Question	Answer
Will costs for communication and dissemination activities be covered under all types of programmes? This has previously varied from programme to programme.	We can provide funding for publishing costs that are in accordance with Open Access and Plan S principles (Plan S has not yet been introduced in Norway at this time.)
In cases where identical grant applications have been submitted, will each application be treated separately, assessed by different referees, etc.?	Two identical grant applications will be processed as a single application in the referee panel review phase. This means that only one of them will be reviewed by a referee panel. The referee panel's assessment of this grant application will apply for both applications. When the panel review is completed, we will treat the two grant applications as separate applications again, i.e. one under each of the two calls to which it was submitted. This includes the assessment of relevance to the call (does not apply to applications submitted to the FRIPRO scheme), the recommendation from the Research Council administration to the portfolio board, and the final funding decision.
A specific individual may not be designated project manager in more than two grant applications. Does this apply for all applications submitted over a whole year?	This applies for grant applications submitted in response to the calls for Researcher Projects, Young Research Talents and FRIPRO Mobility Grants with the 10 April application deadline.
Now that a single application is to be assessed in relation to multiple programmes, why are "duplicate applications" allowed/encouraged?	The new technical system we are implementing, which will facilitate application submission/processing across multiple programmes/FRIPRO, will not be in place by the 10 April application deadline. As a consequence, applicants wishing to have their application assessed under two programmes must submit two identical grant applications, one in response to the respective call of each programme.
If a researcher submits two identical applications, will they be evaluated by the same panel, by the same people?	Yes.
Can I only be designated as project manager in two grant applications per year or in relation to each application deadline?	A single individual may be listed as project manager in maximum two applications under the calls for Researcher Projects, Young Research Talents and FRIPRO Mobility Grants with the 10 April application deadline.
Is there any limit to the number of Researcher Projects I can participate in?	You may be a participant in as many projects as you wish to/have capacity for.
Can you clarify about restrictions on the number of grant applications allowed per researcher? Who won't be eligible to apply for FRIPRO funding this year?	If you are the project manager for an ongoing FRIPRO-funded research project (Researcher Project, Young Research Talents project, FRIPRO Mobility Grant or FRIPRO Toppforsk project with FRIHUMSAM, FRIMEDBIO or FRINATEK funding) you

	may only be designated as the project manager in a new application for FRIPRO Researcher Project funding if the starting date of the new project is after the completion date specified in the original contract for the ongoing project. You are not permitted to seek funding for a new project if there will be overlap between the original project periods. For example, if the completion date specified in the original contract for your FRIPRO project is 30 October 2020, you may apply for funding now, with project start-up between 1 November and 1 December 2020.
If two identical grant applications have been submitted, is it possible in theory for funding to be allocated for both?	No.
How will different portfolio boards carry out the assessment of duplicate grant applications? Is this an administrative process or is there a checkbox in the application form?	In connection with calls for the 10 April 2019 application deadline, grant applications will only be assessed under two separate calls if the applicant has submitted two identical grant applications, one under each of the calls. (Starting in May 2019, there will be a new technical system in place and a different procedure will be used.) When you submit identical grant applications to two separate calls, they will be processed as a single application in the panel review phase, i.e. by one referee panel. After the panel review, the two grant applications will be assessed as separate applications under each of the two calls, and considered in relation to the purpose and priorities set out in the respective calls (assessment of relevance). The portfolio board responsible for the call to which you submitted your grant application takes the final decision regarding the approval or rejection of grant proposals. Projects are ranked for funding on the basis of the principles described in text of the relevant call.
The current administrative system makes it difficult to route an application in multiple directions. So we have to submit duplicate applications to bypass this limitation. But if this then counts as two grant applications, aren't you in reality operating with a ceiling of one grant application for each researcher? Isn't that very restrictive? Are there plans to continue this practice when the new system is in place in 2020?	This applies to grant applications for Researcher Projects in 2019. We will evaluate how this should be done in 2020.

