Research ethics self-evaluation

The purpose of the self-evaluation is to identify the key ethical challenges in the project and show how these should be handled in the implementation of the project.

Researchers and research managers are responsible for ensuring that the project is carried out in accordance with recognised norms of research ethics. The norms are expressed through nasjonale retningslinjer og veiledere, utarbeidet av De nasjonale forskningsetiske komiteene (FEK), international guidelines, such as The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, ALLEA, 2023, and The Declaration of Helsinki, WMA, 2024, and laws. In Norway, Lov om organisering av forskningsetisk arbeid, 2017, for all forskning,applies to all research, and Lov om medisinsk og helsefaglig forskning (helseforskningsloven), 2008, applies to medical and health research on humans, human biological material or health information.

The questions below are based on the norms of research ethics and support reflection on research ethics in the project. They have a broad scope and will not be equally relevant in all projects. All applicants must nevertheless carry out a research ethics self-assessment.

In some research areas, there are also national laws and international conventions and agreements that researchers and research managers must follow, for example on the processing of personal data. Both medical, health and animal research are regulated by law, and require prior approval. Assessments of such assumptions are in addition to the research ethics self-evaluation.

Here you will find reminders of the most important norms of research ethics. However, other norms of research ethics may also be relevant to your project, and you are responsible for checking this.

1. How do you ensure the freedom, independence and openness of research, including dissemination?
2. How do you facilitate a good research culture, and how will you handle any violations of good scientific practice?
3. If the project entails a risk of harm to people, society or nature (including animals and the environment), how do you handle this in a responsible manner?
4. If the project includes research participants, how do you safeguard the participants' rights, welfare and interests?
5. If the project involves research on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, how do you handle this in a responsible manner?
6. If the project includes indigenous peoples or national minorities, how do you handle this in a responsible way?
7. If the project involves research on human remains, how do you handle this in a responsible manner?
8. If the project involves animals, how are the animals' interests and good animal welfare safeguarded?
9. If the project is part of an international collaboration and/or is partly carried out abroad, how is ethical and responsible cooperation facilitated, including safety at the individual and societal level?

10. If the project envisages user participation, how do you ensure that the users' experiential competence is included in the project in a meaningful and respectful way?