## Project description template

## AI Centres - Collaborative and Knowledge-building Project

Version: 2024.10.22. Main changes highlighted in blue.

**This project description template consists of**

**A:** Overview of the chapters and sections to be used as the structure of the project description

**B:** Guidance on the content in each chapter and section

## A: Chapters and sections to be used

**Project title**

### Excellence

* 1. State of the art, knowledge needs and AI centre objectives

1.2 Research questions and hypotheses, theoretical approach and methodology

1.3 Novelty and ambition

### 2. Impact

* 1. Potential impact of the proposed research

2.2 Measures for communication and exploitation

### 3. Implementation

3.1 AI centre manager and project group

3.2 AI centre organisation and management

## B: Guidance

The proposed research should be presented clearly, using language understandable to individuals with a general scientific understanding of the field. Please note that the referees in the panel where your application is reviewed do not necessarily work in precisely the same area as you.

Complete the chapters and sections in the template, following the order of the items as given in part A, and delete the guidance (part B). The template is designed to address all the elements of the assessment criteria. **The applicant is strongly advised to read the assessment criteria and the call text carefully.**

The project description is not to exceed 20 pages, including the list of references. It is not possible to upload an attachment that exceeds this page total. The page format must be A4 with 2 cm margins, single spacing and Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman or similar 11-point font. It is permitted to use 9-point font for the list of references and figure captions. Links that are listed in the project description will not be included in the assessment.

### Project title

Use the same title as in the application form.

### Excellence

This chapter should provide a description of the planned project to enable an assessment of its excellence, i.e. the quality/solidity and novelty/originality of the proposed work.

* + **State of the art, knowledge needs and project objectives**
* Summarise briefly the national and international state-of-the-art of the relevant research topics. Describe how the proposed AI centre will generate new knowledge, beyond the current state of the art, that will be significant for promoting scientific development in areas of relevance.
* Describe the societal/technology and/or innovation challenges within AI and related fields on which the AI centre will focus. Describe the underlying knowledge needs that make it important to establish the proposed AI centre and the added value of having an AI centre in the area. Describe how the proposed AI centre will expand upon, complement or cooperate with other established centres or large-scale initiatives.
* Provide a primary objective for the AI centre. Provide a bullet list of verifiable secondary objectives that will lead to the achievement of the primary objective.
  + **Research questions and hypotheses, theoretical approach and methodology**
* Describe in detail the research questions and/or hypotheses.
* Describe thoroughly the theoretical approach and/or methodology chosen to address the AI centre’s objectives, research questions and/or hypotheses. Use a structure of work packages.

NB! Provide enough detail to enable reviewers to understand what you are proposing, how it will be carried out and whether it is feasible.

* Describe how relevant stakeholder/user knowledge will be used.
* If there are ethical issues to consider, describe how these will be dealt with, also give a brief account of possible risks that might endanger achieving the objectives and describe how to manage these risks.
* If relevant, describe how gender perspectives will be taken into account in the research content.
* If relevant, describe how potentially undesirable effects from carrying out the project, on human and animal health, climate and the environment and society at large, can be avoided.
  + **Novelty and ambition**
* Describe the potential for development of new knowledge beyond the current state of the art, including significant theoretical, methodological, experimental and/or empirical advancements.
* Highlight any particularly novel, original or ambitious aspects of the proposed AI centre, e.g., in the objectives, research questions/hypotheses, approaches and/or methodology.

**Excellence -** **please note:**

Make sure that the theoretical approach and/or choice of methods is well accounted for and described in detail, and that it is clear how the methods are adequate for addressing the research questions, hypotheses, and AI centre objectives.

See [more information on ethical standards in research](https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/research-policy-strategy/ethical-standards/).

### Impact

This chapter should describe the importance of the anticipated results in terms of the potential academic impact and the potential societal and/or industrial impact of the research. The potential impact can be in the short or longer term. The chapter should also specify the planned measures for communication and exploitation of the project results.

