### **Attachment: Application for long-term basic funding for operation of research infrastructures of national importance**

**Please note:**

* Page format: A4 with 2-cm margins, single spacing and Times New Roman, Arial or Calibri 11-point font.
* All items must be completed in English.
* The attachment must not exceed four pages.
* Complete all sections and provide necessary documentation.

### **Purpose:**

This attachment supports applications submitted under the INFRASTRUKTUR initiative for long-term operational funding of research infrastructures of national importance.

If the requested operational funding is limited to membership fees for participation in international research infrastructures, the justification must instead be provided in the attachment titled “Application for membership in international RI projects, including infrastructures on the ESFRI Roadmap.” All other requests for operational support must be addressed in this attachment.

**Prerequisites that must be met:**

Funding for operational costs will only be considered if all conditions in Section 5 (“Funding to cover operating costs”) of the document “*What type of research infrastructure is eligible for funding*?” have been fully met.

**Describe the following aspects:**

1. **Financial Model for Operation**

Describe the financial model used by the host institution(s), including:

* Actual operating costs presented via cost centre or Research Infrastructure Resource (RIR) costs.[[1]](#footnote-2)
* Distribution of costs across projects, activities, and basic funding
1. **Operating Costs**
* Specify annual operating costs per cost centre/RIR
* Identify major cost drivers
1. **Future Use and Utilisation**
* Indicate annual capacity and expected utilisation over the next 5–10 years
* Identify key user groups (e.g., academia, industry, health trusts) and share of external users
* Describe consequences if basic funding is not granted
1. **Financing Plan**
* Describe the extent to which infrastructure users are expected to contribute to the operating costs via funding allocated for their R&D projects.
* Specify owner and partner contributions to basic funding over the next 5–10 years and suggest other possible sources of funding.
* Estimate internal/external user contributions and share of economic vs. non-economic activity[[2]](#footnote-3) over the next 5-10 years. Please also see the information on the [state aid rules](https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/funding-from-the-research-council/Conditions-for-awarding-state-aid/) on the Research Council website.
1. **Justification for seeking basic funding for operation from the Research Council**
* Explain why full cost recovery via user contributions is not feasible
* Justify need for additional personnel
* Outline plans for financial sustainability and reduced future reliance on INFRASTRUKTUR funding

**Research Council’s assessment of the information provided in this attachment**

The Research Council will evaluate:

* The budgeting and accounting model for operation of the infrastructure.
* The ability to document that the degree of utilisation is high in relation to the capacity of the infrastructure. Data infrastructures must document a significant number of users, and the user group(s) must have a stated need for the services provided by the infrastructure.
* The explanation of why the operating costs are high and why they cannot be fully covered by existing R&D funding sources (e.g. project grants, institutional core funding).
* The contribution of the applicant and partner institutions to the long-term basic funding for operation must constitute a significant portion of the total annual operating costs. However, it is important to consider that the level of basic institutional funding varies across institutions. The Research Council wishes to avoid situations in which it ends up as the sole provider of basic operational funding.
* A comprehensive plan for financing the infrastructure’s operation, including a strategy for achieving long-term financial sustainability and, preferably, reducing reliance on the Research Council’s basic funding over time.
1. A *Research Infrastructure Resource (RIR)* is defined as a laboratory or other common research infrastructure for which the operating costs are presented separately and distributed proportionally between the projects and activities that employ the infrastructure. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Economic activity in the context of research infrastructure includes hiring out of equipment and laboratories, provision of services to undertakings, and performance of commissioned research activity, among other things. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)