A likely scenario for many applicants is that they would like to try for FRIPRO funding using the same or a slightly revised version of a grant application submitted to a call under a thematic programme. Is it necessary to submit two applications (also if the applications are identical) or will a grant application for a Researcher Project under a thematic programme automatically be assessed for FRIPRO funding as well?	Two applications must be submitted in such cases.
If identical applications are submitted under two funding instruments (for example, FRIPRO and another programme), does it mean that the project manager cannot be designated as project manager in another application, even though the identical applications are essentially a single application?	Yes, that's correct. Applicants may submit up to two identical or two different grant applications or a single one alone.
It was mentioned that a candidate, like myself, cannot have more than two projects in response to the call with the 10 April 2019 deadline. Does this mean that I cannot serve as project manager in more than two projects but that I may participate in more, or does it mean that I cannot be in more than two projects independent of the role that I will have in them?	You may participate in multiple projects.
Can you tell me a bit more about how the thematic areas for the panel groups are chosen?	The development of our new joint referee panel system is the result of a major internal effort, based on the 21 Research Council programmes which, in addition to FRIPRO, are now issuing calls for proposals for Researcher Projects, Young Research Talents and FRIPRO Mobility Grants with the April application deadline. Thematic groups have been defined to provide the best possible common solutions for the various research areas we are expecting grant applications from. We have considered a wide array of possible groupings. The result is neither purely grouped by subject/discipline nor purely by thematic scope, but represents a hybrid approach. The division into panel groups will be evaluated after this year's funding round.

About the assessment process for applications received for the April deadline: Is it true that it is a two-phase process? Phase 1: assessment by an international, external panel of scientific referees on the basis of the criteria Excellence, Impact and Implementation (largely as before) and Phase 2: assessment of relevance to the call conducted by the Research Council administration (and not by a national programme board as previously)?	Applications will be assessed by external referees on the basis of the three assessment criteria you mention, and the Research Council administration will assess the relevance of the application to the text of the call. These assessments will form the basis of our recommendation to the portfolio boards. For more information, please refer to the *Guide for applicants* provided with each call.
When will grants for Collaboration Projects be processed?	The final decision regarding allocations will be taken in the first half of December. We understand that this is a long time to wait and are investigating ways to reduce the time required.
How do you intend to approach interdisciplinarity?	The Research Council anticipates receiving many interdisciplinary grant applications and has designed the panel structure to accommodate this. Some of these applications may be difficult to place in the right panel. As a general rule, applications will be sent to the panels best aligned with the main focus of the research project. Regardless of panel, the same criteria will apply with regard to requirements for expertise among the international referees. In cases where the panel does not have sufficient expertise, assessments will be obtained from external experts and presented to the panel.
When asked to choose the most appropriate panel group for a project, is it possible for the applicant to select more than one (if the project's thematic focus lies somewhere in between the areas covered by two panel groups)?	Applicants choose their panel group and may only select one. If your project covers more than one of the groups provided, you should choose the one most closely aligned with the main focus of your research project.
Will separate marks be assigned for each of the three assessment criteria?	Yes.
Is any threshold value associated with the marks assigned to an application?	If is very rare for applications with a mark of four or less to be awarded funding. Applications with a mark under this level may be rejected collectively during the funding allocation meeting.

