

Researcher Project for Young Talents

Published 30 Jun 2020 | Last updated 07 Apr 2021

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● COMPLETED

Application type: Researcher Project

Application deadline: 10 February 2021, 13:00 CET

Relevant thematic areas for this call:

Ground-breaking research, Oceans, Natural sciences and technologies, Education and competence, Welfare, culture and society

Target groups: Research organisations

Funding scale: NOK 4 000 000-8 000 000

Amount of funding presumed available for this call for proposals:

NOK 468 000 000

Project duration: 36-48 months

Contact for the call: ResearcherProject |

ResearcherProject@rcn.no

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Purpose

Funding is intended to give talented young researchers under the age of 40 in all disciplines and thematic areas the opportunity to pursue their ideas and lead a research project. This call is targeted towards researchers in the early stages of their careers, 2–7 years after defence of an approved doctorate, who have demonstrated the potential to conduct research of high scientific quality.

Important dates

16 Dec 2020: Date call is made active

10 Feb 2021: Application submission deadline

01 Jul 2021: Earliest permitted project start

01 Dec 2021: Latest permitted project start

30 Nov 2025: Latest permitted project completion

[Call for proposals](#)

Shortcuts

About the proposal

[Who is eligible to apply?](#)

[Who can participate in the project?](#)

What can you seek funding for?

Archiving of research data

Requirements relating to medical and health-related studies involving human participants

Relevant thematic areas

Ground-breaking research

Oceans

Natural sciences and technologies

Education and competence

Welfare, culture and society

Practical information

Requirements for this application type

Assessment criteria

Administrative procedures

About the call for proposals

Grant applications will be accepted for projects in all disciplines and research areas, and funding is available for both basic and applied research projects.

The call encompasses many topics. You will find a specified amount and priorities for the selection of projects to receive funding under each topic.

Please select the topic for which your application may be relevant in the application form. The form will be available from 16 December. You may choose a maximum of three topics, and you have to describe how and why the proposed project is relevant for the priorities under each chosen topic. (*Ground-breaking research* is exempt from this requirement). Your grant application will be assessed on the basis of the topic(s) you select. You must select the topic *Ground-breaking research* in order to have your project assessed for funding from FRIPRO.

You can only be the project manager for one application submitted for either a *Researcher Project for Young Talents* (this call), *Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal*, *Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility*, *Knowledge-building Project for Industry* or *Collaborative Project to meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges*, all with a deadline of either 10 or 17 February 2021.

[Webinar for applicants - see recording and download the presentation from the webinar here](#), the webinar is in Norwegian, but the presentation is also available in English.

The Norwegian-language call for proposals is the legally binding version.

Who is eligible to apply?

Approved Norwegian research organisations may apply. [See here for the list of approved Norwegian research organisations](#).

Who can participate in the project?

Requirements relating to the Project Owner

The research organisation listed as the Project Owner in the grant application must have approved the submission of the grant application to the Research Council.

Requirements relating to the project manager

Experience requirement: You must have an approved doctorate and the period between the date of defence of your doctoral dissertation and the application deadline may be between two and seven years. You must have defended your dissertation no earlier than 10 February 2014 and no later than 10 February 2019.

Age requirement: You must be younger than 40 years old on the date of the application submission deadline, i.e. born on or after 11 February 1981.

If more than seven years have passed since you defended your dissertation or if you were born before 10 February 1981, you may apply to subtract leaves of absence, compulsory military or civilian service or sick leave in accordance with our rules for subtracting time.

Rules for subtracting time

You may apply to subtract time used in connection with statutory leaves of absence, compulsory military or civilian service (up to 12 months for each of these) or continuous full-time and/or part-time sick leave equal to at least eight weeks full-time absence.

If you apply to subtract time in order to satisfy the experience requirement, the periods to be subtracted must have taken place after the doctoral defence.

If you apply to subtract time to satisfy the age requirement, the periods to be subtracted must have taken place after you turned 18 years old.

To be allowed to subtract time from the age and/or experience requirement, you are required to submit documentation of the time you are asking to subtract with your grant application. You must also enter the time deduction in the application form. We accept documentation from the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV), physicians/health services and employers. Documentation from current or former supervisors is not sufficient. If you are providing documentation from an employer, it must come from the employer's administration department, such as the HR department. The documentation must be submitted in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English, or must be accompanied by a certified translation into one of these languages.

