

FRIPRO - information on the transition to open-ended calls

Changes to FRIPRO in 2023

Webinar September 13 2023

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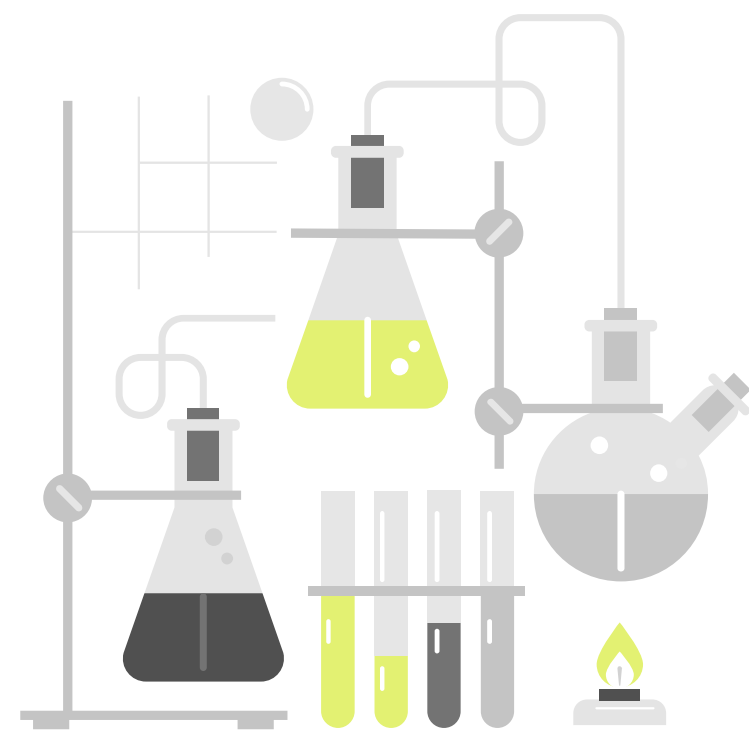


Agenda

1. What is FRIPRO?
2. Success rate in FRIPRO – what is the problem?
3. Which changes are implemented?
4. How did we decide on these changes?
5. Why are we making the changes?
6. How are we implementing them?
7. How will this impact you as applicants?



Open and national arena



Basic and applied research

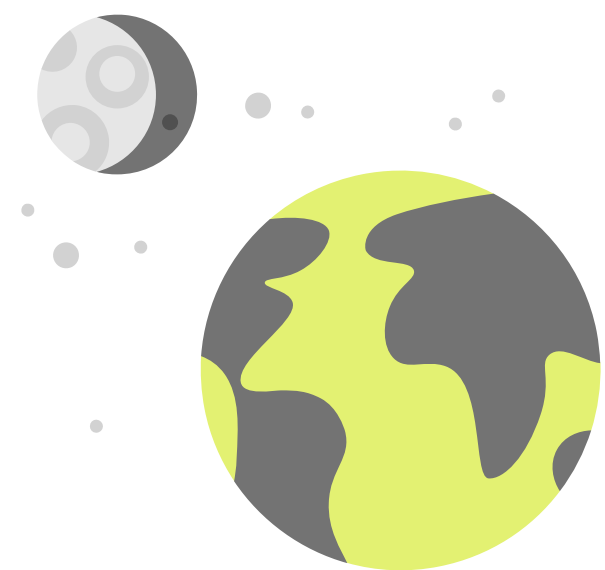


The best ideas



Must be bold – moving the research forefront

What is FRIPRO?



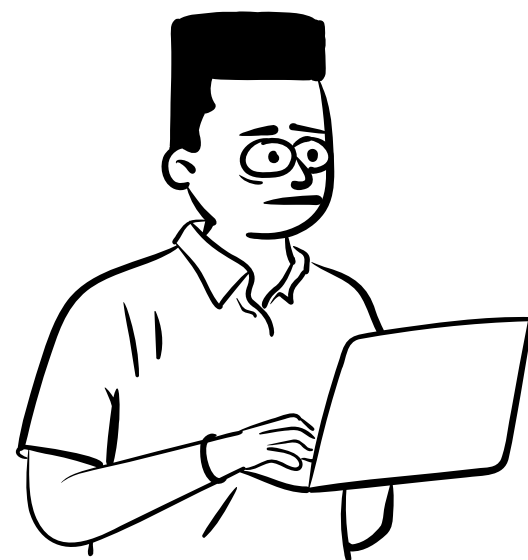
Medium to large projects



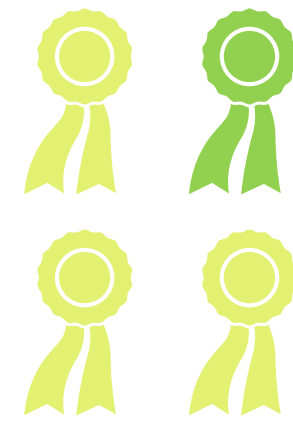
For both experienced and early career scientists

Success rate in FRIPRO – problematic?


