**Template for Project Description** Coordination and Support Activity – National Researcher Schools

***Completing the form:***

***Please use this template. This attachment to the online grant application form must be uploaded in PDF format. All italicised text and boxes are for guidance and information purposes only, and should be deleted in the final version of this document.***

***Please complete all items. Please follow the order of the items given in the template.***

***The project description is to supplement the information you provide in the grant application form created on ‘My RCN Web’. Links and other documents listed in the project description will not be included in the assessment.***

***Scope:***

***The document is not to exceed 10 pages, using 11-point font (Times New Roman, Arial or Calibri). It is permitted to use 9-point font for references, tables and figure text.***

***Language:***

***English***

**Project title**

*Enter the same project title entered in the online application form.*

**Relevance to the call for proposals**

*Please provide a description of the purpose of the activity and the relevance of the researcher school relative to the guidelines set out in the call for proposals. Describe how the researcher school addresses needs that are described in the national reports from the evaluations. Provide references with page numbers to specific needs or recommendations in one, or several, of the evaluations.*

**Excellence**

**Activities, organisation and cooperation**

*Provide an expanded project description. Specify and describe the individual deliverables in the researcher school (activities, coordination activities, cooperation) in accordance with the requirements set out in the call. Please describe:*

* *the expected scope, including the expected number of associated PhD candidates when the school is in full operation, as well as the assignment of supervisors and other scientific personnel;*
* *the researcher school's scientific content in a broad sense, and objectives and delimitations, including the balance between measures to enhance scientific quality and relevance. The school’s activities should mainly be new initiatives or the continuation of existing initiatives. It must be clearly stated what is new;*
* *national and (if relevant) international research groups and other partners that will form part of the network. Their contributions must be specified;*
* *how the researcher school will quality assure activities and how the results will be documented.*

**Background, context and needs***The primary and secondary objectives of the researcher school must be specified in the* ***online grant application form****.*

*Describe the background for the application and explain why the researcher school and its activities are needed. Make it clear how the project is part of larger systems and will build upon and reinforce these (context). It is important to document good knowledge of relevant research areas, existing structures and activities, and the central challenges in the field, both nationally and internationally.*

**Added value**

*Explain how the researcher school is linked to or will support the doctoral degree programme at the collaborating institutions scientifically, strategically and in terms of its benefit to society. It is also important to clarify how the initiative is innovative and will lead to added value beyond the activities that are already in place or are currently being carried out.*

**Impact**

*Describe the impacts and outcomes expected from the researcher school in both the short-term and the medium-term, and the societal/system-related impacts the school will help to generate in a longer perspective.*

**Communication, dissemination and target groups**

*Specific plans for communication, including advertisement/marketing, target groups, relevant user groups and how these will be involved in the researcher school, which channels are to be used etc. is to be provided in the* ***online application form****.*

**Relevance to society**

*When appropriate, the researcher school’s relevance to society should be described, for instance, whether the school will help to address important challenges in the public sector, industry or civil society. This may be placed in a regional, national, international or global context. The involvement of any external users and/or other actors is to be described here.*

**Environmental impact, ethical perspectives, recruitment of women/gender balance**

*Briefly describe whether implementing the researcher school and/or applying the results will have a significant positive or negative environmental impact.* *Clarify whether there are any ethical issues relating to implementation of the researcher school. If there are, briefly describe how these will be dealt with. Provide a brief explanation of how the researcher school will promote the Research Council’s general objectives to increase the recruitment of women in research and improve the gender balance.*

**Implementation**

*The project period and progress plan encompassing the main activities and any milestones are to be provided in the* ***online grant application form****. The partners (institutions/companies/entities) that will be under obligation to contribute to the researcher school by carrying out activities and/or providing funding, and/or that will be granted rights to the researcher school, should also be entered in the online grant application form.*

**Strategy clarification**
*Briefly explain how the researcher school reflects and supports the strategic objectives and plans of the applicant institution and how it supports the strategic objectives of any partners.*

*Letters of intent from/agreements with all specified partners should be uploaded as attachments to the* ***online grant application form*** *under 'Other items'.*

**Resources, expertise, distribution of roles and cooperation**

*Upload any relevant CVs under ‘Other items’ in the* ***online grant application form****. CVs must be submitted using the designated template.*

*The researcher school must be realistic and feasible, scientifically, organisationally, and in relation to planned use of resources. Please provide supplementary information that substantiates implementation capacity. Please describe*

* *the planned organisation and implementation of the researcher school, including the planning of the individual components as well as the anticipated interaction between them;*
* *the management and organisation of the researcher school, including coordination, scientific management functions, relationship between the parties in the network and between the network, and the institutions’ doctoral degree programmes;*
* *the expertise and resources that will be available to the researcher school, including positions related the school (head coordinator etc.) and other types of contributions from the participating institutions (infrastructure etc.);*
* *measures to improve gender balance and diversity, where relevant.*

**Budget***An accrual-based budget, cost plan and funding plan are to be entered in the* ***online grant application form****. Fields are also provided there for further specification and supplementary information.*

**Risk**

*Give an assessment of the risks related to the researcher school, both in relation to the risk that the school cannot be implemented as planned and the risk that the school does not achieve its objectives.*