

INTPART - International Partnerships for Excellent Education, Research and Innovation

Programme description - for applications in 2017

1 OBJECTIVE AND TARGET GROUPS

1.1 Programme objective

The objective of the INTPART programme is to develop world-class research and education in Norway through long term international cooperation. The programme will create a framework for expanding cooperation between academic groups considered to be at the international forefront today or that are believed to have the potential to become world leaders in their fields in the future.

The programme will lay a foundation that enables such research groups to establish/develop long-term relations with strong academic groups in the priority countries of Brazil, Canada, India, Japan, China, Russia, South Africa and the USA. The programme will help to increase the extent and enhance the quality and relevance of scientific cooperation with selected countries, in particular by establishing strong ties between higher education and research cooperation. Cooperation with the business and public sectors is encouraged, when relevant. The programme will ensure that its portfolio covers all eight countries and encompasses both new and established partnerships, and is broad in terms of topics. Relevant strategic documents include the Government's Panorama strategy and other strategic documents for the promotion of higher education, research and innovation collaboration with the eight prioritized countries.

The programme will provide funding for the establishment and further development of formalised institutional cooperation on research and higher education. In addition to including relevant academic partners, the collaborative activities should also involve both strategic leadership and administration, and be reflected in the strategic plans of the applicant institution.

Educational cooperation must be integrated as far as possible in the institution's other educational programmes, and must comprise activities that extend beyond collaboration between individual researchers and doctoral candidates.

As a *pilot in the 2017 call* for proposals a limited amount is earmarked projects with institutions only in *Germany and/or France*. For these applications the same formal rules and regulations apply, and they are assessed according to the same criteria as all INTPART applications in this call, as described in the call text. (see call text for details)

1.2 Performance targets

The INTPART programme will result in:

- Long-term international partnerships between Norwegian research and educational institutions and world-class research groups in priority countries outside the EU;
- Establishment and institutionalisation of joint courses, seminars and educational programmes within the framework of the partnerships;
- International joint degrees between the partner institutions when a suitable framework is in place;
- Mobility of students and researchers, as well as structures that support mobility, within the framework of the partnerships;
- Joint articles and publications between researchers and/or students in the partnerships;
- New research funding applications developed and submitted within the framework of the partnerships;
- Cooperation with the business and public sectors, and innovation-oriented activities.

1.3 Target groups

Funding from the INTPART programme may be sought by Norwegian universities, university colleges or other Norwegian research institutions.

Applicants must have relevant educational programmes at the master's and/or doctoral levels, or have a Norwegian partner institution with such programmes.

The call for proposals in 2016 is targeted towards institutions and research groups that serve as the host institution or formal partner in peer-reviewed projects that have received funding under the following schemes and instruments:

- Norwegian Centres of Excellence (SFF);
- Centres for Environment-friendly Energy Research (FME);
- Centres of Excellence in Higher Education (SFU);
- Centres for Research-based Innovation (SFI);
- Research Centres for Petroleum Activities (PETROSENTER);
- Norwegian Innovation Clusters (NIC)
- Knowledge-building Projects for Industry (KPN) funded by the Research Council;
- Researcher Projects funded by the Research Council;
- Researcher projects and centre schemes funded by NordForsk or the Nordic Council of Ministers;
- Researcher projects funded by the EU Framework Programme.

To encourage prioritisation of leading research groups, each applicant institution may submit a pre-determined maximum number of grant applications, as stated in the call for proposals.

The Project Owner (applicant institution) must forward a list of the submitted applications that have been approved by the applicant institution to the Research Council by email (intpart@forskningsradet.no) no later than Wednesday, 31 May 2017, 15:00 CET.

2 FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

2.1 General

The INTPART programme is administered jointly by the Research Council of Norway (the Research Council) and the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU). The Research Council's online application system will be used in accordance with the Research Council's rules and guidelines. The programme funds will be disbursed from the Research Council. Information about the INTPART programme is available on the websites of both SIU and the Research Council.

2.2 The programme's financial framework

The programme is funded through an allocation of NOK 36 million per year¹ from the Ministry of Education and Research to SIU and the Research Council.

In addition, the Research Council will contribute funding from other instruments. Some calls for proposals may therefore set special priorities relating to countries and/or thematic areas in addition to the general requirements for cooperation on higher education and research. (See call text for 2017.)

2.3 Secretariat

SIU and the Research Council have established a joint secretariat for administering the INTPART programme. The secretariat consists of administrators from SIU and the Research Council with expertise in international research and educational cooperation. External experts may be consulted when necessary.