How are referees selected?	The Research Council has internal guidelines for recruiting referees to its panels. To find the right experts we use services such as ExpertLookup, ISI Web of Science and Google Scholar. In addition, we draw on experts that have participated in or been proposed for our panels previously as well as on formal suggestions from applicants. Our guidelines stipulate, among other things, how many of the panel members are required to have relevant expertise for a panel to be able to assess an individual application. In order to ensure they have the necessary expertise, panel members receive project summaries for all applications they are to assess and they are asked to indicate their expertise in relation to each application. If there is a lack of expertise in relation to a specific grant application, we will ask individual experts to provide an additional assessment as the basis for the panel's decision.
Great importance has been attached to international cooperation. Will we be able to transfer funding to these partners under any of the programmes?	Yes. This has been and will continue to be accepted practice.
How will user involvement be assessed if we submit an application for FRIPRO funding that is forwarded to a programme with requirements relating to user involvement, e.g. BEDREHELSE/BEHANDLING?	For proposals submitted to calls with the 10 April 2019 application deadline, an application will only be assessed under two separate calls if submitted by the applicant as two identical grant applications, one under each of the two calls. (Starting in May 2019, there will be a new technical system in place and a different procedure will be used.) If you submit identical grant applications under two calls, they will be processed as a single application in the panel review phase, i.e. by one referee panel. After the panel review, the two grant applications will be assessed as separate applications under each of the two calls, and considered in relation to the purpose and priorities set out in the respective calls (assessment of relevance). User involvement will be assessed by the referee panels as described in the assessment criteria, i.e., "Where relevant, appropriate use of stakeholder/user knowledge". For calls under health-related programmes, user involvement will be given extra weight as part of the assessment of relevance according to the priorities set out in the programmes' calls. For FRIPRO projects, user involvement will not be assigned special importance beyond the general assessment in the panels.

Why is the Research Council administration going to assess relevance when "Impact" is a separate criterion of the referees' assessment?	There is not a one-to-one correspondence between a project's impact (impacts and outcomes) as this is defined in the new assessment criteria and the purpose and priorities defined for a call. The panels are to assess a project's impact without giving consideration to the specific call an application has been submitted to, while a call for proposals may also have other types of priorities relating to, for example, research topic, user involvement or interdisciplinarity. However, the applicant's description and the panel's assessment of the project's impact will be important input for the administration's assessment of relevance.
"Relevant knowledge and experience of the project manager (as appropriate for the career stage)" is mentioned in connection with Researcher Projects. Is this to say that consideration will be given to where the researcher is in terms of his or her career (as with the ERC)/academic age, or will the primary focus remain on the CV/track record, and therefore making it difficult for young researchers to achieve a high ranking as a project manager in Researcher Projects?	The same assessment criteria apply for Researcher Projects, Young Research Talents and FRIPRO Mobility Grants. The statement you mention has been included to ensure that referees give due consideration to the fact that the application types target project managers at different career stages. But it is also meant to be applied in cases where younger researchers are competing for funding against more established researchers within a specific application type.
In relation to relevance, some calls include objectives and programme-specific information. But how are you going to assess how well an application "fits" a call? Will this be carried out by the panel? And, if so, how will it be weighted?	This assessment will be carried out by the Research Council administration.
Most Researcher Projects in the institute sector are "applied research", in the sense that they aim to meet societal challenges. Is it correct to say that in the future we should primarily use the Collaborative and Knowledge-building Project application type for this kind of project?	No, Researcher Projects may also encompass applied research. Nearly all Research Council programmes announce funding for Researcher Projects.
How will the administration look at a project with a mark of 6 that has greater relevance than a project assigned a mark of 7?	Funding decisions will be based on portfolio analyses, and a proposal with a mark of 6 could be awarded funding ahead of one assigned a mark of 7.

