

Bilateral collaboration between South Korea and Sweden – Joint research on infectious diseases

The National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) and the Swedish Research Council (VR) are announcing a call for joint research activities on infectious diseases. Korea and Sweden will cover eligible research expenses for their respective country's teams according to its own rules. Applicants from both sides are to submit coordinated applications to their respective countries, and required documents may differ depending on countries.

Call launch and structure

The purpose of this call is to allow Korean and Swedish researchers to address COVID-19 related issues in collaboration with each other, with the aim of exploring direct measures that can be implemented within a relatively short timeframe such as developing new methods/products and epidemiological research. Eligible researchers are invited to present joint proposals, and each principal investigator (PI) can submit only one proposal. The selection of four joint projects will be finalized according to the evaluation results and agreement between Korea and Sweden.

A joint application from the Korean and Swedish partners shall be submitted by the Korean partner to NRF, and a corresponding application shall be submitted to VR by the Swedish partner.

Application deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Korea (NRF): August 25th 2020 (6 pm, local time in Seoul)● Sweden (VR): August 27th 2020 (2 pm, CET)
Applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Korea: please refer to NRF's website● Sweden: please refer to VR's website
Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Joint research activities that can provide results in a relatively short timeframe such as new methods and products – developing vaccines, medical hardware, drugs, diagnostic tools as well as developing best practices for caring COVID-19 infected individuals● Epidemiology related research such as modeling technology that predicts the spread of COVID-19 infection through mathematical

	and statistical analysis, as well as research related to infection tracking and quarantine system
Grant amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Korea: 150 million KRW per project will be financed through NRF ● Sweden: 1.5 million SEK per project will be financed through VR
Grant period	13 months (December 1 st 2020 – December 31 st 2021)

Project selection and evaluation criteria

The evaluation of eligible applications will be carried out by Korean reviewers and administered by NRF. The evaluation results will be shared with VR, and the selection of four research projects will be determined according to the evaluation results and agreement between Korea and Sweden.

The assessment of applications will be based on the following non-prioritized criteria:

- Scientific excellence of the project:
 - Scientific quality and clarity of the activities
 - Originality and innovativeness of the proposal
 - Feasibility of the activities (adequate resources, work plan, time schedule, etc.)
- Scientific excellence of the partners:
 - Scientific track record and level of excellence of the PIs involved in the project
- Added value for both partner countries:
 - Scientific benefit for both partner countries
 - Added value for the Korean-Swedish research cooperation
- Potential impact and expected results:
 - Potential exploitation and dissemination of the results
 - Added value in addressing scientific/societal challenges
 - Overall impact of the project

The applications will be evaluated on the basis of an overall assessment of the criteria above and the consistence with the purpose of this call.

Application procedure

NRF operates the ERND system (<https://ernd.nrf.re.kr>) for Korean PIs to apply, and the Korean PIs should submit their applications according to domestic regulations. Korean call text is posted on [NRF's website](#).

VR operates Prisma (<https://prisma.research.se>) for Swedish PIs to [apply](#), and the call for proposal is posted on [VR's website](#).

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