Formas
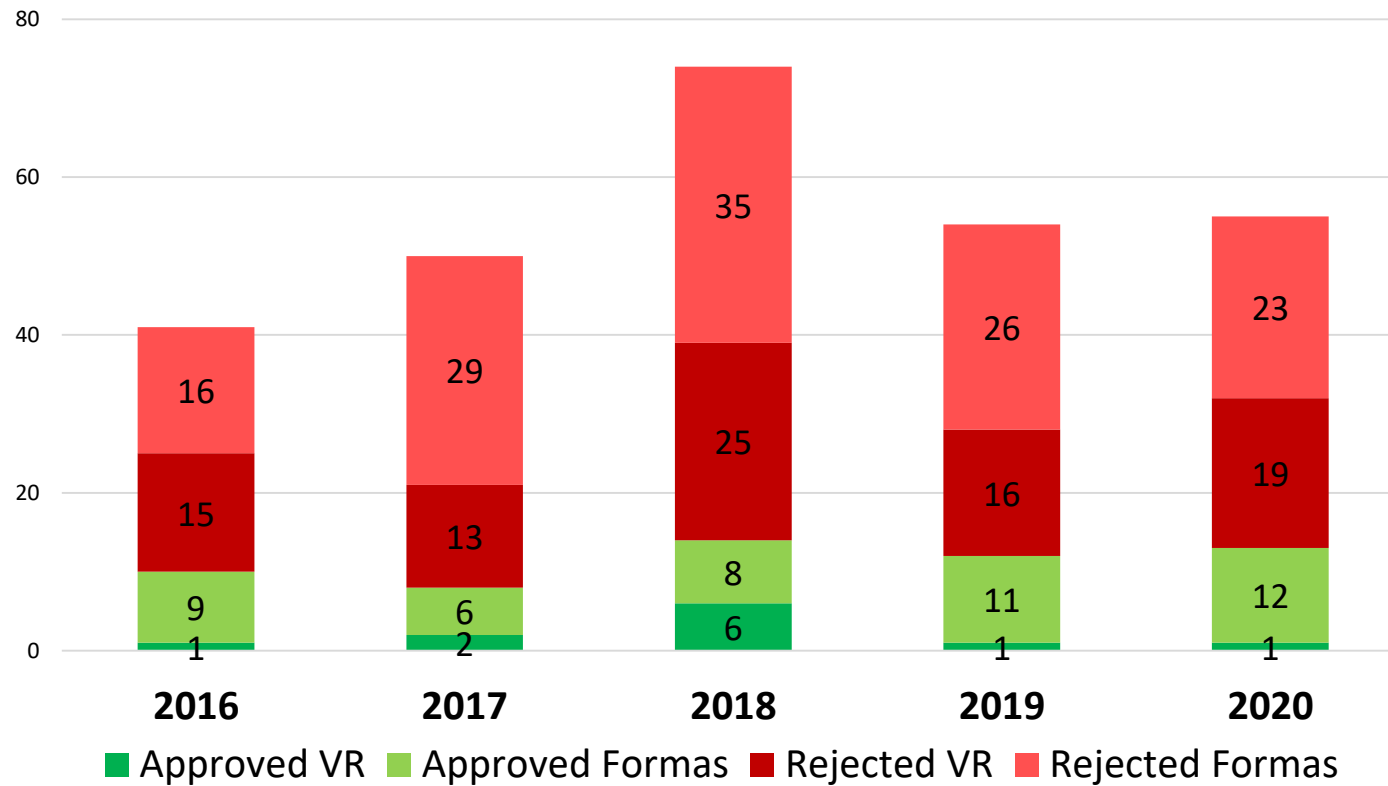# - SRC performance and insights

Approved and rejected

Number of approved and rejected applications
by SRC to Formas and VR in 2016-2020

Approved grants - Formas 2020

Call name Formas	Approved	Rejected	Sum
Urgent grant 2020	0	2	
Realising the global sustainable development goals	1	4	19 998 505
Economic and financial drivers for climate action	1	0	5 841 462
ERA-Net BiodivERsA	2	0	3 204 000 3 048 000
Communication call	0	2	
Mobility grants for early-career researchers	1	2	4 785 860
Planning for transformation Stage 1	1	0	291 957
Annual open call 2020	6	13	2 989 797 2 998 356 2 991 701 3 996 532 3 996 344 2 999 730

Approved - gender
Female lead: 35% approved (6 grants)
Male lead: 33% approved (6 grants)

Approved Mobility grant for early-career

Statements from review panel –
(balancing the novel/original and the grounded?):

- "The selected approach is <u>exciting and novel, but also</u> likely to be successful as it is built on previous experience of the applicant and collaborators."