We follow the rules for leaves of absence set out in the Norwegian Working Environment Act, and you may apply to subtract time for any leaves of absence you would have been entitled to if you had lived in Norway at the time. For example, you may subtract time for parental leave in a country that does not have statutory parental leave, provided that you actually took parental leave. You must be able to document the leave as described above.

- It is not possible to receive funding for a *Researcher Project for Young Talents* more than once.
- You must dedicate at least 25 per cent of a full-time position to the project for the duration of the project period.
- You must be employed for at least 50 per cent of a full-time position by the Project Owner (research organisation) for the entire duration of the project period.

You can only be the project manager for one application submitted for either a *Researcher Project for Young Talents* (this call), [Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal](#), [Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility](#), [Knowledge-building Project for Industry](#) or [Collaborative Project to meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges](#), all with a deadline of either 10 or 17 February 2021.

Requirements relating to partners

Only approved Norwegian research organisations (see under 'Who is eligible to apply?' above) and corresponding research organisations in other countries are eligible to be partners and to receive Researcher Project funding.

Other types of organisations, such as companies and other undertakings, may not be project partners in Researcher Projects.

The Project Owner and/or project partners may hire providers of R&D services (sub-contractors) to carry out R&D services or contribute to individual tasks in the project.

Read more about [project partners and R&D suppliers here](#).

See also our [information about the state aid rules](#).

A project participant may not be assigned two different roles in the project. This means that a sub-contractor for the project may not have the role of Project Owner or partner in the same project.

What can you seek funding for?

You will find detailed and important information about [what to enter in the project budget](#) on our website.

You may seek funding to cover actual costs that are necessary to execute the project. The Project Owner is to obtain information about costs from each project partner. These costs are to be entered in the cost plan under the relevant category.

Support may be granted for the following costs:

- Payroll and indirect expenses, related to researcher time (including research fellowship positions) at the research organisations participating in the project. For doctoral and post-doctoral research fellowships, this funding is limited to maximum three person-years.
- Procurement of R&D services. The Project Owner and partners may purchase R&D-related services from public and private suppliers individually or together.
- Equipment. This encompasses operating and depreciation costs for scientific equipment and research infrastructure necessary for the execution of the project.
- Operating expenses, which comprise costs for other activities that are necessary to carry out R&D efforts under the project.

If the project includes doctoral and post-doctoral research fellowships and there are concrete plans in place for research stays abroad for the fellowship holders, the costs of such stays may be included in the grant application. The Research Council has also issued a separate call for funding for [Research Stays Abroad for Doctoral and Post-doctoral Fellows](#). The project manager may seek funding under that call in the course of the project period for research stays abroad for research fellows affiliated to the project.

Scope of funding

The Research Council may provide NOK 4–8 million in funding per project under this call. There are no requirements for own funding. However, if our lump sum does not cover all costs associated with a researcher- or research fellowship position in the university and university college sector, some own financing is required.

Conditions for funding

The Research Council will not award support that constitutes state aid under this call. This means that the Research Council funding is only to go to the non-economic activity of the research organisations. We require a clear separation of accounts for the organisation's economic and non-economic activities. Companies will not be eligible to receive support to cover projects costs and may not receive indirect support through the granting of any rights to project results.

The Research Council's requirements relating to allocation and disbursement of support for the first year and any pledges and payments for subsequent years are set out in [the General Terms and Conditions for R&D Projects](#).

Archiving of research data

The Project Owner (research organisation) is responsible for selecting which archiving solution(s) to use for storing research data generated during the project.

The Project Owner must specify the planned solution(s) in connection with the revised grant proposal.

Research results are to be made accessible through sharing and publication in line with the Research Council's [Policy on Open Science](#).

Requirements relating to medical and health-related studies involving human participants

The Research Council stipulates [special Requirements and guidelines for registration and disclosure of medical and health-related studies involving human participants](#).

Relevant thematic areas for this call

The call encompasses all disciplines and research areas, and grant applications will be accepted for both basic and applied research projects.

The detailed information in English about the topics will be finalised by November 2020.

