

## Student Policy Proposal Competition

# Could your idea help shape a circular society?

Across Europe, momentum for the circular economy is growing. New policies and initiatives are being introduced – yet resource use remains at unsustainable levels. We need ideas that can help close the gap between ambition and real-world outcomes.

This competition invites students to contribute with one clear, actionable policy proposal that can accelerate the transition to a more resource-efficient and circular society at the societal level. Build on what already exists, identify what is missing, and propose the next step forward.

*Initiated by  
Ragnar Sellberg Foundation and Ragn-Sells  
in collaboration with Linköping University*

Win

**SEK 25,000**

Deadline

**14 August 2026**

Finalists will present at Future Days  
(Framtidsdagen) **02 October 2026**

Submit your proposal to  
[apply@ragnsells.com](mailto:apply@ragnsells.com)

# How to apply and what we're looking for

## Your assignment

Submit a well-founded policy proposal that presents one clear and actionable measure to support a more circular and sustainable society at the societal level. To keep proposals comparable while leaving room for creativity, use the guidance below to make your proposal clear, convincing and easy to assess. But remember – you don't need to treat this as a rigid checklist.

## What your proposal\* should cover

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✔ <b>The challenge</b>	What core problem or systemic issue are you addressing, and why does it matter for a more circular and sustainable society?
✔ <b>Who should act</b>	Who is in a position to implement your proposal? <i>(e.g. policymakers, public authorities, industry, universities, citizens or other stakeholders)</i>
✔ <b>Why it makes sense</b>	Explain your idea using logic and, where relevant, research, data, practical examples or policy contexts.
✔ <b>Who is affected</b>	Which groups, sectors or communities are likely to be impacted – and in what ways?
✔ <b>Upsides and downsides</b>	What benefits can your proposal create? Are there limitations, costs or potential drawbacks to consider?

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*\*A policy is a set of principles, rules, or actions adopted by authorities to guide decisions and address societal issues; in this case, the focus is on measures at the public or societal level rather than at the level of individual organizations.*

## Analysis and reflection

### System perspective

How does your proposal connect to the wider system?

Consider social, economic, environmental and regulatory conditions, as well as institutions, value chains, markets and existing policies.

### Expected effects

What outcomes can your proposal lead to – in the short and long term?

What societal, environmental or economic impacts can it have?

How does it contribute to circular economy and sustainability goals?

### Risks, trade-offs and opportunities

What uncertainties or unintended consequences could arise?

Are there trade-offs between different interests or sustainability dimensions?

What conditions would support successful implementation?

## How your proposal will be evaluated

- Originality and relevance
- Clarity and quality of reasoning
- How well the problem, proposal and analysis fit together
- Practical plausibility (feasibility, implementation logic and likely effectiveness)
- Use of evidence (data, references or well-argued assumptions)

## Format and submission

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**Length** Up to 6 pages (excluding appendices and references)

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**Structure** Clear headings and a logical flow

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**Language** English

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**References** Include relevant sources and cite them consistently

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## Timeline

**Deadline:** 14 August 2026

**Shortlisting:** Three finalists will be selected and notified on 28 August

**Final presentation:** Finalists will present at Future Days (Framtidsdagen), 2 October 2026

## Prize

SEK 25,000

Winner announced at Future Days (arranged by Ragnar Sellberg Foundation and Ragn-Sells)

**Submit your idea.  
Shape the circular future.**