- "The novel application of GEDI data is state-of-the-art."

- "The research topic is very important and the question is original and bold. The research is at the frontier."

Grades received Formas

Grades - Formas applications approved or phase 2	Research question	Method and performance	Scientific competence	Societal relevance of research question	Communication with stakeholders and users	Final assessment
Scale of grading	1-7	1-7	1-7	1-7	1-7	1-7
Approved	6	6	6	6	6	6
Approved	6	6	6	6	6	6
Approved	6	5	5	5	5	5
Approved	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Rejected - phase 2	6	5	6	5	6	5
Rejected - phase 2	6	5	5	6	5	5
Rejected - phase 2	6	5	5	6	5	5
Rejected - phase 2	6	4	5	6	5	5
Rejected - phase 2	6	4	5	6	5	5
Rejected - phase 2	5	5	6	6	5	5
Rejected - phase 2	5	5	6	6	5	5
Rejected - phase 2	5	5	5	6	5	5
Rejected - phase 2	5	5	5	4	5	5
Rejected - phase 2	5	5	5	4	4	5
Rejected - phase 2	5	4	6	5	6	5
Rejected - phase 2	5	4	6	5	6	5
Rejected - phase 2	5	4	5	5	5	5
Rejected - phase 2	5	5	4	4	4	4
Rejected - phase 2	5	4	6	4	4	4
Rejected - phase 2	5	4	5	4	4	4
Rejected - phase 2	5	4	5	3	4	4
Rejected - phase 2	5	4	4	5	4	4
Rejected - phase 2	5	3	5	5	5	4

Strong

VR's and Formas' review feedback about what makes an approved application strong

- Research question is of clear relevance / Asks important and relevant questions.

- Methods are well described.

- Team of competent researchers. / Strong local partners.

- Shed new light to an important and ongoing debate.

- Builds on previous research.

- Merits of the applicant(s).

Weak

VR's and Formas' review feedback about what makes a denied application weak

Methodology concerns

- The wide number of perspectives makes the project's exact focus unclear.
- Few methodological details are provided and the rationale for these.
- Not convinced that the suggested methodology will contribute significant.
- Vagueness in the methodology regarding the collection of data.

Theory concerns

- Theory setting is addressed only on a superficial level; it should have described the knowledge gaps it intends to fill.
- The fitting together of the theoretical framework and the fieldwork is not fully clear.

Staffing concerns

- Concern that the not-identified postdocs are allocated the roles as WP leaders.
- Not completely clear what the two senior scholars can contribute with such a limited involvement in the project.

Value

- Its delivery is shadowed by questions about whether the proposal can substantially advance the existing knowledge.

3 things to consider (while keeping in mind the uncertainty of it)

1)

If you are suggesting to use more than one method, don't forget to write the rationale behind your selection of methods. Reflecting on methods seems to be appreciated. VR and Formas seem to be looking for a clear logic of **how methods tie together**, and strengthen each other. If the methods are only described in isolation, they might grade the overall method as unclear. (Especially if they are handling both disciplinary and trans-/interdisciplinary proposals.) They also seem to appreciate that it seem realistic and doable.

3 things to consider

2)

Be explicit about how the proposal can advance existing knowledge. If you view it as a potential frontier, explain how/why. (In a polite way, going beyond stating that it is a frontier, to rather explaining the important role of the research.)

3 things to consider

3)

Some SRC colleagues have felt misunderstood when it comes to the communication grade they got. **Some panels might need support to think deeper and broader when it comes to communication.** E.g. about how co-production and transdisciplinary connects to communication, or how the thoughtful selection of partners might be connected to dealing with real practice, or how the carefully designed process can accelerate science-based action for sustainability, or how "samverkan" can shorten the implementation-time, or how "samverkan" can make results more context-relevant and ready to implement, or how "samverkan" can include identified change makers from the beginning of a change process. Are the relevant stakeholders identified? This also connects to addressing the Social Value in a thoughtful way.