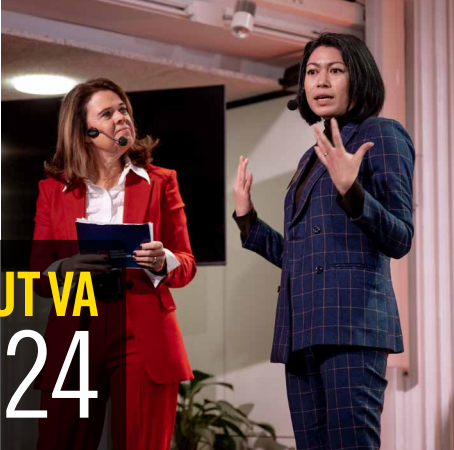




ABOUT VA 2024



Vetenskap & Allmänhet



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

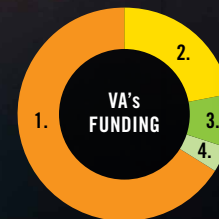
Science accessible to everyone!

OUR GOALS AND TARGET GROUPS

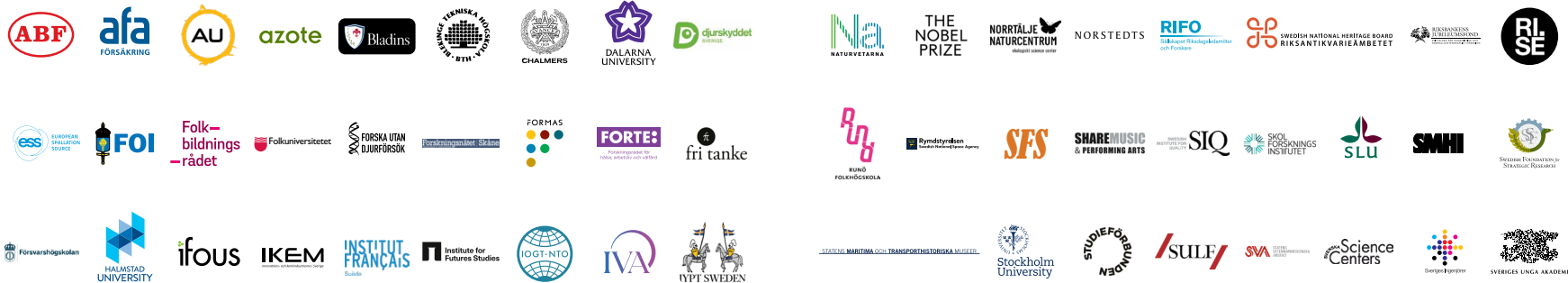
- **The public** to understand what science is and to have the opportunity to participate in research
- **Researchers** to have knowledge of attitudes to science and incentives to undertake dialogue and collaboration
- **Decision-makers** to make use of science and recognise the value of dialogue between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



VA (Public & Science) 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 – Sweden's most widespread science festival

VA is the national coordinator of **ForskarFredag**, which is run in around 30 towns and cities across Sweden as well as online as part of European Researchers' Night. During the 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 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. VA has been helping to develop two online portals – **eu-citizen.science** and **medborgarforskning.se**. Another citizen science project is **School walls**, in which pupils, teachers and researchers together are researching the linguistic landscape of schools across Sweden. In the EU **RE-MEND** project, strategies are being developed to protect vulnerable individuals from mental illness during sensitive life stages. VA is leading the development of a citizen science initiative involving older people.

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 everyone working in, or interested in science communication. We 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 with stakeholders to support and strengthen gender equality within European research. In **LOESS**, we are developing educational materials on soil health. In **CitizAir**, we are developing a visualisation tool for air pollution data together with Stockholm City, its residents and researchers at KTH.

JOIN OUR NETWORK!

VA is a non-profit association that provides an open arena for dialogue, communication and engagement in research. 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 activities
- **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

Sign up to receive our quarterly international newsletter : v-a.se/subscription/
LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, X & TikTok: [vetenskapoallm](https://www.facebook.com/vetenskapoallm)
Follow our YouTube channel: [vetenskapoallmanhet](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCv-a-se)
Read VA's latest news in English at v-a.se/news/



VA and Södertörn University share common goals and visions of engaging the public in research and supporting researchers to contribute to sustainable societal development through education, research and critical discussions on the most significant issues of our time.

Gustav Amberg, Vice-Chancellor, Södertörn University

CALENDAR 2024

- June **Almedalen Week in Visby**
- September European Researchers' Night,
ForskarFredag, throughout Sweden
- October **VA's annual conference**
- December **Researchers' Grand Prix** final
- December Annual **VA Barometer** published

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

” *VA's efforts to foster dialogue, engagement, and communication between researchers and society are highly valuable for Forte in our work to disseminate knowledge about our research. In this way, we are collectively helping to ensure that knowledge and research findings are beneficial to society.*

Jonas Björck, Director General of the research funding agency, Forte