Before the changes are implemented:



5-7% funded



25% funding of top-rated proposals

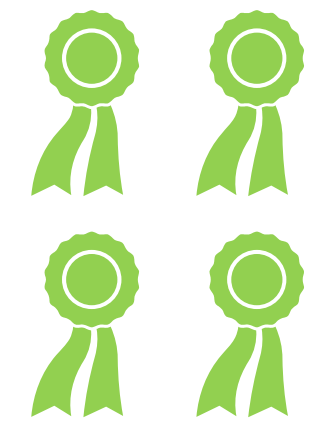


1400 -1600 proposals each year


Goals for changes in 2023:



About 25 % funded



Reduce # of proposals with no real chance of funding



400 – 600 proposals each year

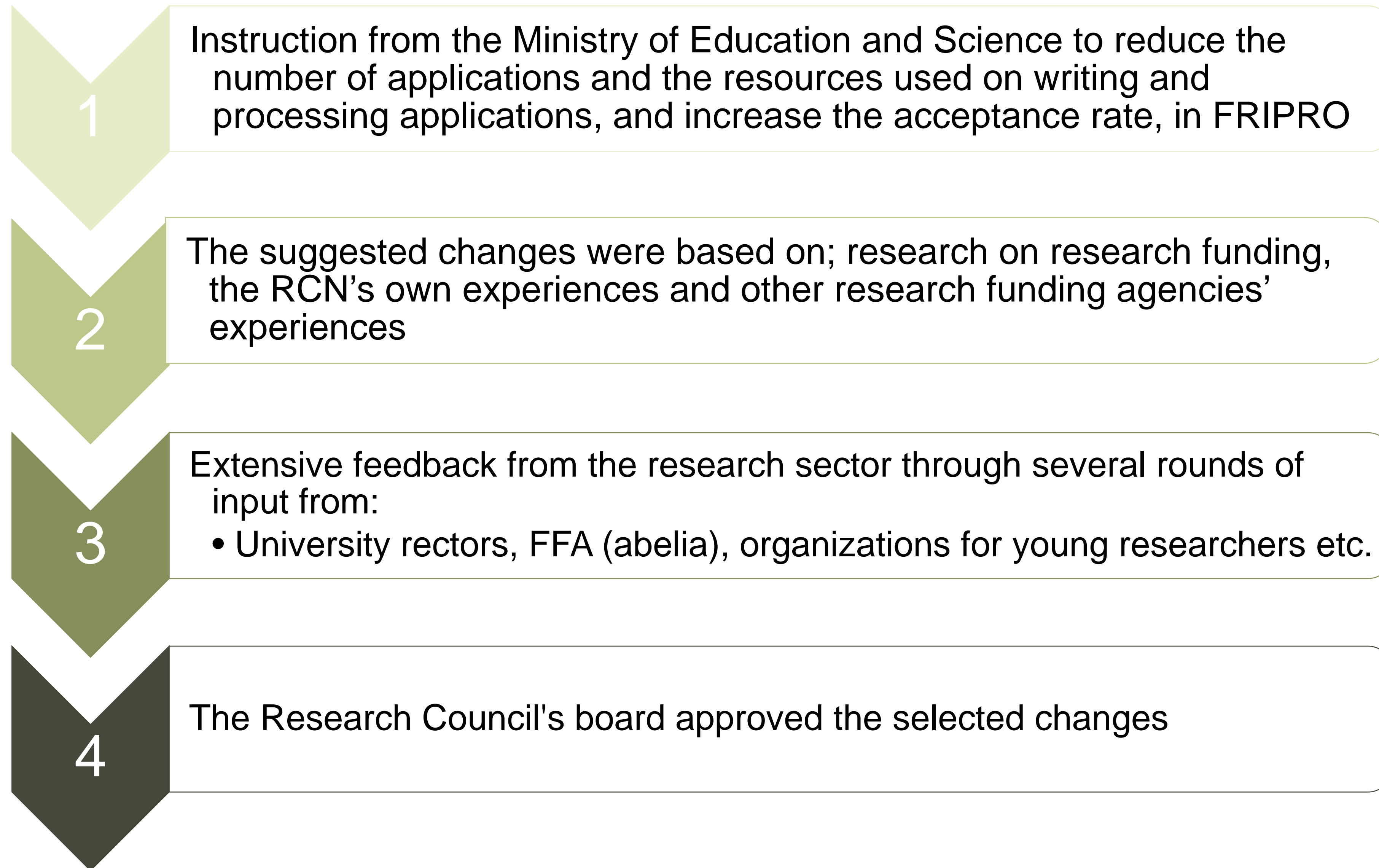
Changes implemented for FRIPRO in 2023

1. More clearly defined career path
 - i. A few changes in requirements for applicant/PI
 - ii. Changing of names
 - iii. Increase in maximum project duration for last step of path
2. Open-ended calls and continuous application processing
 - i. Waiting period
 - ii. Peer reviewer pools
 - iii. Maximum one FRIPRO project at a time
3. Submission restriction for PIs
 - i. For applications with a mark average below certain limits





The process behind the changes



Why are we implementing these changes?

