

EVALBIOVIT - EVALNAT

Frequently Asked Questions

15/11/2022

FAQ related to the list of scientific staff (Excel list)

Q

Which categories of staff should be included in the Excel list of scientific staff?

A

All research-active staff should be listed with the same professional title as they have at the institution.

Q

Should staff that is not full-time employees be included in the Excel list of scientific staff?

A

Yes, but please specify to what percentage they are employed.

Q

Should only researchers be included in the Excel list of scientific staff and not engineers or technicians?

A

All research active personnel should be included in the list. E.g., engineers and technicians should also be listed if they are research active (part of publications).

Q

Are there predefined categories of staff that should be included in the self-assessment templates and the Excel list of scientific staff?

A

No, use the categories of staff that are relevant for your institution.

FAQ related to the self-assessment template for administrative units

Q	Will it be possible to add tables in the text boxes?
A	No, it is not possible to add tables in the text boxes, only text. You may refer to organisational charts or other illustrations with links, but please make sure that it is possible to make an assessment based on the completed self-assessment template alone. The evaluators are not obliged to consult material that is not explicitly asked for in the templates.
Q	What information should we refer to when making distinctions between public and private institutions and sectors (e.g., in Form 11a and 12)?
A	For the distinction between public and private institutions and sectors in (e.g., in Form 11a and 12), you may refer to the classification of sectors used by OECD, as explained by NIFU on their web site: https://www.nifu.no/fou-statistiske/fou-statistikk/om-fou/hvem-utforer-fou/ . Cooperation with institutions in the Higher Education Sector and Government Sector should be listed as cooperation with public institutions, whereas cooperation with institutions in the Business sector should be listed as cooperation with private institutions.
Q	Could you provide further information on how to fill in Form 12 - (HEIs) <i>Administrative unit's partnerships</i> ("faktisk samarbeid")?
A	In Form 12, administrative units should provide information on project-based collaborations with both national and international institutions and then describe the importance and impact of this collaboration. This could also apply to private companies that have research collaborations with universities or research institutes. It could also apply to collaborations between universities or between universities and research institutes, both nationally and internationally.
Q	Could you provide further guidance to question 2.4.1.1? What do you mean by «has activities aimed at achieving sector-specific objectives»?
A	The relevance of the administrative unit's activities and results are assessed to the specific aspects detailed in the Terms of Reference for each institution and to the relevant sectoral goals. The goals for each relevant sector (HEIs, the institute sector and the hospital sector) are described in the evaluation protocol (section 2.4) which is available at The Research Council of Norway's websites for each evaluation (EVALBIOVIT: https://www.forskningsradet.no/tall-analyse/evalueringer/fag-tema/biovitenskap/ and EVALNAT: https://www.forskningsradet.no/tall-analyse/evalueringer/fag-tema/naturvitenskap/).

FAQ related to the self-assessment template for research groups

Q

We are asked to present the number of group members. Is it the total number of members that have been part of the group the last 10 years? Or the number right now?

A

You should list the number of the research group's members in 2021 (see specifications of reference dates for personnel in the introduction).

Q

We have several researchers with a part time position (typically 20%) in our institution, with a main position in another institution (some of which are also being evaluated). Do we list these researchers in our research groups as well?

A

Yes, we are interested in knowing who and how many researchers that are working in the research groups. This includes full time and 20% positions etc.

Q

What is meant by "benchmark" in the self-assessment template for research groups?

A

The administrative unit should present an appropriate benchmark for each of its research groups in consultation with the groups in question. The benchmark can be grounded in both a reference to an academic level, performance or to the group's contributions to other institutional or sectoral purposes.

Q

How will the benchmarks be used in the evaluations?

A

The benchmark will be considered by the expert panels as a reference in their assessment of the research group's performance. The benchmark can be grounded in both academic and extra-academic standards and targets, depending on the purpose of the group and its host institution. E.g., A benchmark is often related to a research strategy for the research group which in turn is connected to the strategy for the administration unit. The benchmark for the research group should be prepared in collaboration with the administrative unit. You will find an explanation of the concept of benchmark in the [evaluation protocol](#).

Q Several of our researchers belong to more than one research group - should we list their name on each group?

A Yes, there is an extra column in Form 1 where you should indicate membership in multiple research groups.

Q One of our research groups has published 200–500 publications the last 10 years. Is the evaluation meant to focus on the highlights of the research groups rather than the "breadth" of the research."

A Please focus on the research group's highlights.

Q Which date should we refer to when providing data on personnel in Form 1 *List of personnel by categories*?

A Data on personnel should refer to reporting to DBH on 1 October 2021 for HEIs and to the annual reporting for 2021 for the institute sector.

Other FAQ

Q Where can I find more information about the self-assessments and the evaluations?

A There will be a link to the webinar and the presentation at the webpage containing more information about the self-assessments and the evaluations in general: <https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/statistics-evaluations/Evaluations/Ongoing-evaluations/evaluation-of-biosciences/>

Q Does the character limit within the text boxes include spaces?

A Yes, the character limit within the text boxes includes all spaces, punctuation and letters.

Q

Is it possible to scroll in the self-assessment templates text boxes?

A

Yes, we have decided to limit the size of the text boxes and instead allowed respondents to be able to scroll in the text boxes to limit the self-assessment templates total number of pages.

Q

Are we able to format text in the self-assessment templates (e.g., produce bold or italic text)?

A

Yes, in version 1.2 of the self-assessment template for administrative units and version 1.1 of the self-assessment template for research groups it is possible to format text in forms and in text boxes. To format text: mark the text to be formatted and right click, there you will find the option change format.