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Can you tell us a little bit about your institution?

The Swedish Geotechnical Institute, SGI, is a Governmental Agency & Research Institute with around 90 employees and a turnover of approx. 9 million euros. Within the geotechnical and the environmental field, SGI covers Research and Development, Expert Advisory Services as well as Knowledge Dissemination. SGI supports the Swedish Government as an expert agency in EU collaboration and contributes actively within the international scientific community. SGI also supports national and international funders with research needs inventories and in reviewing research applications. At a national level, SGI coordinates research calls in cooperation with funders, and from 2017 SGI will also be a funder of research on contaminated land. SGI is commissioned an overall responsibility for R&I and Knowledge Exchange with respect to contaminated land by the Swedish Government. SGI also has a national responsibility for safety issues regarding landslides and coastal erosion.

Why are SGI interested in participating in INSPIRATION?

SGI relate in several ways to the essence of INSPIRATION. We believe that the analysis of research needs and funding possibilities should be carried out in cooperation and communication with stakeholders and that cross country and cross disciplinary research is needed to solve common challenges. SGI carries out need based research with relation to the built and the natural environment to increase knowledge and find solutions to challenges that we to a great extent share with other countries. Only carrying out and implementing our own research would result in little total impact, and together with other national and international research partners larger research projects can be carried out involving more competences and greater resources and infrastructure. As the nationally responsible authority for R&D within e.g. contaminated land we are not only interested in future possibilities for SGI-researchers but also in having other Swedish researchers joining in research projects towards solving identified research questions. For this to really be efficient we both need to agree, nationally and internationally, on the research questions and formulate a common research agenda and we also need to find efficient ways to promote and fund research targeted to the appointed research questions. It is therefore of interest to us and Swedish stakeholders to be able to influence Strategic Research Agendas, i.e. to include the Swedish stakeholders views, and to engage Swedish research funding organisations.



Why would INSPIRATION and EU benefit from SGIs involvement in INSPIRATION?

Apart from being an additional partner contributing on our own means, we believe that we could bring several benefits into the project. Since we have national responsibilities that go beyond our own research we have developed strategies to make research inventories and to disseminate research needs to funders as well as researchers and research groups. We have arranged national and international stake holder workshops and to a great extent carried out similar activities that INSPIRATION involve, and from which we can bring in experiences. We are also deeply engaged in knowledge dissemination and the implementation of research results, and e.g. we are at the moment carrying out at a project which focuses on analysing the efficiency of traditional and novel dissemination strategies, activities and tools and how to measure societal impact of research.

SGI covers a broad range of competences through in-house expertise and through national and international collaboration. We are a natural focal point within the environmental and geotechnical field with respect to the built and natural environment, as we have contacts with all relevant stakeholder groups, authorities, policy makers etc. and can bring in these into research project or provide research needs.

Can you give us examples of topics of importance to Sweden?

These are all issues that are stressed by stakeholders, policy makers and authorities as well as by the Swedish government:

- Sustainable remediation and innovative techniques and approaches in order to diminish dig and dump-solutions
- Strategies and tools to optimize and implement ecosystem services and green solutions in spatial planning (Swedish cities are involved in e.g. the project C/O City and BiodiverCity)
- Soil remediation in cold climate
- Impact of climate change and preventive measures
- Land and coastal erosion
- Landslides and stability issues
- Prevention of soil degradation
- Beneficial use of treated waste & materials (e.g. contaminated sediments, ashes or other material)
- Etc.