- Possibility to completely finish a proposal before submission
- Reduce workload
- Reduce total time spent writing proposals
- Reduce number of applications -> increase rate of funding



Schedule for introduction of open-ended calls

July 2023

Publish preliminary calls

September

Update calls with details on requirements and application processing

18 October

Open for application submission

Open-ended

Application processing happens continuously throughout the year

June 2024

First funding decision – then approximately every other month



More clearly defined career path





More clearly defined career path for FRIPRO



FRIPRO career path

1. Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility

- Experience requirements: 0-7 yrs after the defense, *must have submitted thesis before applying*
- Project duration: two years abroad + one year in Norway
- *Funding scale: 4,4 – 4,8 mill. NOK*

FRIPRO career path

2. Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists

- *New name*
- Experience requirements : 2-7 years after the defense
- *Age requirement removed*
- Project duration: 3-4 years
- Funding scale: 4-8 mill. NOK

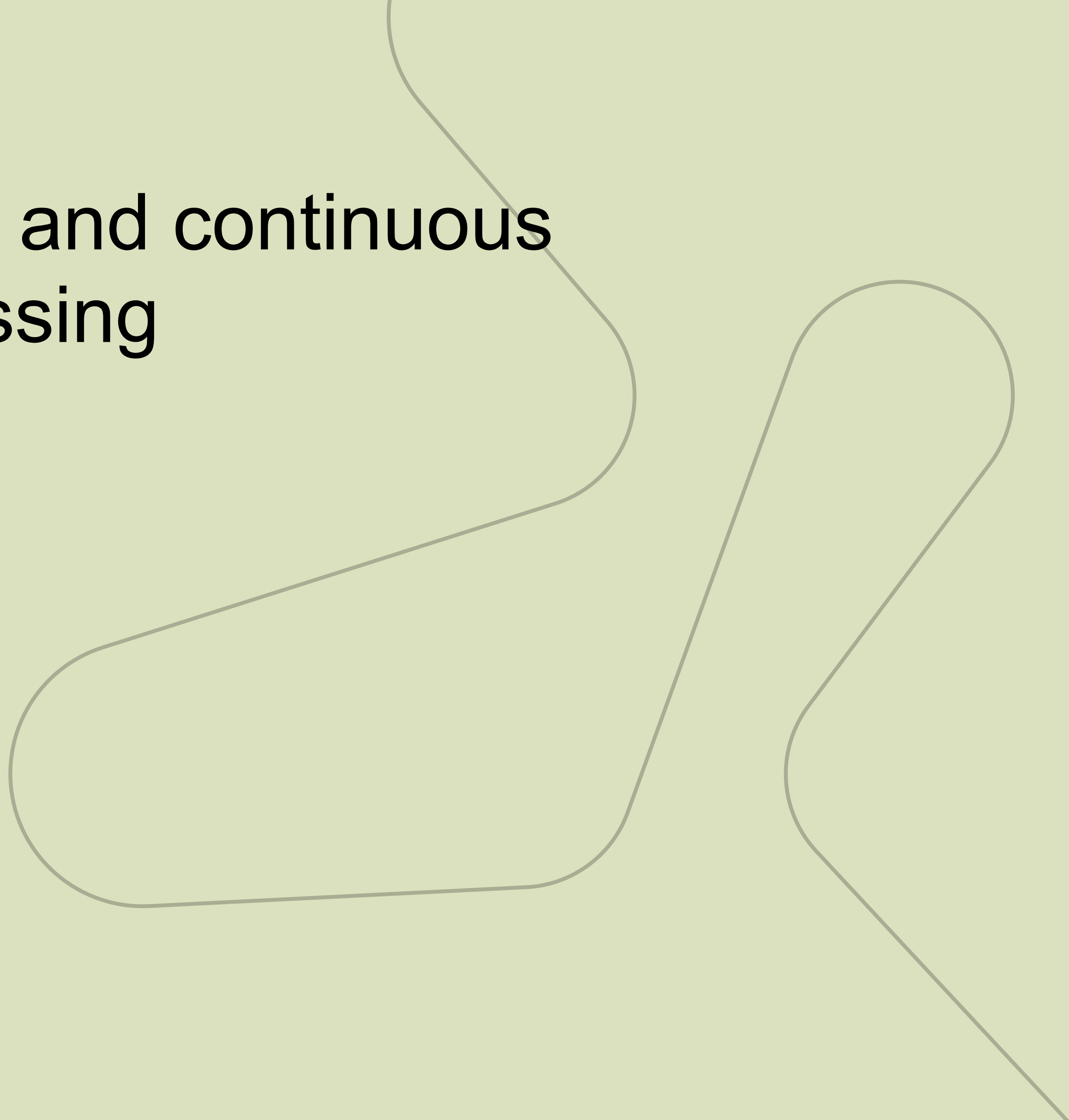
FRIPRO career path

3. Researcher Project for Experienced Scientists

- *New name in FRIPRO*
- *6 years experience after defense required*
- *Project duration: 3-8 year* (before: 3-6 years)
- Funding scale: 4-12 mill. NOK



