



ABOUT VA 2019



Vetenskap & Allmänhet

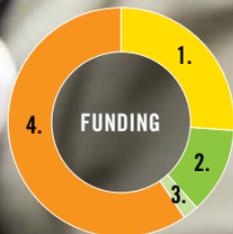


WHAT DOES VA DO?

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

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 is a prerequisite for solving the large societal challenges that we face.

VA's goals are to enable:

- the public to understand what science is, how research works and its role in society.
- researchers to understand the importance of dialogue and engagement with society and to provide them with effective methods for achieving this.
- decision makers to have access to science and recognise the value of collaboration between researchers and society at large.

VA's vision: For science to be accessible to everyone.

” *Together with others, we want to contribute to research, evidence-based debate and democratic societal development. However, this requires openness and source criticism, and is why we are members of VA.*

Lars Ilshammar, Deputy National Librarian, National Library of Sweden



VA (Public & Science) was founded in 2002 and its members consist of some 90 organisations, such as authorities, universities, businesses, adult education

associations, research institutes, employers' associations, unions, museums and science centres. In addition, it has a number of individual members.



For information about membership of VA and an up-to-date list of its members, see www.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. In some 30 cities across Sweden, *ForskarFredag* shows that research is exciting and relevant to our everyday lives.

EU projects

VA is involved in a number of EU projects financed by the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. In addition to European Researchers' Night, we are partners in **ORION Open Science**, seeking to help research performing and funding organisations in life sciences and biomedicine become more open towards society. **BLOOM** aims to raise public awareness and knowledge about the bioeconomy. In **SciShops**, we are supporting the growth of Science Shops and community-based research across Europe.

Citizen science

In citizen science, members of the public participate in scientific research together with researchers. One example is our annual Researchers' Night mass experiment. Thousands of children and teenagers are helping to create new knowledge e.g. about digital source criticism, Swedish deciduous trees and ladybirds. The 2019 **Star Spotting Experiment** is investigating light pollution. VA is also part of a project to develop a Swedish national portal for citizen science – medborgarforskning.se.

Study of Swedish researchers

In collaboration with the Swedish Research Council, Vinnova, Forte, Formas and the Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, VA is conducting a large survey of Swedish researchers' views on communication and open science. In the study, we are investigating researchers' attitudes, what they do, as well as any obstacles they experience.



JOIN OUR NETWORK!

Organisations as well as **individuals** are welcome to become members of VA.

As a member you receive:

- **Knowledge** and advance information about VA's studies, as well as advice on designing activities and studies.
- **Access** to a broad network of members, and opportunities for collaborations with VA and other member organisations.
- **Influence** over the activities and studies that we undertake, the issues that we focus on and the future development of the association.
- **Goodwill** by undertaking societal engagement. Membership of VA demonstrates your commitment to enabling trust and providing access to knowledge, skills, education and research.

Read more at www.v-a.se/membership

CONTACT US

Vetenskap & Allmänhet, VA (Public & Science)

PO Box 5073, 102 42 Stockholm

Tel. +46 (0)8 791 30 54 · info@v-a.se · v-a.se

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

“Children and adults come to Universeum to discover and learn about the world through science, technology and maths. To be able to educate people, we need to facilitate communication between researchers, the public and schools. VA's important work supports and strengthens our own mission, and membership of VA is therefore self-evident to us.

Carina Halvord, CEO of Universeum science centre

“It is important that we spread knowledge and demonstrate the benefits of our research to the outside world. Through openness and accessibility, we are also supporting the global sustainability goals. VA is therefore a natural forum for us to participate in.

Lars Niklasson, Vice-Chancellor, University of Skövde

CALENDAR 2019

- April **Forum for Science Communication** in Gothenburg
- May **HSS conference, Universities and Society**, in Örebro
- July **Dialogue seminar** at Almedalen in Visby
- September **European Researchers' Night**, *ForskarFredag* throughout Sweden
- October **VA's annual conference** and annual general meeting in Stockholm
- November National final of the **Researchers' Grand Prix**, *Forskar Grand Prix*
- December Annual **VA Barometer** published

“ We are actively involved in the debate about the connection between food, sustainability and health, in which research and evidence-based facts play a key part. Our membership of VA is part of this work. Only through communication and collaboration between researchers and society can we find solutions to the global challenges faced by society – not through alternative facts.

Björn Hellman, CEO of the Swedish Food Federation