

## Formas – Swedish Research Council for Sustainable Development

*Regarding what is Formas' focus area and delimitations, the Career call that Formas opened in February 2024, issued an updated text that can be used as **guidance for applicants**. Most likely, the upcoming [Research Project call](#)\* (in which Weave is embedded at Formas' side) will use a similar text. As soon as Formas launched its new research project call\*, we will make sure to refer to the correct and most up-to-date information regarding Formas focus area and delimitations.*

**\*Opening date: 1 September 2024, deadline: 1 October 2024**

*The dates for the call are **preliminary** and are subject to change. The content will be further developed and finalised when the call opens at Formas side. More details can be found [here](#).*

### Focus area

Formas supports research of the highest scientific quality. The research can include both different scientific methods and perspectives, as well as different disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches. It can be useful in the short and/or long term and is to be of relevance for the ecological, economic, and/or social sustainable development of society. **Granted research by Formas must belong to one of Formas' areas of responsibility: Environment, Agricultural Sciences, and Spatial Planning.** While these areas are described under three headings below, they should not be considered as three separate areas. Knowledge needs often involve complex issues that are at the intersection of the environment, agricultural sciences, and spatial planning. The call encourages questions about policy instruments, regulations, and political decisions, but also about norms, values, and behaviours that touch on perspectives cutting across all of Formas' areas of responsibility. This includes questions considering the conditions and needs of different groups, so that the project can contribute to knowledge that is reflective of and relevant to different groups in society. Common aspects for all three areas include questions dealing with learning from different contexts and places and questions related to the past, present and future.

#### Environment

The area of responsibility **Environment** deals with the interaction between people and the environment and the promotion of sustainable societies and viable ecosystems. Research can cover issues relating to climate, the environment, oceans and water, biological diversity, ecosystem services, resource efficiency, and a chemical-safe future. For the climate area, research can examine such topics as the climate system and changes to it, measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, and improved understanding of the effects of climate change and/or climate adaptations. The area of responsibility Environment also includes the Earth system and soil, air, and water processes. This also includes research that can lead to more environmentally friendly and socio-economically sustainable ways of utilising existing resources and minimising damage to natural ecosystems. The area of responsibility also includes sustainable products, processes, materials, and consumption patterns as well as society's ability to value and manage such issues as environmental pollution, climate risks, and environmental changes.

### Agricultural Sciences

The area of responsibility **Agricultural Sciences** deals with the overall topics of forestry, agriculture, land use, food systems, animal health, and animal welfare. Questions about the interaction between humans and the biological and physical geographical resources on land and in water that we depend on for our life on this planet are fundamental for the area. Within the forest area, the role of forests and forestry is central to several societal goals. This includes developing practices and applications, but also questions about synergies, trade-offs between different objectives, and policy development. Agriculture and the food system face major challenges in becoming sustainable in the long term, resilient, and competitive. Research and innovation related to agriculture, food, and the role of animals need to take a holistic approach and more clearly highlight interdisciplinary, cross-sector perspectives and broader societal benefits. Agricultural sciences also include questions about land use, soil health, and land issues related to the extraction of strategic minerals and raw materials. Sustainable development within agricultural sciences benefits from participation from many stakeholders and citizens and from using a robust knowledge base when considering benefits and development paths.

### Spatial Planning

The area of responsibility **Spatial Planning** deals with urban, rural and regional planning, design, and construction of the built environment, as well as the use, management, recycling, and demolition of buildings, homes, places, landscapes, and infrastructures. It also deals with the relationships between places, buildings, and social functions, how they are used, and how people move from one place to another. Spatial planning includes both cultural and natural environments and how communities and the built environment can be made inclusive, safe, and adapted to future challenges. Spatial Planning includes all aspects of sustainable development with a focus on meeting the need for good living environments for everyone, now and in the future. This includes balancing different interests and goal conflicts about which values should be decisive when planning and building sustainable societies for people and the environment.

### Delimitations

All research funded within this call must have a clear connection to at least one of the call's subject areas described above: Environment, Agricultural Sciences, and Spatial Planning.

Formas' areas of responsibility do not include research primarily focused on the development of technical solutions for energy extraction/energy conversion.

Determining whether an application falls within the scope of the call can only be done based on a complete application. These types of determinations are thus only made after the call is closed. An application deemed to be outside Formas' areas of responsibility will be rejected before processing.