Open-ended calls and continuous application processing





What does open-ended calls and continuous application processing mean?

1. We open for submissions on October 18th, and from this point onwards you can submit at any time (with some limitations).
2. We are changing our internal application processing procedures – from one yearly application processing period, to continually accepting, checking and processing applications.
3. Funding: Available funds will be allocated evenly throughout the year – and continuously across calendar years.
4. We will use mechanisms to ensure that the quality of funded proposals is as even as possible throughout the year.



Open-ended application processing

- You can submit your proposal when you are ready - no deadlines, you decide when the proposal is as good as it can be.
 - Apply 8-18 months before planned start of project
 - Reduced pressure to apply
 - Increased quality of submitted proposals
 - Applicant institutions can allocate internal resources throughout the year



Continuous application processing:

We are introducing a few restrictions on submission:

1. Project **manager** for only 1 FRIPRO-project at a time
 - Project **participant** at any time
 - Can reapply before ongoing project is finished – but start of new project has to be after end date of originally approved project.
 - Can be project **manager** for other calls from the Research Council



Continuous application processing:

We are introducing a few restrictions on submission:

2. You can not submit an application when in waiting period
You must always wait 1 year from submission until you can submit a new application.
3. You can not submit if you are in submission restriction
You will be put under submission restriction if your proposal receives marks below a certain threshold.

(more on this later.)



Continuous application processing:

- A technical change for application submission :
 - i. As there is no application deadline, we will process submitted applications continuously. **This means that you can no longer revise a submitted application and submit an updated version.** What you originally submit is what we will process.
 - ii. You will have one month to withdraw an application if you discover errors or omissions (or if you have other reasons to withdraw it) – if you wait longer, you will have a 1-year waiting period before you can submit a new proposal.

Introduction of peer reviewer pools:

- We recruit peer reviewers for FRIPRO application review, both before and after we open for applications submission
- Reviewers commit to the pool for several years
- Reduces application processing time





What does reviewer pools mean for the evaluation of your proposal?

- We are **not** changing the evaluation criteria the peer reviewers use
 - i. Still 4 different assessment criteria (each marked on a scale of 1-7):
 - Excellence – potential for advancing state-of-the-art
 - Excellence – quality of R&D activities
 - Impact
 - Implementation
 - ii. The two Excellence grades are still the most important
 - iii. We do not base our decisions on mark averages (except for the submission restriction period)