Does the new formulation, "Relevant knowledge and experience of the project manager (as appropriate for the career stage)", entail that we should encourage younger researchers (Post-docs, etc.) to apply for FRIPRO funding? Or will it still be difficult for younger researchers to compete against more established researchers in practice, i.e., should we only encourage younger researchers to apply for Young Research Talents projects as before?	The same assessment criteria apply for Researcher Projects, Young Research Talents and FRIPRO Mobility Grants. The statement you mention has been included to ensure that referees give due consideration to the fact that the application types target project managers at different career stages. But it is also meant to be applied in cases where younger researchers are competing for funding against more established researchers within a specific application type.
If Researcher Projects only allow research organisations as partners, what "role" may other, non-academic, participants in the project have, those who are taking part because they are field sites, dissemination actors, users, etc.?	They may take part as suppliers.
Will the weighting of the three assessment criteria be the same across all application types or will it vary?	There is no special weighting of any of the criteria.
Would you consider using a scale of marks employing numbers only, instead of and numbers and letters, to make it easier to understand the overall mark?	From now on only the scale from 1 to 7 will be used.
Are you considering project manager feedback following the panel assessment, as is the EU's practice?	No, our current approach to application processing does not include project manager feedback.
Is it possible for you to include individual referee assessments instead of an overall assessment in the letters of notification of funding outcomes?	We ask the referees to draw up an overall assessment for each application. In our view, this provides more unified feedback to the applicant, and there are many who have voiced their approval of this as an effective approach.
How are the three assessment criteria, Excellence, Impact and Implementation, weighted? Are any threshold values involved? And does it involve any criterion-specific marks or is an overall mark assigned?	The three assessment criteria are weighted equally. An overall mark is assigned.

Can a grant application be transferred from a specific programme to a different referee panel?	The specific call for proposals to which you submit your grant application (and thus the individual programme or FRIPRO) does not determine the panel group/referee panel that will assess it. The panel groups are merely a practical "tool" used in the application review process when we are placing project proposals into referee panels to assess their quality, independent of which call an application has been submitted to. We do not transfer applications for Researcher Projects/Young Research Talents between calls (that is, between separate programmes or between a programme and FRIPRO), but we may transfer applications between panel groups if we consider a certain group's expertise better suited to assess a particular application.
Will applications assessed in a two-stage process also follow the new application deadlines with an April deadline for submission of project outlines and a September deadline for submission of a full application (as with SFI, for example)?	Some calls for proposals will have a deadline for project outlines. This will not apply for calls with application deadlines of 10 April or 4 September.
The processing of grant applications takes a long time. Will the time required be significantly shorter beginning in 2020?	We will be reviewing our processes and hope to reduce the length of time needed to process grant applications.
Am I correct in my understanding that funding decisions for applications submitted by the 10 April deadline will not be taken until just before Christmas?	The final decision regarding allocations will be taken in the first half of December. We understand that this is a long time to wait and are investigating ways to reduce the time required.
How can you guarantee that the new panels possess the cutting-edge expertise needed?	We appoint panels to accommodate the thematic areas and subjects addressed by the applications submitted.
Is it the applicant who chooses the referee panel?	Applicants choose a panel group, and may only select one (from the Topics drop-down box in the application form). The Research Council may choose a different panel group than the one initially selected to deal with your application if we find it will provide the expertise best suited to assessing your application. Applicants will not be notified if their applications are transferred between panel groups.
I've experienced before that the panels assessing my application have nowhere close to the expertise needed to understand my proposal. What should I do?	We endeavour to find the best possible expertise for our panels so that applications receive a quality assessment. It is also possible for us to seek out additional recommendations from experts when necessary. See also the answer provided in row 31.

Is it the Research Council administration that decides whether an application is to be handled by multiple portfolio boards?	Yes, that is correct.
Is it the Research Council administration that ranks the applications otherwise assessed as equal in the recommendation from the referee panel?	The Research Council administration prepares the recommendation for the funding decision.
How should we be accommodating Plan S when we draw up dissemination plans? Is planning for publication in Open Access journals the only kind of publication "permitted" (i.e., not most of the leading journals of today)?	Plan S has not been adopted in Norway at the time, but there is a policy for Open Access principles. So there is no change here.
How is the Research Council going to implement DORA principles into its application assessments?	No specific guidelines relating to DORA principles are included in this year's calls for proposals. Our referees and panels are an important source of information concerning how to conduct a sound assessment of researcher quality. During this year's panel meetings we will discuss how the Research Council can, and should, alter its assessment practices to follow up the ambitions set out in the DORA roadmap more closely. Additionally, the Research Council will continue to cooperate with research groups and international research funders to develop effective guidelines for CVs and best practices for how to assess the quality of researchers' scientific results and contributions in grant applications.
Will the panels attach importance to plans for open access publication and/or open access to data when assessing grant applications?	The panels will assess grant applications as described in the assessment criteria. Open access is not one of the elements that panels will attach importance to in 2019. The Research Council is actively promoting open access to publication/data in a number of other contexts. For more information, see the Research Council's website on Open Science.
Are there any requirements set for the number of projects to be awarded funding under each call/programme?	All programmes, including FRIPRO, have specified the amount of funding to be announced.
Will you publish a template for project budgets?	The budget is an integral part of the application form. No specific budget template will be provided beyond this.