Ground-breaking research

NOK 390 million to ground-breaking research (FRIPRO) ✓

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Funding will go to the most ground-breaking research and the research with the highest scientific merit regardless of discipline or topic. We will fund the best projects in both basic and applied research that contribute to strengthening our national contingency knowledge. The funds should especially promote scientific quality at the forefront of international research and bold and innovative research.

Ranking of applications

Only applications that are awarded an overall assessment mark of 6 or 7, and 6 or 7 for the Excellence assessment criterion, are eligible for funding. We emphasise the ranking of applications in the panels.

Funds subject to special guidelines

In the topic ground-breaking research (FRIPRO) under the three calls *Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal*, *Researcher Project for Young Research Talents* and *Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility*, funds are included from the Storting's climate settlement and the technology boost in The Long-term Plan for Research and Higher Education:

NOK 24 million to renewable energy and carbon capture and storage

If your application is relevant to these funds, you must write the word **'Energy'** in the field 'Other relevant programmes/activities/projects' in the application form.

NOK 25 million to basic ICT research for digital transformation

If your application is relevant to these funds you must write the word **'ICT'** in the field 'Other relevant programmes/activities/projects' in the application form.

Administrative procedures

Applications for *Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal* that are relevant to funds subject to special guidelines, will initially be assessed on a par with other applications for *Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal* for ground-breaking research, within the ceiling of the NOK 390 million described above. Applications that qualify will be awarded funds from there. After that, the portfolio boards will allocate funds subject to special guidelines for relevant projects.



Contacts

Fripro	fripro@forskningsradet.no
Christin Krokene	ck@forskningsradet.no
Bjørnar Solhaug Komissar	bjs@forskningsradet.no
Siri Tønseth	st@forskningsradet.no



Read more about FRIPRO

- > FRIPRO - Ground-breaking research



Relevant plans

- > Portfolio plan for Life science
- > Portfolio plan for Humanities and social sciences
- > Portfolio plan for Natural sciences and technologies



Other relevant calls with the same topic

- > Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal
- > Large-scale Interdisciplinary Researcher Project
- > Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility

Oceans

Marine sector

Aquaculture

NOK 8 million for marine research

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A total of NOK 85 million is available for this topic, distributed between three priority areas and three calls for proposals. Applications for each priority area will compete across the calls. Applicants are to select a call based on whether it is necessary or useful to have partners from outside academia.

Research areas	Call for proposals			Number of projects expected to receive funding
	Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal	Researcher Project for Young Research Talents	Collaborative Project	
Marine ecosystems	X	X	X	4-6
Pollution and other ecosystem impacts	X		X	1-2
Management and societal perspectives	X		X	1-2

Marine ecosystems – thematic open calls

The research area *Marine ecosystems* aims to increase understanding of ecosystems' structure, function, variation and change in order to achieve sustainable and long-term management of Norwegian coastal and marine areas. The research area is described in more detail in the MARINFORSK Work Programme.

Pollution and other effects on ecosystems – Mineral extraction on the sea floor and onshore

Onshore and offshore mineral extraction leads to occupation of areas and deposition of minerals processing waste and various chemicals into the marine environment. More knowledge is needed about the spread of minerals processing waste and associated chemicals, and their impact on marine ecosystems as a whole and on individual species, populations and societies.

To be relevant, the project must be related to at least one of the following areas:

- development of empirical data and reliable models for calculating chemical, physical and biological processes in and around marine waste deposits from onshore mining and the impact of these processes on the marine environments. Focus should be placed on both the operational and restitution phase of extraction.
- more knowledge on how mineral extraction on the sea floor and any associated minerals processing waste deposits in coastal areas and at sea affect the marine ecosystem.

Management and societal perspectives – Knowledge-based management of marine resources, ecosystems and ecosystem services

Achieving sustainable utilisation of marine resources requires knowledge-based and ecosystem-based management with an integrated approach. Within this thematic priority area, we seek more knowledge about which factors serve to facilitate or impede the management of marine ecosystems and marine ecosystem services. This may encompass studies of policy, economics, national and international legislation, strategies, policy instruments, agreements, barriers and opportunities, attitudes and behaviour, gender perspectives and the capacity of society to design and implement change. These are all multi- and interdisciplinary challenges that require insight from the natural sciences and social sciences, as well as the humanities.