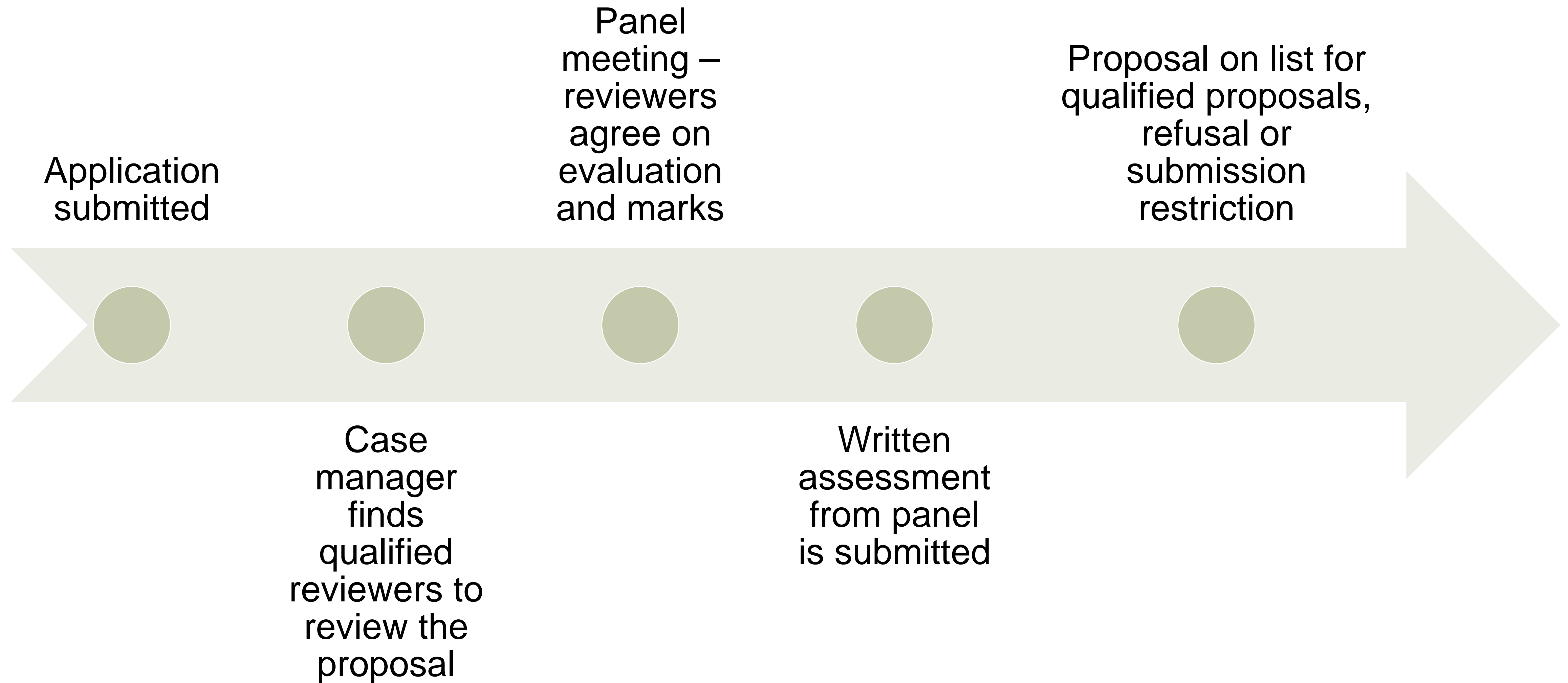


What does reviewer pools mean for the evaluation of your proposal?

- We are changing how we recruit the reviewers
 - i. We have reviewers committed to do the work even before the proposals are submitted
 - ii. We can be more flexible in how we put together a panel of reviewers
 - The minimum requirement for the panel's expertise remains the same
 - iii. More connections and increased dynamics in the connection between the reviewers we use



New internal application processing procedures – the road through the Research Council

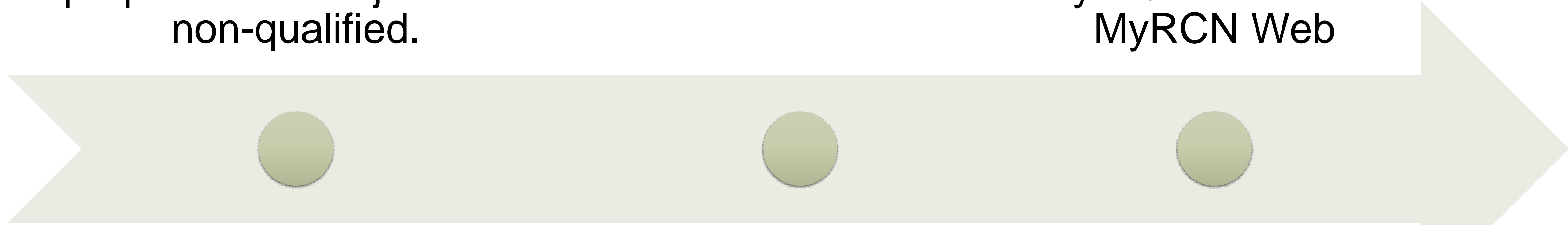




New internal application processing procedures – the road through the Research Council

Portfolio board grants funding to the top qualified proposals and rejects the non-qualified.

Information on results sendt out by RCN– letter on MyRCN Web



If qualified, but not granted: proposal on waiting list for next decision (aprox. 2 moths)



What does this mean for the processing time of your application?

- There are no cut-offs
- The processing time will vary depending on other submitted proposals, availability of reviewers etc.
 - i. Average of 7-8 months in the beginning, then somewhat shorter
 - ii. Two proposals submitted on the same day might not get an answer on the same day



What does this mean for your chances of funding?

- **Allocation of funding** approximately every two months with a corresponding share of the yearly budget
- Available funding is **allocated evenly throughout the year** and continuously across calendar years
- Proposals that are almost funded will be placed on a **waiting list**
- **Probability of funding** for excellent proposals is independent of time of submission



Summary of open-ended calls and continuous application processing

- You submit when you are ready – not when a deadline forces you to submit
- We will process applications continuously throughout the year
- Applications submitted on the same day will likely not get an answer at the same time
- Average application processing time will be 7-8 months in the beginning
- Waiting list to equalize potential differences in quality and number of applications submitted throughout the year
- Available funding is allocated evenly throughout the year and continuously across calendar years



