

Ekhagastiftelsen

**A presentation of the foundation
and its aims**

Application material

2012

**Ekhagastiftelsen
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A presentation of the foundation and its aims

Through a founding document dated December 1st 1944 Gösta Videgård created a foundation called Ekhagastiftelsen, to which he donated the larger part of his fortune.

Gösta Videgård

Gösta Videgård was born in 1893. He was an construction engineer and during the 1930s and 1940s he ran a very successful construction business. After 1948 his aim was more general business. Gösta was one of the first persons in Sweden to realize the possibilities of freezing technology. Among other things he operated a shipping business with refrigeration ships. 1952 Gösta Videgård passed away on a business trip abroad.

In his personal life Gösta Videgård devoted much interest to "the natural way of looking after oneself and his food". His way of life was characterized by a love for nature and to the things that, according to his opinion were natural and consistent with nature. Personally he had simple habits, used to some extent vegetarian food and enjoyed sailing, skating and other open-air activities. His ambition to live healthy way of life may have come from the fact that he had since his youth had weak health and had suffered many illnesses. When it came to the treatment of these illnesses he showed a strong belief in natural medicines. His strong belief in nature and its ability to cure and produce healthy products came to mean that in agriculture he became interested in natural methods, primarily biodynamic. In the area of medicine he became especially attached to the methods of treatment - based on food that promoted natural healing - the were used for example at Cademario in Switzerland.

Goals of the foundation

Translation of parts of the statutes of the foundation:

"The foundation has as its aim to establish or support already existing public institutions and support discoveries, inventions and experiences that are aimed at improving the human existence and way of life, especially as described below.

The foundation shall in the first place support discoveries concerning the utilization of the powers of nature, so that these can be used to a greater extent for humanity and in particular for the improvement of public health.

The foundation should attempt to render possible [...] studies and experiments in and for the production of better food."

Specific tasks

According to Gösta Videgårds wish and in view of his interests the foundation primarily supports certain specific research areas.

Within AGRICULTURE the foundation supports research relating to improvement and further development of ecological agriculture (ecologically well suited agricultural systems where chemical compounds for fertilization and other uses are replaced with ecological and biological measures of promoting production). Here the goal should be the production of high quality food that are well suited at improving the public health and development. Further, research in preparation and storage of food with natural technology can be supported.

Within MEDICINE the foundation supports research relating to the improvement and further development of such methods of healing that are natural and suited to promote the inherent human ability of self-healing. The holistic view of the human health, where not only medicine but also the effects of food and environment are observed, is here of great importance. Research in the significance of the environment and the way of life for the state of health is also supported. Furthermore, the foundation is open for contributing to the creation of a research center in Sweden for biological medicine.

Applications for scholarships and strategic efforts to promote a development consistent with the aim of the foundation can be accepted. The foundation also welcomes applications for planning-grants, which are used to get a better foundation for a final application of further studies. This may be in the form of workshops or seminars that may also be a part of a dialogue between researchers and the scientific advisory council of the foundation.

In the first place it is the foundations aim to support strategic and innovative projects.

Support for projects **is not** limited to Sweden and Scandinavia! Applications from all over the world are welcome. For applications from outside of Europe we require that you have a cooperation with an european institution.

Applications

Applications have to be made on a special application form which is available on our website - www.ekhagastiftelsen.se - or can be requested per mail from our office (Box 34 012, SE-100 26 Stockholm, Sweden; e-mail: info@ekhagastiftelsen.se).

Note! Please get the latest application form every year!

New for 2012! An application data sheet with information about the application has to be sent in by e-mail.

Application deadline is May 31st 2012. Applications must arrive by mail by this date. If you want to deliver the application by other means than mail, please contact us by e-mail or by phone (+46 70 240 81 81) at least one week before the deadline.

A project description of no more than 10 pages shall be included as a supplement to the application. It should describe and answer and the following aspects (if applicable):

- What problem or which question is to be solved/answered? Which idea or vision is to be tested or further developed?
- What is the hypothesis?
- Present situation, current international knowledge/research (including references) and conclusions.
- Goal or purpose/aim
- Material and methods
- Time plan and budget
- Expected results and their importance/significance. How are the results to be evaluated? How will the project be documented and disseminated?