Is it true that all Researcher Projects can have a duration of up to six years and that a maximum of NOK 12 million in funding may be sought?	The time frame for project periods and maximum funding amount is stated in the text of a call for proposals.
In applications for Young Research Talents it is possible to subtract time from the experience requirements. Does that mean, for example, that time spent working in a clinical specialisation position may be deducted?	No, in such instances a time deduction will not be allowed. The guidelines for time deductions are described in the call for proposals under "Requirements related to the project manager". More detailed information is provided in the *Guide for applicants*, available in connection with the call.
Where do I find information about the members of the respective portfolio boards?	The members of the portfolio boards will be appointed in February. Information about the boards will be published on the Research Council website.
What is the relationship between panel group and portfolio board?	Our portfolio boards take the final decision on funding allocations. Panel groups are solely used as a practical tool in application processing, in order to group grant applications together in the referee panels that will be assessing their scientific quality.
Do all grant applications have to be written in English since the panels are comprised of international experts?	Language requirements are specified in each call for proposals. Grant applications for calls with the 10 April and 4 September application deadlines must be in English.
Are different templates required for the various programmes if the project is the same?	Researcher Projects and Collaboration Projects each have their own separate, designated templates.
Can a Researcher Project include companies as partners that do not receive financial support?	The business sector can not take part as a partner in a Researcher Project, but may participate as a supplier of R&D services.
Do Collaboration Projects require applicant institutions to provide own financing?	Not specifically, but some form of in-kind resources will often be involved since we use lump-sum rates to cover payroll expenses.
The template is only 10 pages but there are a lot of subsections which need to be addressed. In the EU there are at least 30 pages for this type of template. Can the Research Council reflect on the use of 10 pages only in the template? Will this limit detailed research description that might be expected by the evaluators?	Project descriptions are not to exceed 10 pages. This also applies in connection with the calls with the application deadlines of 10 April and 4 September.

Does the application type "Support for Events" still exist?	Funding for activities of this type will be announced under the application type "Coordination and Support Activities".
What are the financing requirements relating to the sub-categories for Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects? 20% cash financing from companies for both?	In 2019 please check the information published in the calls for financing requirements. Funding requirements relating to Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects in 2020 are currently being drafted.
Regarding the sub-category for Collaborative Project under Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects: Not all programmes will announce funding for this type of project but there is some mention of more cross-cutting projects. Could ENERGIX, for example, be involved even if the application is submitted under KLIMAFORSK for instance?	Grant applications are to be directed to one of our thematic-oriented programmes. The application will be assessed for relevance relative to the call for proposals and, consequently, must target the relevant call.
Do Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects have no requirements relating to own financing (in-kind activities or cash financing) from user partners or the applicant research organisation?	There are no special requirements relating to in-kind activities or cash financing for the call for collaborative projects for the 10 April application deadline. Requirements set out in the specific call will apply.
What comprises a "company" in the context of the state aid?	A company is an undertaking that carries out economic activity, and we have to calculate support in keeping with the state aid rules.
Will international companies be allowed to participate in the sub-category Knowledge-building Projects by providing a cash contribution in the same way as Norwegian companies? Are there any rules or guidelines pertaining to this?	This is not currently permitted under Knowledge-building Projects for Industry. The Research Council will be reviewing this when finalising the new application type Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects for 2020.
Are applications supposed to include a risk analysis, as is the case with EU applications?	There are no such requirements for grant applications to the Research Council.
Are municipalities eligible to receive funding for Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects?	Yes they are. If they are acting as an undertaking as defined in the state aid rules, then support will be calculated in accordance with these rules.
Do Researcher Projects for with the 10 April deadline incorporate fewer requirements relating to the involvement of trade and industry?	Actors in trade and industry are not allowed to participate as partners in a Researcher Project.
Is there a limit to how may projects a project leader can apply for in KSP-S (with or without respect to FP applications)	No. There is no limit for Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects.

