

InspireLab Info Session

Oct 3rd, 2025

Today's Agenda

1. Introduce InspireLab
 - Background and Purpose
 - Governance
 - Activities
2. Practical info about research funding
 - Amount of funding and requirements
 - Timeline of events
3. Evaluation criteria
 - Principles turning into criteria
 - Evaluations and prioritizations
 - Insights/clarifications since last call
4. Q&A



Point of Departure

The world is *not* gender equal, and gender inequality is costly.

Technology does *not* exist in a vacuum.

Technology can *both* reinforce gender inequalities, *and* help closing gender gaps and improve gender equality.

InspireLab's focus is to **support gender-inclusive technology that improves gender equality in society.**



KTH – a “solid home” for InspireLab

Excellence in
technology research

Excellence in
gender research

Excellence in
gender equality work

KTHs Vision

We take the lead for a sustainable society

KTH **shapes the future** through education, research, and innovation. Situated in one of the world’s most dynamic cities, we stand as a unifying force internationally to **tackle global challenges**. We **embrace diversity** and attract talent from across the globe. Together we bring ideas to life. Our academic freedom and principles of openness and transparency are fundamental to **democracy** and the advancement of **knowledge**. We are bold, creative, and responsible, driven by our **purpose to enable sustainable and gender-equal societies**.

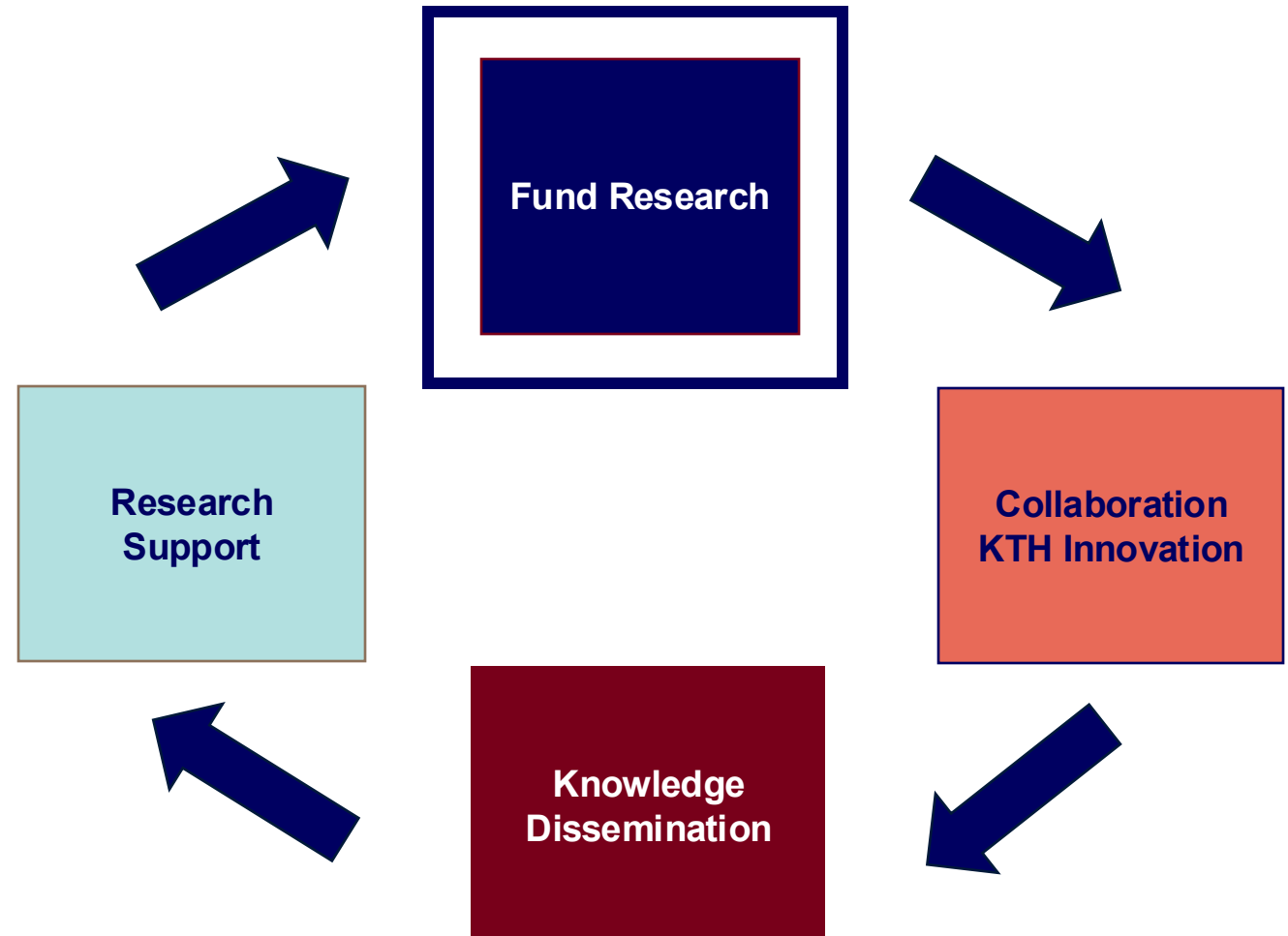
KTH Values

KTH’s core values are based on **democracy**, the **equal value** of human beings, **human rights** and **freedom** and free and open discussion. **Gender equality** is a natural part of KTH’s core values.