In a second supplement the qualifications and references of the applicant and co-applicants should be stated, especially within the area that the foundation supports.

An application data sheet with information about the application has to be sent in by e-mail to the foundation. This data sheet also has to be sent in with the rest of the application. The Excel-template is available for download at the foundations website.

For applications prepared with a word processor the font size should be at least 12 points (= the size of this text).

Rules regarding the application budget

A detailed budget is to be submitted as a supplement to the application.

Evaluating the applications, Ekhagastiftelsen will accept the following types of costs:

- A. Direct costs for salaries for active personnel in the project (including reasonable salary related costs such as for example taxes paid by the employer - lkp (lönekostnadspålägg)), equipment/instruments, travel etc.

- B. Direct office/building costs for under A mentioned personnel (specification of current cost per square metre and norm regarding room size per person).
- C. Other direct project related costs such as for example administration of budget and IT-systems.

In the project budget (which is to be submitted as an supplement to the application) salary costs for project personnel which can not be supported by other funds available to the applicant/organization, office/building costs for these persons, and other costs are to be stated.

The budget shall also show which funds are given to the project by the institution/university/managing body. For example in the form of salaries for other personnel participating in the project.

A budget item for example for unspecified university fees or unspecified overhead (for example universitetspåslag) can not be accepted.

More information regarding the background for these new rules can be found on our website.

Amount that can be applied for

There is no maximum amount that can be applied for in the application. Please note that in the last years the total amount awarded has been in the range 5-10 million SEK. We try to award approximately equal amounts towards ecological agriculture and biological medicine and keep the number of projects to between 10 and 20 per year. The largest amount ever awarded has been 1.500.000 SEK.

Instructions for filling out the application form

Research grants

The primary aim of the foundation is to support research in ecological agriculture, biological medicine and the importance of the way of life for the human health. The application can be for up to three year long projects. For multi-year projects a yearly report must be handed in.

Scholarships

Grants can also be awarded in the form of scholarships for studies/travel relating to research within the primary goals of the foundation.

References to numbers on the form:

1. Managing body/person: The body/person who is responsible for and keeps accounts for a possible grant.
2. The project title may contain no more than 20 words. In an application for scholarship the title of related research project shall be stated.

3. A summary description of the projects, studies or travels aim/purpose, implementation and significance/importance is to be written in this space. A reference to a supplement is not accepted. A more detailed project description should, however, be submitted as a separate supplement.
4. Enter keywords that characterize the project. The keywords will be used for searches in a separate register.
5. Applications can be made for up to three year long projects. The budget is to be further detailed in a separate document.
6. If an application within the same area has been or is to be sent to another organization, the applicant has to specify name of other organization, funds applied for and funds granted. This is in order to be able to coordinate grants with other organizations.
7. The signature of department/faculty head implies that the organization accepts administrative responsibility for granted funds and places resources necessary for the realization of the project at the disposal of the project.
8. If a yearly report for an earlier granted project is attached this is not enough to fulfill the reporting requirements of the earlier project. The project has to send in a report separately.

The application including supplements is to be submitted in seven copies (as the applications are to be distributed to the members of the scientific advisory council).

Applications sent in by e-mail or fax will not be considered.

Criteria for prioritization of applications

Applications are evaluated and prioritized by a scientific advisory council. Based upon the council's recommendations, the board decides on award of funds at a meeting in September.

Prioritization criteria are:

- The relevance of the project idea with respect to the aims of the foundation.
- The scientific quality of method and execution, including the applicant's competence for the project and for the time plan and budget presented.

Normally a granted project receives up to 80% of awarded funds at the start of the project (for multi-year projects 80% of the yearly funds). The remaining funds are paid when a report has been submitted and approved by the foundation. If a report is not submitted, the foundation can require the recipient to repay the awarded funds.