



Career boost for female YKI researchers

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Josefina Lindqvist Hoffmann and Andra Dedinaite at YKI, Institute for Surface Chemistry, are two of 17 awarded promising female scientists. Thanks to the Vinnova program Vinnmer they get up to half of their salary paid to establish themselves in a leading research environment.

“There is a strong competition for these grants, so we are extremely pleased about the opportunities this gives,” says YKI President Peter Alberius. Today Dr. Andra Dedinaite has her main activities at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, but with this new grant her research will be carried out within Intermat, YKI’s competence platform for development of sustainable energy production. Dr. Josefina Lindqvist Hoffman will work at YKI’s Forest Products Section in close collaboration with SLU Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Uppsala. Josefina’s project concerns using starch for new applications and materials. The project is linked to another Vinnova-funded project with YKI participation ”Renewable functional barriers”.

Through Vinnmer close to 150 postdoctoral researchers during 2007-2014 get the opportunity for further postgraduate qualification based on strategic collaborations, after first having completed their Post Doc qualification. The total budget including co-funding is just over SEK 600 million, of which over SEK 300 million comes from Vinnova and more than SEK 50 million from the European Commission. Vinnova funds up to half of the researcher’s salary for three years. The researcher’s employer finances the rest of the salary. To date, 78 researchers have been financed through VINNMER.

The objective of Vinnmer is to help to increase the number of postgraduates who can become leaders of the future at universities, research centers, institutes and companies. Vinnmer applies positive action to achieve equality effects for an underrepresented gender in fields where the need is high at the level of professor or similar position. The Vinnmer Marie Curie Chair program facilitates strategic recruitments to Sweden. This is made possible by the budget increase of SEK 50 million from the European Commission. The next deadline for Vinnmer applications is 1 October 2010.

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YKI, Ytkemiska Institutet AB

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