Introduction of submission restriction periods





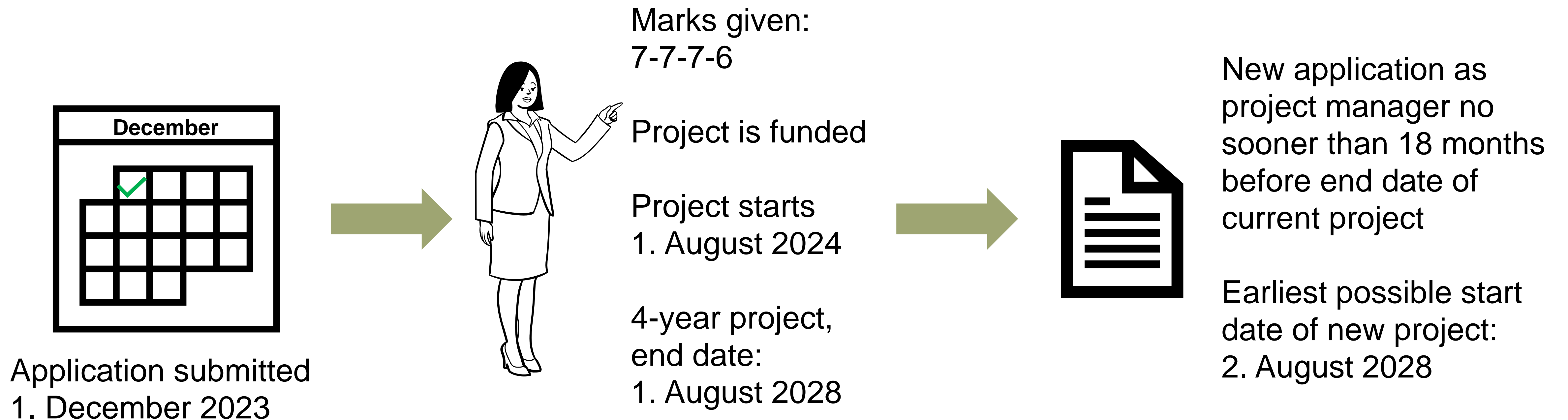
Submission restriction periods in FRIPRO based on average marks

Application type	No submission restriction	1 year submission restriction	2-year submission restriction
Experienced researchers	5,75-7	3,25-5,5	1-3
Early career	4,75-7	1-4,5	None
International mobility	All	None	None