Applications related to research needs in the following focus areas are relevant:

1. Marine ecosystem services
2. Management of marine and coastal waters
3. Management challenges in light of climate and environmental change

Research needs are described in more detail in the MARINFORSK Work Programme.

Relevance

The attachment 'Relevance to the topic' is mandatory if you select marine research, and it must be clearly stated which of the three research areas above the application targets. You may select more than one area. The template can be found at the end of the call.

When we award a mark for the application's relevance, we will also place special consideration on recruitment positions (PhD or post-doctoral fellows).



Contacts

Christian Wexels Riser	cwr@forskningsradet.no	+4794535385
Inger Austrem	ina@forskningsradet.no	+4747076646
Marius Omland	mo@forskningsradet.no	+4793817508
Marit Heller	mhe@forskningsradet.no	+4799511616
Lars Hagbarth Andresen	lhan@forskningsradet.no	+4791747117



Relevant plans

- > Portfolio plan for Oceans
- > Attachment for marine research



Other relevant calls with the same topic

- > Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal
- > Collaborative Project to meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges

NOK 8 million for aquaculture research ✓

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A total of NOK 80 million is available for this topic, distributed between three priority areas and three calls for proposals (application types). Applications for each priority area will compete across the calls. Applicants must select a call based on whether it is necessary or useful to have partners from outside academia.

Research priority areas	Call for proposals			Number of projects expected to receive funding
	Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal	Researcher Project for Young Research Talents	Collaborative Project	
Fish health and fish welfare	X	X	X	3-4
Is our salmon feed leading to deficiencies?	X		X	1-2
The value chain for sludge	X		X	1-2

Fish health and fish welfare – thematic open call

Projects within this research area can encompass all aquaculture species, and all research that contributes to increased knowledge about and understanding of aquaculture organisms' health and welfare are relevant. The research area is described in more detail in the HAVBRUK Work Programme.

Relevance

It must be clearly stated which of the priority areas the application targets. The attachment 'Relevance to the topic' is mandatory if you select the topic aquaculture research. The template can be found at the end of the call.

When we award a mark for the application's relevance, we will also place special consideration on:

- relevant international collaboration;
- recruitment positions (PhD or post-doctoral fellows).



Contacts

Kjell Emil Naas	ken@forskningsradet.no	+4790165701
Inger Oline Røsvik	ior@forskningsradet.no	+4790053460
Anders Karlsson-Drangsholt	tanka@forskningsradet.no	+4793221313
Lars Hagbarth Andresen	lhan@forskningsradet.no	+4791747117
Elin Vikane	eli@forskningsradet.no	+4794525370



Relevant plans

- Portfolio plan for Oceans
- Attachment on aquaculture research



Other relevant calls with the same topic

- Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal
- Collaborative Project to meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges

Natural sciences and technologies

Space research

NOK 16 million for space research

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Funding must contribute to increasing basic knowledge of space and Earth, and to the development of a new generation of space researchers. The funding must also contribute to the utilisation of Norwegian space activity in research, particularly in relation to Norway's participation in the European Space Agency (ESA), European Incoherent SCATter (EISCAT) and Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT).

Projects eligible for funding within this topic must fall under at least one of the following three thematic areas:

- solar-terrestrial physics with an emphasis on understanding fundamental processes of the sun and the solar atmosphere and on how solar wind and solar activity affect Earth's upper atmosphere and the global environment;
- the structure and development of the Universe, with an emphasis on understanding fundamental astrophysical processes;
- Earth observations from satellites with emphasis on climate monitoring,

resource mapping, pollution from petroleum activities, monitoring and management of Arctic areas.

The areas are described in more detail in the ROMFORSKNING Work Programme.

When we award a mark for the application's relevance, we will also place special consideration on:

- relevance to research-related utilisation of Norwegian space activity, particularly related to ESA, EISCAT and/or NOT;
- recruitment positions (PhD and/or post-doctoral).

The attachment 'Relevance to the topic' is mandatory if you select this topic. The template can be found at the end of the call.