InspireLab activities

InspireLab is:

- A new research center at KTH hosted by Indek
- Made possible through a private donation and KTH support
- Aiming to improve gender equality by leveraging gender inclusive technology
- Focus on funding research project, spreading knowledge and insights to students, faculty and general public, and collaborating with KTH Innovation



Governance

Steering Group (decision making body)

- Annika Borgenstam
- Anna Wahl
- Sofia Ritzén
- Amelie Eriksson
- Cali Nuur
- Karin Forseke
- Anna Rosenquist
- Pia Höök (affiliated)
- Louise Dellström (affiliated)

Scientific Council (advisory body)

- Anna Wahl
- Annika Borgenstam
- Sofia Ritzén
- Ericka Johnsson, University of Linköping
- Pia Höök (affiliated)

Additional experts may be called in if needed

Activities in 2025

Research funding

- Research funding for smaller project (May 2025):
 1. Ultrasound Elastography of Female Pelvic Floor Muscles to prevent Birth Injuries
 2. Reimagining Consent: The Case of Deep-fake Porn
 3. The missing data: Reimagining AI Systems to Challenge Structural Silences

- Research funding for bigger projects (Dec 2025)
 - Max amount is 6,5 MSEK (for 4 years)
 - Application is open Oct 3-Nov 7, 2025
 - Scientific Council evaluates (in Nov 2025)
 - Steering Group formally decides (Dec 1, 2025)
 - Applicants will be informed mid Jan 2026

Other activities

- Internal launch and communication efforts
- Hosting research seminar with Prof Londa Schiebinger, Gendered Innovation at Stanford (Oct 27)
- InspireTalks (9 lunch lectures on gender, gender equality and technology, Oct-Nov)
- InspireReads (moving "book-fair" with literature on gender, gender equality and technology, Oct-Dec)
- Several KTH articles and LinkedIn articles

Principles

InspireLab supports/drives projects and initiatives that...

... focus on **improving the lived experiences of women** (in all their diversity) and/or addressing a specific gender equality problem.

... focus on **technology development**. We prioritize projects/initiatives with concrete **practical relevance** and welcome projects/initiatives with an **innovative component**.

... run by **KTH researchers**/research groups/persons. We encourage **collaborations** with other academic institutions as well as other sectors (business, civil society, etc.).

... have a **set up** (representation) and working methods/**culture** that contribute to a more **gender equal KTH**.

... maintain the highest possible **scientific quality**.

Principles turned into criteria

Criteria theme	Criteria 1	Criteria 2
1. Improving women's lived experience alt gender equality	Focus on women, in their diversity	There is a concrete gender equality problem that is being addressed
2. Technology research and technology development	<i>Must</i> include technology development, with concrete future practical implications	Innovative approach
3. KTH anchoring and collaboration	Applicant is a KTH-researcher and there is some cross-academic collaboration	There is collaboration also with other sectors and stakeholders
4. Rolemodels for gender equality, diversity, inclusion	Representation and work on represent-ation from a "power-perspective"	Inclusive culture and why of working, involvment in KTHs JML work
5. Scientific excellens	High scientific level and solid track-record in terms of technology research/ development ("novelty" component)	Solid approach from a gender research perspective (connected to 1 and 4)

AND, "bigger project" (max 6,5 MSEK) should ideally (if possible) include the financing a PhD candidate

Insights from first call

1. A solid foundation in a concrete gender equality issue is essential (mandatory requirement).
 - This is what truly signifies InspireLab projects.
2. The boundary between technological development and technological application is not always clear.
 - Established technologies used in new contexts or on new empirical material can qualify as technological development.
 - Frameworks for new technologies may also be considered technological development.
3. The gender perspective is important!
 - Projects cannot be entirely ignorant, even if expert-level knowledge is not required. This connects to first bullet.
4. How applicants themselves contribute to gender equality, diversity, and inclusion at KTH matters
 - This is not only for show. Perfection is not required but general awareness and continuous improvement.
5. InspireLab sees a value in supporting projects across different technological fields and schools.
 - Will influence our communication efforts *not* evaluation of projects.

You find more info about
InspireLab on [InspireLab | KTH](#)