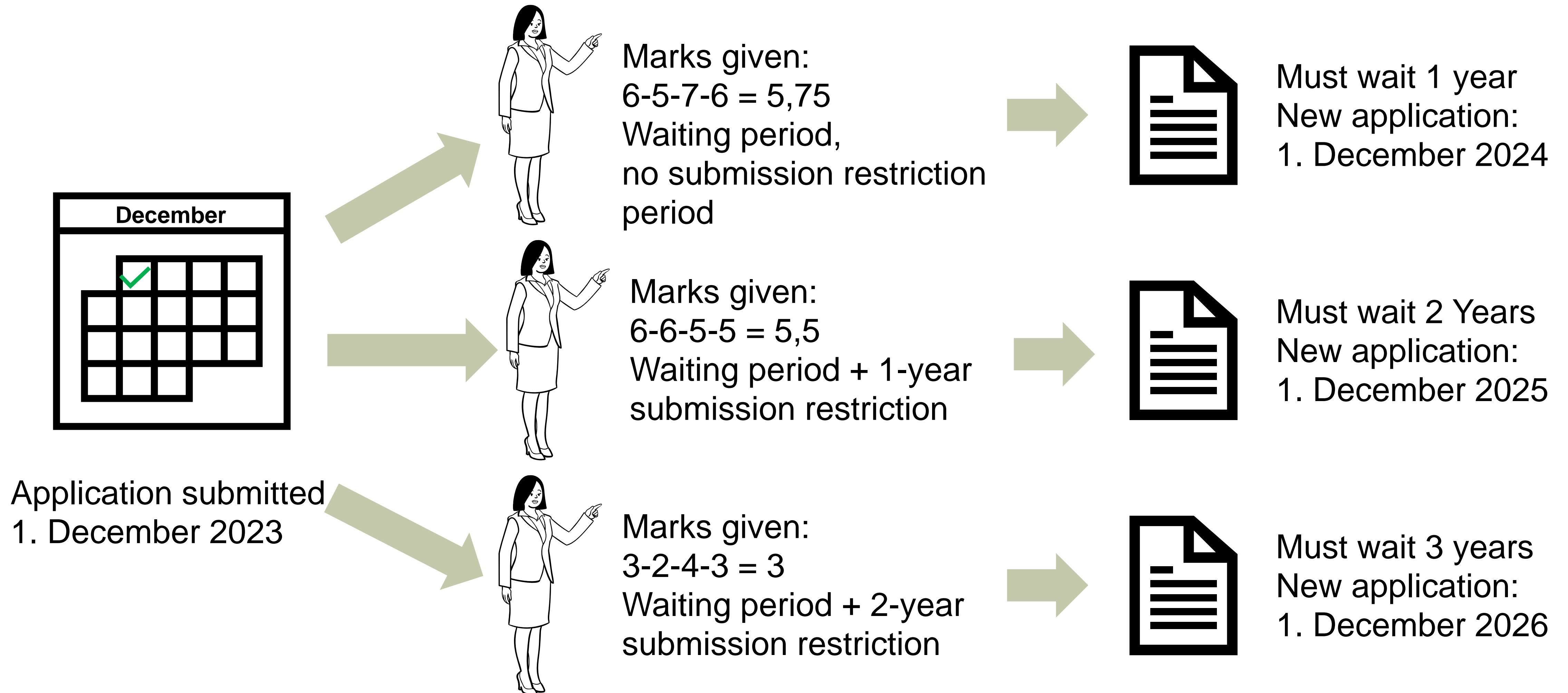


Examples of combined waiting periods, submission restriction periods and limitation of only one ongoing FRIPRO-project