Contacts

Herman Farbrot	hf@forskningsradet.no	+4790919304
Eva Cathrine Vatovec Nordmo	ecn@forskningsradet.no	+4799366675



Relevant plans

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- > Portfolio plan for Natural sciences and technologies
 - > Work programme for ROMFORSKNING



Other relevant calls with the same topic

-
- > Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal

Education and competence

Education

NOK 30 million for research on education ✓

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Funding is available for research on and for the educational sector. The goal is to generate knowledge of high quality and relevance to policy development, administration and the field of practice, and contribute to knowledge-based development.

To be eligible for funding, projects must be relevant to at least one of the following four priority areas:

- A: Learning processes, assessment forms and learning outcomes;
- B: Praxis, professional practice and competence-development;
- C: Governance, management, organisation and achievement of results;
- D: Education, society and working life.

The priority areas are described in more detail in section 2.2 of the Education and Competence portfolio plan. The final paragraph in priority area B in the portfolio plan concerns research competence in selected programmes of professional study, and is not relevant to this call.

The call is open for projects that look at more than one of the priority areas in conjunction with one another.

We seek research for and on the whole educational sector and all levels of the educational system, from early childhood education and care institutions and primary schools through higher education and learning in and outside working life. Projects that examine transitions between the levels of the educational system and the transition from education to working life are also of interest.

When awarding a mark for the project's relevance, we will also place special consideration on:

- active collaboration with at least one other Norwegian research organisation;
- active international collaboration;
- recruitment positions;
- inter- or multidisciplinary cooperation.

The attachment 'Relevance to the topic' is mandatory if you select this topic. The template can be found at the end of the call.



Contacts

Hilde Fanuelsen	hro@forskningsradet.no	+4797567054
Miriam El Moussaoui	memo@forskningsradet.no	+4748118203
Cathrine Skjolden	cs@forskningsradet.no	+4797085952



Relevant plans

- > [Portfolio plan for Education and competence](#)



Other relevant calls with the same topic

- > [Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal](#)

Welfare, culture and society

Welfare and labour research

NOK 16 million for welfare and labour research ✓

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Funding is available for research that provides knowledge about and addresses societal challenges within one or more of the thematic areas described in the attachment to the portfolio plan on *Welfare, Working Life and Migration*:

- welfare, living conditions and inequality;
- achieving an adaptable, inclusive and health-promoting working life;
- active citizenship, migration and the role of institutions.

To be relevant to this call, migration research must be linked to integration, welfare and working life.

When we award a mark for the application's relevance, we will also emphasise:

- the use of different methods to measure the outcomes of measures and instruments aimed at increasing inclusion in working life and society and reducing inequality and exclusion;
- multi- and interdisciplinarity, where perspectives of law, the health disciplines, technology and/or the humanities are included;
- active national and international cooperation.

The attachment 'Relevance to the topic' is mandatory if you select this topic. The template can be found at the end of the call.



Contacts

Yngvill Rådmannsøy Tømmerberg	yrt@forskningsradet.no	+4793258790
Mette Nygård Smith	mns@forskningsradet.no	+4790517479



Relevant plans

- Portfolio plan for Welfare, culture and society
- Attachment for Welfare, Working Life and Migration



Other relevant calls with the same topic

- Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal
- Collaborative Project to meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges

Practical information

Requirements for this application type

Applications must be created and submitted via My RCN Web. You may revise and resubmit your grant application form multiple times up to the application submission deadline. We recommend that you submit your application as soon as you have filled in the application form and included all mandatory attachments. After the deadline, it is the most recently submitted version of the grant application that will be processed.

The application must meet the following requirements:

- The grant application and all attachments must be submitted in English, except for the description of relevance to the selected topic in the call, which may be submitted in Norwegian or English.
- All mandatory attachments must be included.
- Requirements relating to the project manager and Project Owner (research organisation) must be satisfied.
- The project must start between 1 July 2021 and 1 December 2021.
- Funding must be sought from the Research Council for 2021.

Applications that do not satisfy the requirements listed above may be rejected.

Mandatory attachments

The designated templates found at the end of the call for proposals (updated soon) must be used for all mandatory attachments.

- A project description, maximum 11 pages.
- A CV for the project manager, maximum four pages.
- A description of relevance of the project to the selected topic(s). This is mandatory for all topics under the call except for *Ground-breaking research* (FRIPRO). (To be uploaded under *Attachments/Other items* in the application form.)
- Applications for time deductions to meet the age and/or experience requirements must be documented. (To be uploaded under *Attachments/Other items* in the application form.)