Can you explain in more detail or provide examples of the criteria employed by the Research Council administration?	The Research Council evaluates applications for their relevance vis-à-vis the text of the call for proposals. More information about relevance as a criterion will be published on our website when available.
Can the municipalities contribute cash financing for Knowledge-building Projects, like, for instance under the ENERGIX programme in 2018?	Yes, they may.
Will the names of participants in referee panels be made public?	A list of referees is published after application processing has concluded.
Is it possible for Researcher Projects to include companies as partners as long as they do not receive funding from the Research Council (i.e. in-kind contributions)?	No, companies may not serve as project partners. They may participate as R&D suppliers to the extent this will be relevant.
How important is it now compared with previously that an application for Researcher Project funding submitted to one of the programmes is specifically adapted to the call? Is it possible to submit a "wider-ranging" proposal than the text of the call sets out since it will be assessed across different programmes, for example, including aspects relevant to MILJØFORSK in an application submitted under MARINFORSK?	The new technical system that will facilitate application submission/assessment across multiple programmes/FRIPRO will not be in place by the 10 April 2019 application deadline. Thus, applicants wishing to have their grant application assessed under two programmes must submit two identical grant applications, one in response to each programme's respective call. The two identical grant applications will be processed as a single application in the referee panel review phase, but will be treated individually for assessment of relevance to the call, in the recommendation from the Research Council administration to the portfolio board, and in the board's final funding decision. If two separate boards decide to award funding to the same project the Research Council will decide which programme will allocate funding for it.
If the Research Council determines that an application belongs under a different panel than the one chosen by the applicant, will the Council be able to transfer the application accordingly?	Applicants choose a specific panel group (from the Topics drop-down box in the application form). The Research Council may choose a different panel group than the one initially selected to deal with your application if we find it will provide the expertise best suited to assessing your application. Applicants will not be notified if their applications are transferred between panel groups.
Is "relevance" no longer an assessment criterion?	Relevance is still a criterion and is assessed by the Research Council administration. For Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects, relevance will be included as a separate criterion to be assessed by the Research Council administration.
Can applicants still propose specific external experts to serve as referees?	Applicants may themselves propose experts to serve as referees in a separate attachment to the application. Such recommendations are highly encouraged.

Will there be a common application form for all application types as before? Applicants are sometimes confused by the lack of correspondence between objectives and the like set out in the programme description (attachments) and the application form itself. This may be especially the case with IPN.	Parts of the application form are basically the same, but there will be differences in terms of what is requested of the applicant. This pertains to budget information in particular. The templates for project descriptions will be specific to each application type.
How are in-kind resources from societal stakeholders formalised in collaborative projects? Does it entail, for example, that in-kind contributions from industry are measured in hours? And what about INTPART and INFRASTRUKTUR? Will they be continued and, if so, will INTPART accept proposals for Researcher Projects?	Collaborative projects have requirements relating to own financing which will be specified in the relevant calls for proposals.
Can industry at all be involved as partners in a Researcher Project (provided that they do not receive support and may not be granted "ownership" of research results/IPR)?	No. Actors in industry are not allowed to participate as partners in a Researcher Project.
Does the application form for collaborative projects have new templates (for example, in relation to those previously used under MATFONDAVTALEN)?	There are new project description templates that must be used in 2019.
Can doctoral fellowships be incorporated into Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects? How will this be assessed?	Yes, absolutely, and education is a priority under most programmes. This will be indicated in the call for proposals when applicable.