* + **Potential impact of the proposed research**
* Describe how the proposed AI centre will contribute to achieving the goals of an AI centre given in the call.
* Building on the description of the AI centre objectives and novelty in chapter 1, describe clearly why and how the proposed AI centre’s outputs may address important present and/or future scientific challenges and have an impact on the research area/field, if successful.
* Building on the description of knowledge needs and challenges in section 1.1., describe why and how the AI centre outputs, if successful, have the potential to meet the mentioned societal technological and/or innovation challenge(s).
* Describe how to ensure reproducibility and the potential to reuse the AI centre outputs through open science practice such as FAIR data, software, models, algorithms, etc.
* Describe why and how the AI centre output will promote future value creation in industry, the public sector and/or civil society.
* Describe how the proposed AI centre will help to meet the business and the public sectors’ needs for knowledge and expertise in the centre’s area of focus.
* Describe to what extent the centre will contribute to researcher training and describe and quantify the plans for researcher training (PhD students, postdocs) and other recruitment (master’s/bachelor’s students).
* Describe how new knowledge and project outputs have the potential to address one or more of the UN sustainable development goals.
  + **Measures for communication and exploitation**
* Describe the target audiences and stakeholders/users of the AI centre outputs (in and beyond the scientific community).
* Outline the scope and plan for dissemination, communication and engagement activities, including knowledge transfer to user partners and dissemination to the general public via popular science channels.
* Provide a brief description of planned activities that will contribute to the realisation of the potential impacts of the AI centre outputs (in and beyond the scientific sphere).
* Describe open science practices to ensure early and open sharing and wide distribution of research outputs.
* Describe how the stakeholders/users are involved in the dissemination and utilisation of the AI centre results

**Impact - please note:**

The description of the potential impact should be project specific and related to the planned research. General elaborations on the benefits of research in a wider context should be avoided.

The 17 UN sustainable development goals (SDGs) provide a global roadmap for a better future for all (https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/). Describe how the knowledge and outputs generated in this project can contribute to solving challenges and/or shed light on important issues related to one or more of the UN's sustainability goals.

### Implementation

This chapter should provide a description of the project team and partners, task allocation, organisation and management.

**AI centre manager and project group**

* Describe the expertise and experience of the AI centre manager in the context of the proposed AI centre to complement the information in the CV.
* Describe the management team.
* Describe the project team, including collaborators, to complement the information in the CVs. In particular, describe the complementarity of the participants in the context of the proposed AI centre.

**AI centre organisation and management**

* Describe the work plan using Gantt chart(s) or other visual representations of the plan.
* Describe the allocation of tasks to the AI centre team members, linking the tasks to specific work packages.
* Describe the organisation and management structure for the proposed AI centre.
* Describe the partners, their role and how they will participate in the AI centre. Please include the following table:

*Table: Roles and participation requirement*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Roles | Costs (NOK) |
| The costs of the Project Owner and other research organisations participating as partners (name the partners in this group) |  |
| The costs of Norwegian partners from the business sector or other parts of society (name the partners in this group) |  |
| Total project cost |  |
| Participation (percent) |  |

* Describe and justify the stakeholder/user involvement in the AI centre and explain why this will contribute to carrying out the specific measures which are proposed for the exploitation of the results (see section 2.2).
* Describe the centre’s objectives, targets and plans for international cooperation. Describe how the proposed centre will work to facilitate international research cooperation and how such cooperation will benefit its activities. Describe how the international cooperation in the centre will enhance the ability of the partners to innovate and create business and societal value in Norway.
* Describe how the international partner(s) will help achieve the objectives of the centre and objectives in the call.
* Describe how the AI centre will facilitate, and fund stays abroad for PhD students and postdocs in the centre.
  + **Collaboration with other AI centres**
* Describe activities for coordination and collaboration with the other AI centres that receive funding (In a generic way. Concrete plans for coordination and collaboration between the AI centres must be further developed when you revise the application, after our decision about which AI centres will be funded.)
  + **Data and computing power**

Describe the need for and how to ensure access to necessary infrastructure for data and computing power. The management of research data must follow the FAIR principles, as far as possible.

**Implementation - please note:**

Avoid repeating information already contained in the CVs. Focus on the concrete roles and tasks, and how the project team, including key collaborators, is suitable and adequate for the proposed AI centre.

The ambitions of the AI centre, described in chapter 1, should be realistic in terms of resources such as personnel, expertise, research infrastructure etc., described in this chapter.