Optional attachments

- CVs of key project participants not exceeding four pages each. The CV template at the end of the call must be used.
 - Applicants themselves are to decide which project participants are most important and in which cases it will be of significance to the review process to assess these participants' qualifications.
- Applicants are free to propose up to three referees who are presumed to be impartial and qualified to review the grant proposal.
 - The Research Council is not under any obligation to use the proposed referees, but may use them as needed.

Attachments other than the mandatory and optional attachments specified above, as well as any links to websites in the grant application, will not be included in the application review process.

Assessment criteria

Grant applications will be assessed in relation to the following criteria:

Excellence

The extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, novel, and goes beyond the state-of-the-art

- Scientific creativity and originality.
- Novelty and boldness of hypotheses or research questions.
- Potential for development of new knowledge beyond the current state-of-the-art, including significant theoretical, methodological, experimental or empirical advancement.

The quality of the proposed R&D activities

- Quality of the research questions, hypotheses and project objectives, and the extent to which they are clearly and adequately specified.
- Credibility and appropriateness of the theoretical approach, research design and use of scientific methods. Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches.
- The extent to which appropriate consideration has been given to ethical issues, safety issues, gender dimension in research content, and use of stakeholder/user knowledge if appropriate.

Impact

Potential impact of the proposed research

- Potential for academic impact:

The extent to which the planned outputs of the project address important present and/or future scientific challenges.

- Potential for societal impact (if addressed by the applicant):

The extent to which the planned outputs of the project address UN Sustainable Development Goals or other important present and/or future societal challenges.

- The extent to which the potential impacts are clearly formulated and plausible.

Communication and exploitation

- Quality and scope of communication and engagement activities with different target audiences, including relevant stakeholders/users.

Implementation

The quality of the project manager and project group

- The extent to which the project manager has relevant expertise and experience, and demonstrated ability to perform high-quality research (as appropriate to the career stage).
- The degree of complementarity of the participants and the extent to which the project group has the necessary expertise needed to undertake the research effectively.

The quality of the project organisation and management

- Effectiveness of the project organisation, including the extent to which resources assigned to work packages are aligned with project objectives and deliverables.
- Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role.
- Appropriateness of the proposed management structures and governance.

Overall assessment of the referee/panel

Overall assessment of the referee/panel based, on the criteria Excellence, Impact and Implementation.

Relevance to the chosen topic

The extent to which the project satisfies the priorities in the chosen topic in the call for proposals.

Administrative procedures

See a detailed [description of the processing procedure here](#).

Preliminary administrative review

Applications that do not meet the formal requirements may be rejected.

Panel assessment

The applications are then assessed by referees, who later take part in a panel meeting and reach final consensus-based marks for the assessment criteria and overall assessment, and prepare consensus-based written assessments.

Assessment of relevance

The Research Council assesses the application's relevance to the selected topic. This is based on the project description, the referee panel's assessment of the application and the attachment *Relevance to the topic*. Applications that target the topic Ground-breaking Research (FRIPRO) are not assessed for relevance.

Portfolio assessment

When we prioritise between applications for the recommendation to the portfolio boards, the portfolio assessment takes the following into account:

- The applications' assigned marks based on the assessments. The panel's overall mark will be given more weight than the mark awarded for relevance.

- A good distribution of projects in relation to priorities set out for the specific topic.
- The relative volume and quality of grant applications within the same topic under other calls in 2021.
- Any changes in the financial or scientific framework set by the ministries.
- Priority will be given to projects led by women project managers when the applications are otherwise considered to be on a par.

Recommendations are presented to the portfolio board, which has the authority to grant funding.

Please note that the amount announced in the call, both overall and per topic, is an estimate of available funding. The final amount of funding granted may therefore deviate somewhat from this estimate.

The procedures described here are subject to change due to the coronavirus situation.

Download templates



Template for Project Description Scientific Renewal and Young Research Talents 2021.docx



CV Template - Project Manager - Young Talents 2021.docx



CV Template - Partner - Young Talents 2021.docx



Template Relevance to the Topic Researcher Project 2021.docx



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