

SCIENCE FOR EVERYONE

VA (Public & Science) is a Swedish non-profit association and expert organisation whose purpose is to promote openness and dialogue between researchers and the public. We believe that greater communication and collaboration in research is needed to find sustainable solutions to societal challenges.

OUR VISION

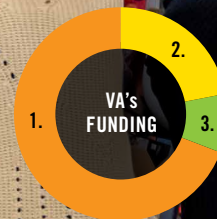
Science accessible to everyone!

OUR GOALS AND TARGET GROUPS

- **The public** to understand what science is and to have the opportunity to participate in research.
- **Researchers** to have knowledge of attitudes to science, and incentives to undertake dialogue and collaboration.
- **Decision-makers** to make use of science and recognise the value of dialogue between researchers and other parts of society.

WAYS TO REACH OUR GOALS

- **Studies, attitude surveys and evaluations.**
- **Activities** in new formats for public engagement, dialogue and co-creation.
- **Communication** of our own and others' knowledge and experiences.
- **Advocacy work** at national and European level.

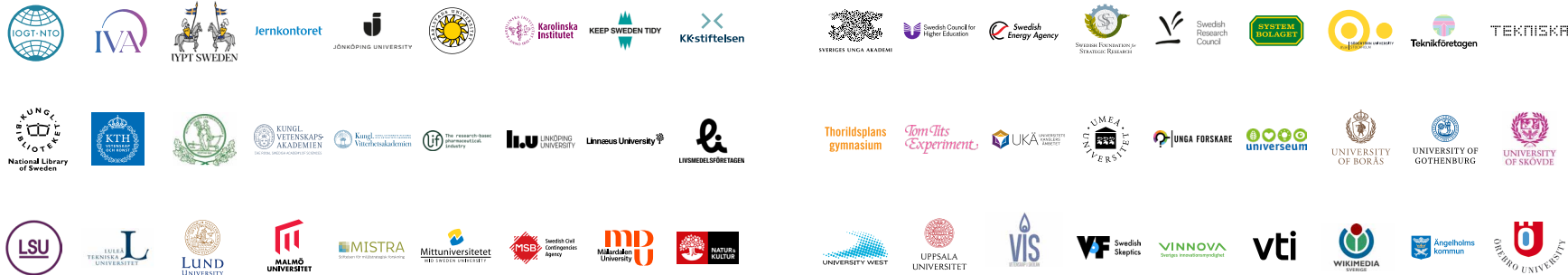


1. Project grants
2. Membership fees
3. Grant from the Swedish Ministry of Education and Research



Vetenskap & Allmänhet, VA, was founded in 2002 and its members consist of over 100 organisations, such as authorities, universities, businesses, education associations,

museums and research funding bodies. In addition, we have individual members. For information on how to join and a current membership list, please see: v-a.se/membership



EXAMPLES OF VA'S PROJECTS

ForskarFredag – European Researchers' Night

VA coordinates **ForskarFredag** in around 30 towns and cities across Sweden as well as online, as part of European Researchers' Night. During the week-long science festival, school pupils and members of the public get to meet researchers and participate in hands-on activities, shows, competitions, exhibitions, discussions and experiments. All contribute to showcase that researchers are ordinary people with extraordinary jobs.

Citizen science – research for everyone

In citizen science, members of the public participate in scientific research together with researchers. One example is the **Plastic Experiment**, in which young people and adults are helping researchers to investigate the extent of plastic waste in the Swedish natural environment. In the **EU YouCount project**, VA is working with young people in a Stockholm suburb to find ways to increase their participation in society. We have also helped to develop two online portals: medborgarforskning.se and eu-citizen.science.



Science communication and co-creation

VA works to strengthen science communication in many different ways. We organise the annual conference **Forum for Science Communication**, a national meeting place for inspiration, skills development and networking.

We also run courses in communication for researchers at Swedish universities and co-ordinate the Nordic-Baltic hub for **Falling Walls Engage**, a network that promotes science communication and co-creation across the world.

In **GENDERACTIONplus**, we are working together to support and strengthen gender equality within European research. In **TechEthos**, we are helping to develop ethical guidelines for emerging technologies. In the **CitizAir** project, we are collaborating with researchers and the public to develop a visualisation tool for air quality.

JOIN OUR NETWORK!

VA is a non-profit association that provides an open arena for dialogue, engagement and skills development. We test new formats and ways of working, develop and disseminate knowledge, and work in an evidence-based way, in response to the needs of our members.

Both organisations and individuals can become members of VA. As a member, you can help contribute to VA's work to promote access to, and confidence in, knowledge, education and research in society.

Members gain:

- **Knowledge** via VA's studies and events, plus advice on how to design activities and studies.
- **Access** to a broad network of members, and opportunities to collaborate with VA and other member organisations.
- **Influence** over the issues that VA focuses on, as well as visibility and goodwill.

Read more at v-a.se/membership

CONTACT US

Vetenskap & Allmänhet, VA (Public & Science)

Grev Turegatan 14, 114 46 Stockholm, Sweden

info@v-a.se · v-a.se

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Read VA's latest news in English at v-a.se/news/

” *It goes without saying that we should be a member of an organisation which not only promotes research and education but also engagement and cultivation. It is in the meeting between research and society, where research gains meaning and influence. It's also always so much fun when our researchers participate in ForskarFredag, inspiring future academics and critical thinkers.*

Mats Tinnsten, Vice-Chancellor, University of Borås

CALENDAR 2023

- 11–14 April **Public Communication of Science and Technology (PCST)** in Rotterdam
- 27 June–1 July **Almedalen Week** in Visby
- 25–30 September **European Researchers' Night**, *ForskarFredag* throughout Sweden
- 11 October **VA's annual conference**
- November **Researchers' Grand Prix** final
- December Annual **VA Barometer** published

For the latest information, see v-a.se/arrangemang

” *If a democratic society is to function, everyone must have access to knowledge and education. Our two organisations are both individually and together important cogs in a social machinery, and today perhaps more crucial than ever before.*

Annica Dahl, General Secretary of ABF Sweden
(Workers' Educational Association)