)
- **relevance to the call**

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Assessment criteria – research networks

- scientific/scholarly potential
- relevance to the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe
- relevance to society (including collaboration and outreach)
- the network group's composition and skills
- the quality of the plan for the research network's activities
- how the research network will benefit research and/or doctoral studies at Södertörn University
- relevance to the call

Some tips along the way

- Clearly define the project aim and formulate one or few research questions

- In the case of larger projects, the overall question must be of high scientific quality, the different parts must support each other

- Choose competence that is needed to adress the research question

- Write for a panel with broad competence

- Clearly articulate and motivate:

  - relevance to the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe
  - relevance to society from the project

Some tips along the way

- In case of comparative studies, justify the choice of case studies clearly

- Countries outside the region are allowed in comparative studies

- Clearly present and specify design, material, data collection, method(s) and analysis

- Dedicate a section to assess potential risks, limitations and challenges

- Present a time schedule and design, clarify project members' functions and competencies

- Motivate your costs in detail

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Do you have questions?

- Visit our website: www.ostersjostiftelsen.se
- Application system: https://apply.se/ostersjostiftelsen
- Checklist by Södertörn University
- Instructions for applications (late June)
- Q&A
- Information on which funds may be applied for at the same time
- Relevance to the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe with a list of countries concerned
- Email the secretariat, contacts available on the website
- The secretariat will be closed in July