The secretariat's mandate and tasks include the following:

- Respond to enquiries and questions from applicants and interested parties;
- Assess submitted grant applications;
- Rank the grant applications relative to the assessment criteria, and conduct an overall portfolio assessment;
- Submit a recommendation to the steering committee, which will take the final decision on grant allocations;
- Assess progress reports and final reports from the partnerships;
- Take responsibility for further development of the programme.

2.4 Steering committee

SIU and the Research Council will jointly appoint six to eight representatives to sit on a steering committee. The committee members may as far as possible be taken from the governing bodies of the two organisations.

The steering committee's mandate and tasks are as follows:

- Assess the ranked list of grant applications and adjust the ranking of projects based on the criteria and an overall portfolio assessment;
- Make the final decision on grant allocations based on the assessment criteria and strategic objectives of the individual call for proposals.

2.5 Follow-up and reporting

The Research Council and SIU have joint responsibility for following up projects funded under the programme, including assessing and approving project reports and disseminating results from the programme. Designated contact persons in both organisations may be consulted by the institutions.

3 ACTIVITIES AND PROJECT FUNDING

Funding may be sought for projects over a three-year period for an amount of NOK 0.5–1.5 million per year. The institutions are expected to contribute own financing amounting to a minimum of 20 per cent of the overall budget.

Funding is allocated to activities that promote the establishment of or strengthen research and educational cooperation, networks and knowledge sharing between two or more institutions and actors in Norway and at least one partner country. Participants in the networks may be researchers, students, managers and technical/administrative staff, as well as employees in collaborating organisations.

Examples of activities that are eligible for funding:

- Additional costs in connection with short-term or long-term reciprocal mobility stays by students, researchers, managers and administrative staff.
- Development and implementation of workshops, seminars and conferences.
- Development and implementation of intensive courses, field courses, summer schools, etc.
- Cooperation on curriculum development and development of joint courses, educational programmes and/or degree programmes.
- Planning and development of research cooperation.
- Guest lectures and joint teaching and supervision of students and doctoral candidates.
- Cooperation with the business and public sectors
- Other activities that encompass international research and educational cooperation.

Up to 20 per cent of the funding sought may be used to cover payroll and indirect costs for administrative tasks and payroll compensation for personnel for participation in the activities. These costs must be specified in the application and must be proportionate with regard to the institutions own budget contributions and the overall budget for the project.

Funding may be awarded to establish new international partnerships as well as to strengthen existing cooperation. The activities must encompass both researchers and students to the greatest extent possible

The research activities encompassed by the collaboration must be funded by other means. Investments related to research infrastructure are not covered by the programme.

Activities related to the participation of international partners in a partnership may be financed with INTPART funds.

4 REQUIREMENTS AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

4.1 Applicant requirements

The following requirements apply to applicants and project partners:

- The Project Owner (applicant institution) must be a Norwegian university, university college or other Norwegian research institution with a designated project administrator.
- The main partner institution(s) must be a comparable institution in the cooperating country with a designated local project administrator.
- The project manager must be a formal partner or a project manager in a project currently being funded under one of the schemes listed in item 1.3.
- Project managers in both countries must have experience with collaborative projects at national and international levels.
- The INTPART project must have thematic relevance to the qualifying current research grant.
- Applicant must have relevant educational programmes at the master's and/or doctoral levels, or have a Norwegian partner institution with such programmes.

4.2 Application requirements

The following requirements apply to the grant application:

- The grant application is to be submitted in English.
- The total funding applied for must be between 0,5 and 1,5 mill. NOK per year.
- Prosjekts varighet skal være 3 år.

The grant application must include:

- The electronic application form with all information (eSøknad).
- Project description.
- CVs with a list of publications and documentation for the project manager, partners and other key participants in the project (maximum four pages per CV).
- Formal confirmation at the institutional level from the international and Norwegian partners regarding their obligations under the project.
- For grant applications involving an industrial cluster (Norwegian Innovation Clusters), confirmation of approval by the cluster's board must be attached.

See the call text for details.

4.3 Assessment criteria

Grant applications will be assessed relative to the following criteria:

- The project's relevance for the programme's overall objective to develop world-class research and education in Norway, as well as long-term strategic significance and foundation in the institutions' strategic plans;
- The scientific quality of the partnership, project group and project manager(s), as well as roles and responsibilities in the project
- The academic quality of the partners' research and education, and the connection between the two;
- Clearly defined plans that specify objectives, results, milestones, activities, distribution of tasks and resource needs
- The project's feasibility, including risk analysis and risk-prevention measures
- Plans for dissemination of knowledge and results from the partnership