Alternatives for Experienced Researchers

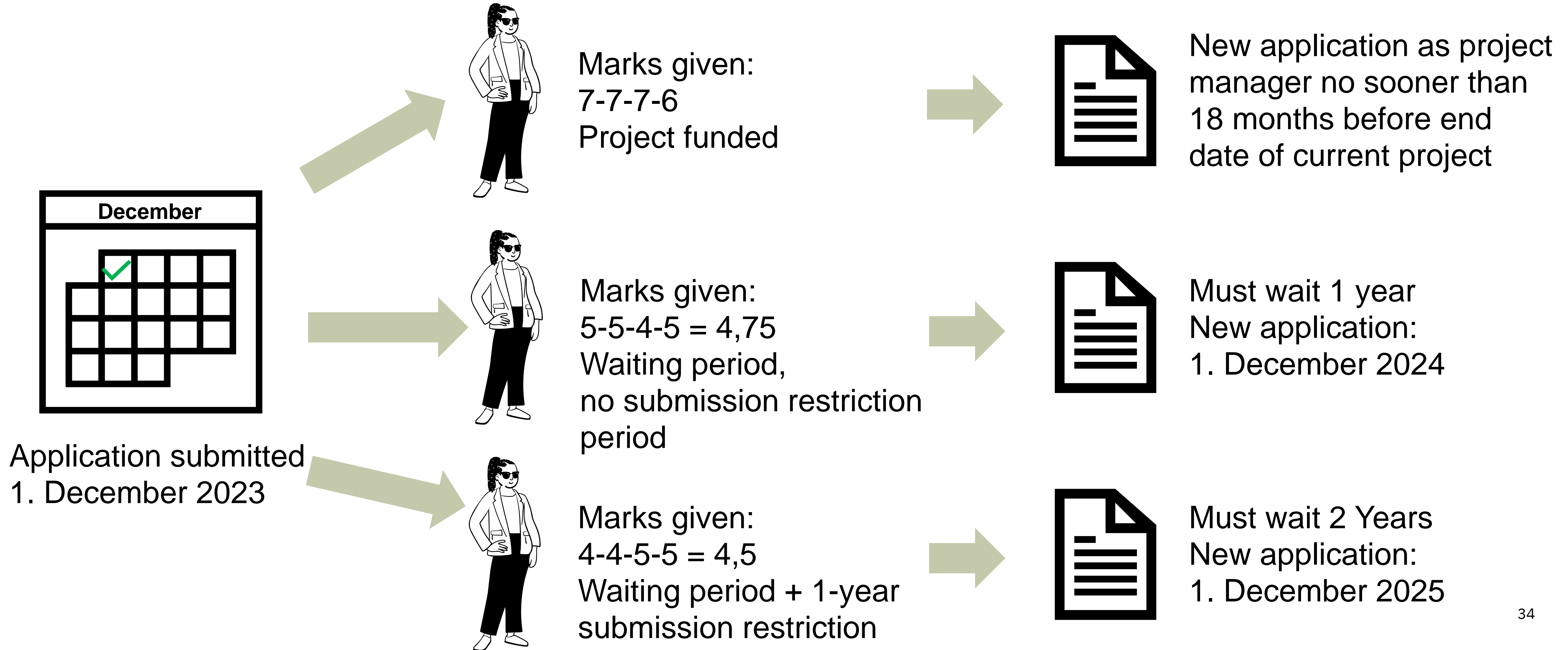


Alternatives for Experienced Researchers



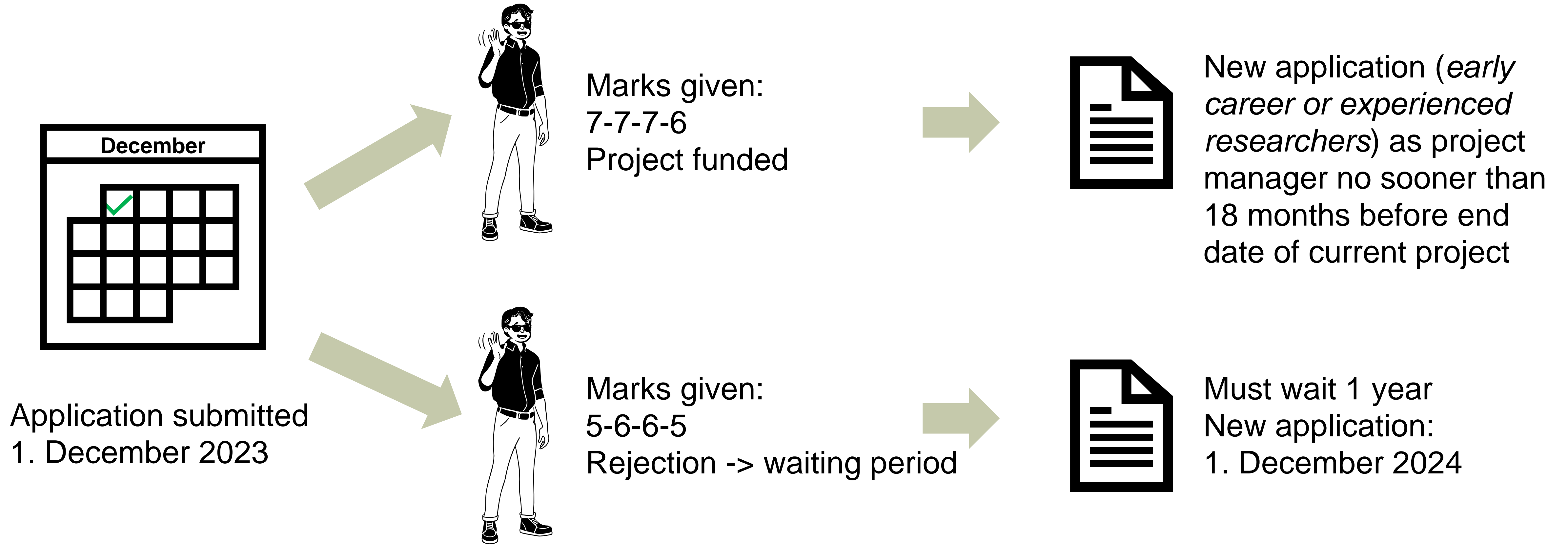


Alternatives for Early Career





Alternatives for International Mobility





A few tips for writing an application



Unsure about when to apply and what to apply for?

- We open calls for Researcher Projects for Experienced Scientists, Researcher Projects for Early Career scientists and Three-year Researcher project with International Mobility at the same time. **Check the requirements for the project manager and the purpose of each call before you choose.**
- You can only submit one application – choose one call
- Waiting time and submission restriction period is valid across FRIPROs calls!

Usually, it is best to choose the lowest available step on the career path.

Unsure about when to apply and what to apply for?

- We estimate 6,5 as the lowest average mark for funded proposals. Is your application that good?
 - i. If not, consider if you should continue working on the proposal to improve it. You can submit at any time – no deadlines!
 - ii. Get people to read your proposal and give you honest feedback. Preferably researchers with a proven track record in FRIPRO or similar calls.

What do you need to remember if you apply?

- Read the entire call text carefully – before you start writing the application *and* just before you submit.
- Be sure that you fulfill the requirements for the project manager for the call you are applying for.



What do you need to remember if you apply?

- Only approved Norwegian research organisations and equivalent research organisations in other countries are eligible to be partners and to receive Researcher Project funding. *Not* companies or private individuals.
- You *can* buy services from companies, but they must be included as subcontractors. Subcontractors cannot participate in the project and may not be granted rights to project results.



What do you need to remember if you apply?

- Remember all the required attachments.
 - i. Project description
 - ii. CV for project leader
 - iii. If applicable: any documentation of leaves of absence in according to the rules for subtracting time.



Typical weaknesses in FRIPRO-proposals

- Badly defined/non-existent **hypothesis** and/or how it will be tested. How will this project push the state of the art? What is it that will be groundbreaking if successful?
- Weak or missing **risk assessment**. What are the possible pitfalls and how are you planning on handling them? How does the risk of one work package influence the risk of the others?
- **Who will do what and when?** How are the work packages connected? What will each project participant contribute to the project? How much time will each project participant dedicate to the project?

Typical weaknesses in FRIPRO-proposals

- Lacking description of **the methods** you intend to use. The reviewers cannot just assume that you are in control – you must be explicit.
- If applicable: Why are you generating/acquiring/using **data sets** and how are you planning on analyzing them?

Unsure of details when writing your proposal?

- Read the calls carefully – most of the questions we get can be answered by reading the call.

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Idékraft verden trenger