



ABOUT VA 2021



Vetenskap & Allmänhet och Martin Bergman

Karolinska Institutet, KI
Vetenskap & Allmänhet, VA
Sveriges 3-R center i Jönköping

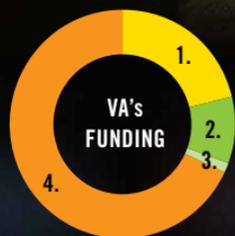


WHAT DOES VA DO?

VA (Public & Science) is a non-profit Swedish organisation whose purpose is to promote openness and dialogue between researchers and the public.

We are experts in dialogue, public engagement and science communication. Since our foundation in 2002, we have been carrying out:

- **studies and surveys**
- **activities** in new formats for public engagement and dialogue
- **communication** of our own and others' knowledge and experiences
- **advocacy work** at national and European level.



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

THE IMPORTANCE OF DIALOGUE

Increased dialogue between researchers and other parts of society and greater participation in science are prerequisites for finding sustainable solutions to local and global challenges.

VA's **goals** are to enable:

- **the public** to understand how research works and its role in society, and to participate in the scientific process;
- **researchers** to understand the importance of dialogue and engagement with society, and have the skills, methods and conditions for undertaking this;
- **decision makers** to have access to science and recognise the value of dialogue and collaboration between researchers and society at large.

Our vision: Science accessible to everyone!



VA (Public & Science) was founded in 2002 and its members consist of some 100 organisations, such as authorities, universities, businesses, education associations and

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



EXAMPLES OF VA'S PROJECTS

Researchers' Night (ForskarFredag)

VA is the national coordinator of **ForskarFredag**, Sweden's most widespread science festival, run as part of European Researchers' Night. On the last weekend of September each year, the public is invited to meet researchers and participate in hands-on activities, competitions, exhibitions, shows and much more. Held in some 30 cities across Sweden, **ForskarFredag** shows that research is exciting and relevant to our everyday lives, and that researchers are ordinary people with extraordinary jobs.

Citizen science

In citizen science, members of the public participate in scientific research together with researchers. VA promotes citizen science in a number of ways, one example being our annual Researchers' Night mass experiment. Thousands of young people have helped contribute new knowledge about e.g. digital source criticism, light pollution and food waste. The 2021 'Housing Experiment' is investigating the accessibility of housing for senior citizens.



EU projects

VA is a partner in a number of EU-funded projects. In addition to **European Researchers' Night**, we are involved in, e.g. **EU-Citizen.Science** developing a European portal for citizen science; **YOUCOUNT** working with young people to find ways to increase their participation in society; **ORION Open Science** helping research and funding organisations within life sciences and biomedicine better collaborate with society.

Communication and trust during the Covid-19 pandemic

During 2020–2021 we are conducting a study with researchers at the Karolinska Institute and Södertörn University to understand how people are receiving and interpreting information about the ongoing pandemic. Recurrent surveys are investigating questions such as which channels the Swedish public are using to get information about the coronavirus, how information is being perceived, and confidence in different actors who comment on the pandemic. The study includes a content analysis of reporting on the coronavirus in the Swedish media.

JOIN OUR NETWORK!

Do you also believe that science and research should be accessible to everyone? Please join us! **Organisations** and **individuals** are welcome to become members of VA. As a member, you are providing vital support to VA's work to promote access to, and confidence in, knowledge, skills, education and research in society.

As a member you receive:

- **Knowledge** via VA's studies, as well as advice on designing your own 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 we focus on and the future development of the organisation.

Read more at v-a.se/membership

CONTACT US

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

“*The Swedish Museum of Natural History is a place where young and old can experience and learn about the development of the world and the challenges we now face. The scientific approach is central to everything we do. We want to conduct top-class research and disseminate new knowledge widely in society. To achieve this, dialogue between the research community and the general public, which VA advocates, is an important tool. This is why we are members of VA!*

Joakim Malmström, Director of the Swedish Museum of Natural History

CALENDAR 2021

- 15 April **Forum for Science Communication**
- 24–27 May **PCST2020+1** (Public Communication of Science and Technology) Conference)
- 24–25 September **European Researchers' Night**,
ForskarFredag throughout Sweden
- 13 October **VA's annual conference** and **annual general meeting**
- December Annual **VA Barometer** published

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there is some uncertainty around which events may take place. For the latest information, please see: v-a.se/arrangemang

” *University West has an ambition to disseminate research-based knowledge to more people, in ongoing collaboration with society. In this way, we are contributing to a better and more sustainable world. Being members of VA is a very important part of this work.*

Martin Hellström, Vice-Chancellor of University West

